

# MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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April 1998

3rd QUARTER

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1973

Meeting date and time - 3rd Tuesday of each month not including December

7:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church - 404 Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE.

OFFICERS: President - Lottie Klein

Vice President - Audrey Polenske

Secretary - Ginger Houser

Treasurer - Donald and Dorothy Monson

Newsletter Editors - Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Rix

Library located at home of Harold Lyon, 604 So. 14th Street, Norfolk, NE Phone 402-371-2589



**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

It is hard to believe a quarter of this year has gone by and time for another Quarterly to be printed and sent to the many members and organizations. This is possibly the diligent work of Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Rix. So many useful and helpful aids can be gleaned from the many exchanged quarterlies from Genealogical Organizations throughout the states.

April's program will be presented by Mary O'Boyle. Mary will give us some history of Ireland and treat us by singing some of the many ballads the Irish people are famous for. This program in May will be presented by Bill Nicholas telling us about some of the experiences he had while serving our country during the war.

Summer is rapidly approaching us which means the time for family reunions or perhaps just a visit with a family relative. Hopefully some of us will be fortunate and learn something we have been striving to obtain for a long time.

May all of you have a great Spring.

Until next time.

*Lottie Klein*  
Lottie Klein



# History Of Founding Of Tilden

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee Days in Tilden next week celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of this city, the following history of the beginning of Tilden is being published from information compiled by the Tilden Woman's Club.

During the period from 1870 to 1880 the settlement of the land in this area was very light and very slow.

During this decade Wagon trains rumbled into the Tilden vicinity. A few to settle here and many to go on along the Oregon trail. The most of the rugged travelers were bound for new homes farther west. Others chose to settle on the rich prairies of Nebraska. But in the midst of this stream of humanity which came through the vicinity of Tilden some man stood on the rise of a hill to view the river valley and said "There could be a town." The dream is shared and grows. Burnett, later Tilden is born. The original town was plotted in 1880. There were four blocks two in Madison County, and two in Antelope County. The first main street in Tilden was on the County line with most of the business places on the Antelope side. Sheldon's history describes this period as the land rush of the 1880's and the revival of business. It continued through a period of years. Tilden vicinity's beginning was during these prosperous years.

Quoting Forest L. Putney about the coming of the railroad to Tilden vicinity. "At this time Oakdale was in Twin Grove Precinct, this precinct extended west of Oakdale and east to the Madison county line. Farmers in this township (thought living in the Tilden vicinity, had a vote on the bond issue for the Railroad. (Oakdale was then a town of about 500.)

It was the policy of the line to demand bonds of Townships in which Towns were already established, to aid in railroad construction. The proceeds of the bonds were a donation.

Burnett later to be Tilden was not founded as yet.

The farmers living near the Madison County line threatened to defeat the bonds if a station was not established near the Madison County line. If the bonds carried Oakdale would lose a large trade area, if the bonds did not Oakdale would have no station. So the railroad put in the two stations one of which was later to be called Tilden. The Madison County settlers had no bond tax to pay, yet received the benefits of having a closer market, the Antelope County settlers paid." Unquote. Source: Tilden, NE Citizen, July, 1955

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad was built westward across the northern part of Madison County in 1879. John I. Blair, the builder, tried to get financial aid from Madison County but voters said no on election of 1879. Blair nevertheless built the road to Norfolk September 15, 1879, extended the line to Oakdale the western terminus that fall.

Quote Antelope Co. History. "The railroad company having established a depot on their line at the east end of Antelope County in accordance with our contract entered into with Twin Grove Precinct, then proceeded in October of 1880 to survey and plot the town of Burnett, later to be called Tilden.

Carlyle Fry and August Oelsgle built the depot in order to get the railroad to build the line through this territory. The large cottonwood tree is standing yet in 1955 which was planted by Carlyle Fry. The tree is located on the southwest corner of Skirvan Lbr. The Twin Grove agreement was that the station be built on Antelope County, Townsite platted November 2, 1879. The depot and two houses comprised the village which was called Burnett in honor of the Supt. of the Railroad.

The Railroad was laid through the farms of McCombs, Livingston and Hussey and this land later became the town of Tilden.

Settlers living here then worked on and with the railroad. Bernard Whitwer used to supply meal and other supplies to feed the crew who laid the first track through Tilden.

Mrs. Bernard Whitwer boarded men who were working on the railroad. Bernard said the grading was all done by horsepower.

Geo. Osborn, later to become a Tildenite, was then a butcher in Oakdale and operated a traveling meat wagon bringing meat supplies to the nearby settlements and to the railroad crew.

James and Ira Osborn, sons of Geo. came with the father and mother, Elizabeth, to Tilden and vicinity in 1874 but were settled west of the townsite.

The street of Burnett was a dusty road, or mud and water with a minimum of boardwalks - cross walks did not exist. The sagging boards and unstable planks which made the sidewalks were known to float down the street when heavy rains came.

Ida Bassett recalled that "merry-makers" after a heavy rain would sit on loose boards and go riding through the streets of Tilden.

When the Burnhams come to Tilden the only indication of a town was a depot. They built a building and on March 1, 1880 the general store was opened. This was the first business enterprise in what is now Tilden. The building was located south of the depot. Later they moved to the site of the Farmer's Merchantile Store which is now the Bayne Hash Store. Their residence was adjacent. The Burnhams first lived upstairs in the depot. Burnhams also had the first post office in Burnett. In the early history of Nebraska post offices, they were not remunerative as now. Mr. Minkler had operated a post office in the Tilden vicinity for several years at Willowdale. In 1880 he packed all of Uncle Sam's effects into a cigar box excepting the stamps he had traded, then deposited them in the new town of Burnett to give it a boom. Frank Hansen at one time also carried mail on horse back from Columbus to the Russell Ranch where it was distributed.

Wm. Edna owned and operated Burnett's first bank.

The first Burnett school was located where the Lula Walters home stands in 1955. Miss Effie Clark was teacher. Some of the students were Flora and Minta McCombs, Cora Giles, Beulah Livingston, James Gilbert and George Jones.

Andrew Minkler was the first druggist.

Converse Cattle Company was located south of Tilden. Max. P. Giehler was their bookkeeper.

L. G. Brown had the first harness shop.

In the period from 1879 to 1880 Alice Livingston taught school east of town.

John Erskine taught west of Tilden in District No. 34, now known as the Whitwer school. Mr. Bernard Whitwer, Le Roy Stanley and Rudolph Friend were on the school board. School terms were not set at a certain time. When pupils came the teacher would hold classes. Sometimes these classes were held from September to February or November to March. School terms usually were not over 3 or 4 months. As time went on the school became too crowded. At one time there were 30 pupils for 30 sq. ft. of floor space. A few years later this school was moved and a new one, the one standing there now was built. The old building was moved to the Hans Bossard farm west of Tilden where it is still standing and in use on the farm.

## Military Records



Most records for veterans of the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy are available through the National Archives, with the earliest records dating from the Revolutionary War. The National Archives collection includes service records, pension applications and records, bounty land records and even pardon petitions for Confederate Army Veterans.

### U.S. Navy--

For enlisted personnel serving from 1789 to December, 1885, contact the National Archives.

For enlisted personnel separated from the Navy after 1885, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

For officers serving in the Navy from 1789 to December, 1902, contact the National Archives.

For officers separated from the Navy after 1902, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

### Veterans Schedules--

For bounty land warrant applications based on wartime military service from 1775 to 1855, contact the National Archives.

For pension claims based on military service from 1775 to 1916, contact the National Archives.

For pension claims based on military service after 1916, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

### U.S. Marine Corps--

For enlisted personnel serving from 1789 to 1904, contact the National Archives.

For enlisted personnel separated from the Marine Corps after 1904, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

For officers serving in the Marine Corps from 1789 to 1895, contact the National Archives.

For officers separated from the Marine Corps after 1895, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

### Draft Registration for World War I--

For draft registration records of those who registered for the draft before World War I, contact the National Archives--Southeast region.

### U.S. Army--

For enlisted personnel serving in the Army from 1789 to October, 1912, contact the National Archives.

For enlisted personnel separated from the Army after October, 1912, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

For officers serving in the Army from 1789 to June, 1917, contact the National Archives.

For officers separated from the Army after June, 1917, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

Cont'd

## Military Records

### Service for Confederate States--

For military personnel serving for the Confederate States government from 1861 to 1865, contact the National Archives.

### U.S. Air Force--

For enlisted personnel or officers separated from the Air Force after September, 1947 contact the National Personnel Records Center.

### U.S. Coast Guard and Related Forces--

For service in the Revenue Cutter Service, the Life-Saving Service, or the Lighthouse Service from 1791 to 1919, contact the National Archives.

For civilian employees of the Revenue Cutter Service, the Life-Saving Service, or the Lighthouse service from 1864 to 1919, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

For officers in the Revenue Cutter Service whose terms of service extended beyond 1915, contact the National Archives.

For enlisted personnel separated from the Coast Guard after 1914, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

For officers serving in the Coast Guard from 1890 to 1929, contact the National Archives.

For officers separated from the Coast Guard after 1928, contact the National Personnel Records Center.

National Archives

Reference Services Branch (NNIR)

National Archives & Records Administration

7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20408

National Archives, Southeast Region

1557 St. Joseph Avenue

East Point, GA 30344

(404) 763-7477

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)

9700 Page Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63132

Article from a brochure distributed by Broderbund Software.

Source: Dodge/Jeff. Counties Gen. Soc. Inc Aug. 1977

## **Military Grave Markers**

A good source of information for the family historian searching for deceased veterans is the Central Office, Veteran's Affairs Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

If your ancestor's grave is marked with an official military marker, it must have been formally requested through official channels. The request form may give relative's names and addresses as well as other information. To obtain a copy of the request, send all known information plus your relationship to the deceased to the address above. (Source: Ancestors Unlimited).

Source LLCGS Aug 1997

## **Railroad Employee in Your Family?**

If an ancestor worked for the railroad after 1936, he may have qualified for a pension from the Railroad Retirement Board in lieu of Social Security. If so, you may receive a copy of the person's file with a great deal of interesting material. Send your request to Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611.



## More on Grave Markers



There has been quite a bit of discussion in many groups regarding information found on grave markers and how to get it "off". The practice of gravestone rubbings has become controversial due to the fragility of some of the gravestones and the nature of some of the items used to retain the information on them.

Persons taking rubbings from gravestones must exercise caution in doing anything that touches a gravestone. Some cemeteries even require an application for a permit to do this. While enforcement of these policies are difficult, it behooves all family historians to take care in handling tombstones.

If you just want to read the tombstone and note on paper what it says, one suggestion from Olympia Genealogical Society is that you use a compact mirror or cheap 5 X 7 mirror. Hold that mirror to the side of the transcription and reflect the sun's light on to it. The cross light picks up everything. It works great and you won't damage the stone. (Source: Ancestors Unlimited, Southwest Nebraska Genealogical Society, Summer 1997)  
Source: LLCGS Aug. 1997

### RESEARCH TIPS

(The following is from an article by Delia Cothrun Bourne from the Dec. 1996 Indiana Genealogist.) The list is of facts and tips that have been gleaned from experiences researchers and from personal experience.

- ♦ In the 1850 census, the abbreviation IA means Indiana, not Iowa. The old rule was that state names of only four letter were not abbreviated, and other states were usually abbreviated with the first and last letters.
- ♦ Call numbers for books are not universal. The call number in one library may be slightly, or vastly different from the number for the same book in another library.
- ♦ Although an actual deed contained the signatures of the persons involved, the names seen in a deed book were not usually signatures. Instead the names at the bottom of a copy of a deed are in the handwriting of the official who entered the information into the deed book.

- ♦ Not all material published by the DAR or its member societies relate to Revolutionary War soldiers or families. The DAR publishes a vast amount of place-specific material, such as cemetery transcriptions or collections of family Bibles. Do not confuse the DAR as compiler or publisher with a volume's contents.

The number of a house on a census is not necessarily a house(street)number. Also, house numbers may change over the years as a town goes from straight numbering to a hundred-block system. When an ancestor seems to have moved but has remained on the same street, check for a numbering system change.

A librarian does not know all of the books in a collection by color or size. Once a source is located, make copious notes which include in which library a book is located, author, title, publisher, and the call number for that library.

If the word "do" appears on a census or other record, it means ditto, as does the symbol or two hash marks. A soundex listing of a census is not a census. Although some of the



## Genealogy Gleanings - Antique Week 3 Nov 1997 36B

**FADED WRITING?** If writing is too faded to read, use a 75-watt black light bulb in any lamp that casts light directly on the written page. The writing will miraculously appear. (From Palatines to America, ILL Nov '97)

### USE STYROFOAM

Did you know that a block of Styrofoam will clean off moss and soil debris from old tombstones and will not damage the stone?

According to this same gleaning is AVAILABLE RECORDS. There are 18 new Bavarian Catholic church records, some starting in mid-1600s, available from the Family History Library as well as 43 new films from Hessen-Nassau, Reformed and Evangelical churches in 46 locations in Switzerland and court records in Saxony for 100 districts. All are listed in the Family History Library catalog. Source: Eastern NE. Gen. Soc Dec 97

information that is on a census is included on the soundex card to aid in identification, more information is on the actual census and should be examined.

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### DID YOU KNOW??

The Homestead Applications of the Homestead Act will give you the name and address of the claimant, the number and relationship of the family, and the claimant's citizenship. The file cover 1863 to 1908 and are located in the National Archives. Land entries since 1908 have also been filed in the National Archives. There are card indexes to the records. Write to: Civil archives and Records Service, GSA, Washington, DC 20409. Give ancestor's full name and any other pertinent information.

(Root Diggers, Oct '96 and Yucaipa Valley GS, Jan. '97)

"We are all omnibuses in which our ancestors ride, and every now and then one of them sticks his head out and embarrasses us."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Source: New Brass Key Summer 97

## Ancestor's Occupations

At the LLCGS Social Event in February Ancestor's occupations was part of a game that the participants were included in. Valery Wachter, one of the hosts for the evening events, provided the following for the members' edification. The Final Part follows:

*Pettifogger*: A shyster lawyer

*Ratoner*: rat catcher

*Raper*: ropemaker

*Rattlewatch*: town watchman

*Sexton*: one who takes care of the church building, etc.

*Ship carver*: person who carves the figureheads for the ship's prows

*Sawyer*: person who cuts logs to make lumber

*Sayer*: a poet

*Stationer*: one who sells pens, paper, ink, etc.

*Scrivener*: one who draws up legal documents, notary public

*Snobber*: shoe repairman

*Stufngownsmen*: a junior barrister (lawyer)

*Tapley*: one who puts taps in ale casks

*Tipstaff*: constable or bailiff

*Tosier*: basket maker

*Tinter*: person who dyes cloth, yarn, etc.

*Tinker*: person who makes inexpensive articles from sheet metal

*Thatcher*: one who puts thatch on a roof

*Vulcan*: a blacksmith

*Vinter*: a wine dealer

*Wainwright*: maker and repairer of carts and wagons

*Wheelwright*: person who makes wagon wheels

*Webster*: weaver of cloth, operator of looms

*Whitewing*: Street cleaner wearing white uniform

*Whitesmith*: worker in tin or any metal not used by a blacksmith

(Source: The New A to Zax by Barbara Evans. [It's in the LLCGS Library])

## Civil War Records

Ok, you have found out that one of your ancestors fought in the Civil War. Now you want to obtain the records of this soldier as well as the regiment history. There are some easy steps that you can take to get this part of your research done.

Write for a free copy of "Order and Billing for Copies of Veteran's Records" from the National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408. When you get this form you will need to know, at minimum, the soldier's full name, state from which he served, and whether the service was with the Union or Confederate Armies. Remember to ask for both pension and military records.

Go to the library and borrow a copy of the book "Military Bibliography of the Civil War" by C. D. Dormbusch. This is a three volume set and may need to be interlibrary loaned. Other books available are "Massachusetts Soldiers and Marines in the Civil War" and "War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies." (Excerpted from an article by David R. Cuttler in Prairie Pioneer Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter, April 1997)

## Vital Records

Two items of note regarding vital records have appeared in the last month.

Effective July 1, 1997 all IOWA vital records (births, deaths and marriages) will be moved from District Clerk of the Court office to those of County Recorders. In Sidney, Iowa that means you must be of legal age, show identification, be of immediate family, make application in person and show documentation that you are entitled to the information (The Hamburg Reporter, Vol. 103, No. 27, July 3, 1997). According to the Valley News Today (Southwest Iowa), this is an effort to keep these records available at the local level and to researchers. The State of Iowa is also investigating online access to records.

If you are doing research in KENTUCKY here are some dates to make note of. Registration for births and deaths started in 1911. Central registration of marriages and divorces did not start until June 1958, prior to that it was only in the county level. Some cities (Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Newport) established city ordinances requiring birth and death records prior to 1911. These may be obtained from Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. The Kentucky Historical Society (P O BOX H, Frankfort, KY 40602) has collected and filed some birth and death records from various counties. This covers the period of 1851-1862.

Thanks to Cynthia Monroe and Helen Woolstrum for these contributions.



## Cultural Perspectives

(Courtesy of Southeast Community College)

A few things to think about in relation to family history and the development of customs or daily events. Listings include item, approximate date of origin and country of origin.

<u>At the Table</u>		
Table Manners.....	2500 B.C.....	Egypt
Fork.....	11th Century.....	Tuscany
Spoon.....	20,000 years ago.....	Asia
Knife.....	1.5 million years ago.....	Africa/Asia
Napkin.....	pre-500 B.C.....	Egypt, Greece

Source: LLCGS Aug 1997

## THE VOYAGE

*Following up on Paul Valasek's program in August about immigrants and ships, we borrow this article from the Ostertag Easterday Association of America's newsletter of July-Sept. 1997.*

Europe to America in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century was a long and perilous undertaking. Not only were the new immigrants faced with many weeks on the open, sometimes storm ravaged sea in wooden ships, but many of these ships were manned by unscrupulous captains and crews, overloaded and disease infested. Many would not arrive on the shores of America.

### How Long Did It Take ?

1824	68 days	Rotterdam to Baltimore
1832	58 days	Bremen to Baltimore
1834	44 days	Bremen to Baltimore
1843	66 days	Bremen to New Orleans
1854	47 days	LeHavre to New Orleans
1867-1890	--	Most sailing ships used steam auxiliary engines on days when there was little or no wind. However, many sailing ships remained in service and their fares were often lower than the faster steam ships.

1893 \*10 days Ireland to New York

### Hints to an Emigrant

Article that was published (no date) outlining directions for those planning to emigrate; instructions to obtain passage on a ship; clothing, food, and other necessities. It lists the following:

"Inventory of articles necessary for one person during his voyage across the Atlantic to or from America."

Ham	20 pounds
Beef	12 pounds
Butter	5 pounds
Cheese	10 pounds
Biscuits	50 pounds
Flour	14 pounds
Tea	2 pounds
Coffee	10 pounds
Sugar	1 pound lump
Raisins	7 pounds
Currants	2 pounds
Rice	10 pounds
Salt	1 pound
Mustard	1 bottle

Ox Pepper	1
Apples / Preserves	1 bushel
Brandy	half gallon
Table Beer	1 barrel
Elixir of Vitriol	1 bottle
(for removing bad taste from water)	

### Cooking Utensils:

1 gal. sauce pan - 1 coffee pot - 1 tin for baking - 1 tin or pewter plate - 1 knife - 1 fork - 1 tablespoon - 1 teaspoon

### Bedding:

1 mattress - 5 sheets - 1 blanket - 1 rug - 1 pillow

### Medicine:

a few anti-bilious tablets, "but you may apply to the ship's chest."

## REGISTRY FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

From the Montgomery County Genealogical Society quarterly, Spring 1997:

"One concern of genealogists is that adopted children often cannot trace their ancestry and so lose their roots. One way of mutual matching of biological parents and their adopted children is afforded by the International Soundex Reunion Registry, PO Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89701. Both parents and adopted children may register. A match is made when children become of legal age - if both parties are registered and want to find each other. If interested, send a long SASE requesting soundex forms. Neither the identity of the birth parents nor the adopted child is disclosed unless both parties are agreeable to a reunion."

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES MILITARY FORMS

If you have joined the "information age" and are online with your computer, you can now e-mail your request for forms. Request two (2) copies of NATF form 80. It should take about a week. Use the following e-mail address:

[inquire@arch2.nara.gov](mailto:inquire@arch2.nara.gov)

Nothing makes a person more productive than the last minute.

Source: Bureau Co. Gen Soc. Nov-Dec 1997



**ADDRESS FOR WRITING  
TO GET INFORMATION ON  
CIVIL WAR PRISONERS  
WRITE TO ASK OF THERE IS A  
COST FOR THE PRISONER'S  
FILE**

There is a database of prisoner who were incarcerated at Andersonville. It is unlikely that this information is published anywhere. You are able to find lists of those who died there, and of the men who left, only to die in the steamboat, *Sultana* explosion.

The file is indexed by surname or by state or by specific name or unit. Each prisoner was given a code in the file, which represents if he died there or was released or etc.

Write to the :

Park Superintendent  
Andersonville National Historic Site

Rt. 1, Box 800

Andersonville, GA 31711.

(Thanks to the person who contributed this information. It was not noted with the paper given to me. Editor)

**CLEANING PHOTOS**

A little PEC-12 will clean "goo" like ballpoint ink, finger oils, grease pencil, smoke, soot and adhesive residue from old photos. Spray a little PEC on a soft cloth and gently rub the surface of the print. It is archival, will not degrade the print or film, and is available from most camera stores. (Via CEGA newsletter 4/97)

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**How Long Will You Be Remembered ??**

In a national Gallup Survey, 105 adults, 18 years old and older, were asked if they know the first name and occupation of their great-grand-parents. Only 2 percent know the names of all of their great-grandparents and more than 60 percent did not know the names of any of them. Only 8 percent know the occupations of their great-grandparents. You should write your own family history. (Via Los Angeles Gen Soc 3/97)

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Make a list of original signatures of your family lineage. Old signatures can be obtained from wills, church records, and land records. Pass this down for future generations. An interesting twist would be to build a pedigree chart of original signatures. (Ancestors Unlimited)

In 1994, Wisconsin Genealogical Society published the first edition of *How to Get Started in Genealogy-A Beginners Kit*. The 1996 edition included several additions and corrections. This basic guide to genealogy is currently being sold by several genealogical societies and used by genealogical instructors around Wisconsin. The straightforward, factual descriptions of the basic record used by family historians and the appendices are a basic reference tool that can be used by all genealogists as their expertise grows. Priced at a reasonable \$7.00, every genealogist should own one! Consider buying a gift copy for that beginner you know, or for that experienced researcher who wants an easy-to-use, lightweight, reference book to carry to the library or repository.

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**WISCONSIN CENSUS INDEX**

**CAUTION—** The genealogical society that created the 2855 Wisconsin Census Index did something peculiar. Apparently 2 people abstracted the data from the schedules. When they had completed the project, the work was not collated into one alphabetical sequence. The first half of every volume of this index contains one abstractor's records, and the second half contains the other's records. So-you have to check in both places for any particular name for which you are searching. If you've referenced this resource and did not find your ancestor, look again-this time in the second half.

(Foothills Gen. Soc. Lakewood, CO via Paradise Gen. Soc., Inc. Vol. 16 #2) Source: NSGS Fal 97-98

**BASIC LAWS OF COUSINRY**

by Robert Murphy

1. For two people to be cousins, they must share a common set of grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, etc, somewhere back up the family tree.

2. The children of your first cousins and their children and their children's children and so forth, remain your first cousins, However they may be once removed or as the case may be.

3. Similarly, the first cousin of your great-great-great-grandmother is still your first cousin, four times removed. This is a handy rule to know when you're looking for a relative slightly more respectable than old Uncle Albert to brag about. That many generations back, you had altogether 64 different great-great-great-great-grandparents, and at least one of them must have been famous.

4 The same rules apply to descendants of your second cousins and third cousins as well as to the second and third cousins of your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, all the way back to Adam and Eve.

5. If you have a first, second, or a third cousin, without any "removed" involved, you both belong to the same generation. This may come as a slight shock if you remember remarking yesterday that Cousin Irma is really beginning to look quite gray.

(Via NW Missouri Genealogical Society)

Source: NSGS Winter 95-96

**Genealogy Gleanings - Antique Week 3 Nov 1997 36B**

**FADED WRITING?** If writing is too faded to read, use a 75-watt black light bulb in any lamp that casts light directly on the written page. The writing will miraculously appear. (From Palatines to America, ILL Nov '97)

**USE STYROFOAM**

Did you know that a block of Styrofoam will clean off moss and soil debris from old tombstones and will not damage the stone?

ENGS Dec-97



Think of your life as a branching tree, as a flowing river that has many juncture points, or as a trailing plant that puts down roots at various places and then grows on.

From your point of view, what were the major branching points in your life? What were the events, experiences, interactions with people and places that had a major influence or impact on the way your life has flowed?

#### MEMORY STIRRERS

1. The timing of an event is often very important. About how old were you? Did this happen too late or early? Were you too old or too young?
2. Who were the significant people in this event or happening? Often one notices that the same people are involved again and again in major turning points.
3. What were your emotions or feelings at the time? Sometimes our feelings in reaction to an experience are mixed or changeable. Do not be concerned if your feelings seem contradictory or that they surface now, even years later.
4. How much personal choice was involved in this branching point? How much control did you have? Who or what was the external influences?
5. "Branching points" are branching points because they change our lives in one or more important ways. In your view, what are the ways your life was changed because of this branching point? What were the consequences of this branching point? How would your life have been different if it had not happened?

Source: Gen. Soc. Wayne Co. NE Apr 1997



#### WRITING TIP

When writing about your life, remember to explain what you mean. Your grandchildren may be mystified by words or phrases that are common knowledge to your generation.

Terms like meatless Tuesday, bobbed hair, rationing, or black bloomers may need to be explained to the younger generation. Remember also, words may have different meanings ie pot, grass, gay and coke. Source: Wayne Co. Gen Soc. Apr 97

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#### DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS???

There are no cemeteries in San Francisco? In 1903 a city law was passed stating that there would be no people buried in the county of San Francisco. All the dead had to be removed to other cemeteries outside the county. Next of kin were notified if they could be found; otherwise the dead were reburied in a mass grave in Colma Cemetery in San Mateo County just south of San Francisco County. (Look at a city map for San Francisco and you will see a large cemetery area just south of town!)

Found in the Genealogy Bulletin #40. Written by Donna Potter Phillips. Source ENGS Oct 97

From *Tiskihwa Chief*, Sep. 14, 1892

#### AVERAGE LENGTH OF LIFE

As far as can be calculated the average length of life, which is computed in the 17th century to have been only 13 years, was in the 18th century increased to 20, and in the 19th to 36. Men used to be considered old when they passed 50.

Source: Bureau Co. Gen. Soc. Sep-Oct 97

### Irish URL's

<http://www.interlog.com/~valis/info/musdanc.htm>  
(Irish Music and Dance in Toronto)

<http://world.std.com/~ahern/kells.html>  
(Irish Ancestral Research Assn [TIARA])

<http://www.zekes.com/~dspidel/ulster.html#E>  
migration (Immigration to Colonies)

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~irish/igsilkc.htm>  
(over 100 links on various subjects)

<http://www.fortunecity.com/bally/kilkenny/2/kirisres.htm>  
(many links)  
.....contributed by Beth Haring

Source: NISIAN - Jan 98

### **INTERESTING NET SITES**

<http://www.polaris.net/~legend/bookmark.htm>  
The Genealogy Gateway contains links to thousands of other sites. They're listed by categories.

<http://www.dejanews.com/>  
This is a searchable database. You can type in a surname and get a list of articles in which that name is found. Beware of trying common surnames!

Source: Bureau Co. Gen Soc. July-Aug 1997

### **IL VITAL RECORDS**

As of July 1, 1997, there is a change in the law governing copies of vital records. As in the past, applicants requesting the birth record of a deceased person must complete the Application for Search of Birth Records Files of Deceased Person. If the record is located, the word "DECEASED" must be prominently stamped on the certificate(s) issued along with the date of death. The original application is retained in the local files and is open to inspection by the State Police or any local law enforcement agency upon request.

The change is that two copies of the special application and two copies of the birth certificate issued are to be promptly forwarded to the Division of Vital Records. One set will be forwarded to the Department of Public Aid and the other to the Department of Human Services for verification that no claim for assistance is being made by, or on behalf of, the deceased person.

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm>

Cyndi's List is arguably the biggest and best, containing hundreds (thousands?) of links to anything and everything genealogical. It's divided into categories.

<http://www.toltbbs.com/~kbasile/software.html>  
The Genealogy Software Springboard has info, including opinions pro and con, on many genealogy computer programs. Some demo programs are available for downloading.

### **ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR DATABASE**

Illinois Secretary of State George H. Ryan announced just before Memorial Day that a new alphabetical index to Illinois' Civil War soldiers has been added to his Web site. The index contains the names of 250,000 volunteer soldiers representing 175 regiments. The index was created and donated to the Illinois State Archives by Fred Delap of Kansas, IL, who typed it into his personal computer over two years of evenings and weekends.

The great value of the index to researchers is that it quickly provides leads to other resources that can provide far more detail about a soldier's service in the war and even his physical description. Unlike a card catalog index housed in the Archives since the late 1930's, Delap's index also provides the home town of each soldier, along with his company and unit.

The database contains several volunteer soldiers who list their homes outside of Illinois, including some southern states and other nations.

The Web address for the Secretary of State's page is <http://www.sos.state.il.us/> If you find the name(s) of soldiers you are looking for, you may write to the Illinois State Archives, Archives Bldg., Springfield, IL 62756 for more information.

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Ever notice that the shortest line becomes the slowest line once you choose it?

Nature is perverse: it puts most of the vitamins in the foods we don't like.

Source: Bureau Co. Gen Soc Sep-Oct 1997

FRIDAY MAY 1, 1998

SATURDAY MAY 2, 1998

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

9:30 AM-11:45 AM AREA REPS MEETING.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

11:45-1:00 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN  
WELCOME AND  
MESSAGES

1:00-2:00 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Locating Immigrant  
Origins

2:00-2:15 BREAK

2:15-3:15 JOHN MICHAEL NEILL  
There is no Probate: Partitions  
and Estate Disputes that Weren't  
Settled in a Probate Court

3:15-3:30 BREAK

3:30-4:30 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Ostfriesian Research

EVENING MEAL ON  
YOUR OWN

7:00-8:00 PM. MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Tried and Tested Tidbits

8:00-8:10 BREAK

8:10-9:10 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Internet for Genealogists

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

9:15-9:45 N.S.G.S. ANNUAL MEETING

10:00-11:00 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Irish Research

11:00-11:15 BREAK

11:15-12:15 CATHERINE RENSCHLER-  
Newspaper Research

12:15-1:45 NOON LUNCHEON  
Outstanding Genealogists  
Awards

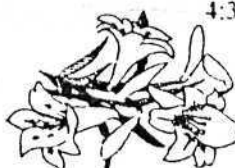
1:45-2:45 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Problem Solving for  
Genealogists

2:45-3:00 BREAK

3:00-4:00 MICHAEL JOHN NEILL  
Documentation Roadblocks on  
the Information Superhighway

4:00-4:30 VISIT VENDORS

4:30 VENDORS CLOSE



N.S.G.S. ANNUAL CONFERENCE—MAY 1-2, 1998

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

FOUR SURNAMES WILL BE LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS IF POSTMARKED BY  
APRIL 10, 1998

Example: Vestal 1750-1900 NC, VA, IL, IA, NE My four surnames are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY  
APRIL 15, 1998 (APRIL 10 FOR SURNAMES)

NSGS MEMBERS:

FRIDAY SESSIONS	\$8.00
SATURDAY SESSIONS	\$8.00
Deduct 10% from REG. if paid	
by April 15	_____
LUNCH	\$8.00
SYLLABUS	\$5.00

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR  
REGISTRATION, MEAL,  
SYLLABUS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NON-MEMBERS:

FRIDAY SESSIONS	\$12.00
SATURDAY SESSIONS	\$12.00
Deduct 10% from REG. if paid	
by April 15	_____
LUNCH	\$8.00
SYLLABUS	\$5.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR  
REGISTRATION, MEAL,  
SYLLABUS \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

Michael Neill is currently a faculty member at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, and an instructor at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America. He has lectured at local, regional, and national conferences in both genealogy and mathematics (including presentations on using "metes and bounds" in the classroom). He has taught genealogy classes at all levels for Carl Sandburg College, including classes in online genealogical research

He has taught in the traditional classroom, via distance learning and via Internet. He has also written articles for magazines such as the *Genealogical Helper*, *Heritage Quest*, *Antique Week*, and *Ancestry*. A native of Carthage, Illinois, he holds a master's degree from Western Illinois University. His overheads are crisp, clear, and large enough to read. He allows ample question and answer time into his lectures.

We are pleased to have Mr. Neill as our key speaker for our 1998 conference..

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

NEW WORLD INN  
HIGHWAY 30 AND 81 SOUTH  
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

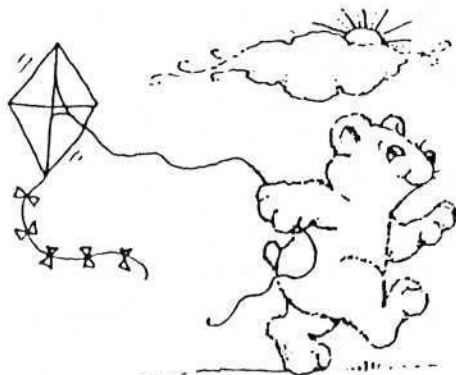
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DOUBLE (2-4 PERSONS) \$48.50

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

STATE

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 1 AND 2, 1998

NEW WORLD INN  
HIGHWAY 30 AND 81 SOUTH  
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

FEATURING

MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

HOSTED BY  
Platte Valley Kinseekers  
Genealogical Society  
Columbus, Nebraska

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

RUTH 308-384-3218



Bernice Dewey  
306 E. Prospect Ave  
Norfolk, NE 68701