

# MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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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 - Audrey Polenske

Vice President - Charlene Kolterman

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

WELCOME! as we start the 1998-1999 year. I would like to welcome all of our new members. As your newly elected president I would like to invite each and everyone to come and share the next year with your group furthering your own geneological research and aiding others in theirs.

Our project of helping the Norfolk Public Library record obituaries is continuing. There are over 35,000 recorded. Dates are 1888-1918, most of the 1950's, all of the 1960's and a couple years of the 1940's. Anyone with a computer with a modem may access these records.

There are many interesting newsletters that come each month. I will bring them to each meeting. Please take the time to look at them. There is a wealth of information.

Our picnic in August at Skyview Lake was well attended. We certainly have some good cooks in our group!

The September meeting was very productive. Review and proposed revision of our bylaws, programs for the 1998-1999 year were introduced and sharing of geneological information.

WELCOME to Franklin County Geneological Society in Hampton, Iowa. Enjoyed reading your newsletter!

Just a reminder, dues were due September 1st.

We are off to a good start. Let's continue!

Sincerely,



Audrey Polenske

# Out of Old



## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF PIONEER LIFE

Life in old Nebraska was not always an agonizing struggle against drouth, grasshoppers, and loneliness. The Nebraska State Historical Society has in its files programs and invitations to banquets, balls, and other festivals, which lightened the rigors of pioneer life.

July 4, 1856, celebrated with an Independence Ball at McPherson's Hall, Brownville, Nebraska Territory. Tickets were \$2.00, supper included. J. C. Miller gave a Grand Union Ball at the Arizona House, St. Stephen, Nebraska Territory, beginning at 3 p.m., April 1, 1858. Floor managers were E. R. Cutler of Brownville, and D. J. Martin of St. Stephen. Music was furnished by March and Banning's Cotillion Band. Attendance at the Anniversary Ball and Supper at the Brownville House on July 5, 1858, was by invitation. Managers included the Honorable R. W. Furnas, Brownville; Dr. E. M. McComas, Nemaha City; and J. H. Ruland, Rockport, Mo. Tickets to the ball and supper were \$5.00 with music by Banning's Cotillion Band.

The first annual festival of the Omaha Typographical Union was held at the Herndon House, Omaha, on February 19, 1862. For \$2 per couple, members could take part in a program of dancing, supper, reading of a suitable poem, regular and volunteer toasts and responses. Carriages were made available at 7 p.m. for those desiring to be called for.

A Grand Reception and Banquet in Lincoln was arranged on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the State University and Agriculture College. Sept. 23, 1869. The list of honorary managers reads like a Who's Who of Nebraska, 1869. The executive committee included J. L. McConnell, I. Putnam and John Smiley. The committee on carriages was T. Roberts, J. D. Parker and G. E. Ballantine.

Christmas, 1869, was celebrated with a Christmas Festival at the State House. This invitation asked "yourself and ladies" is a dance program from a calico party at the State House on Washington's Birthday, 1870, given by the Lincoln Social Club, D Ballantine, president. The program of dances included Spanish Dance, Les Lanciers, cotillions, quadrilles, Old Bachelor Varsouviana, Quickstep, and the 24th dance, Good Morning. The man whose program has been preserved danced with Mrs. Ward three times, including the quickstep. Lincoln Lodge No. 16, K of P, gave a banquet in honor of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska at the Commercial Hotel on October 10, 1877. The nine course meal included oysters prepared six ways, eleven cold meat dishes, five wild game choices, six ornamented cakes, eighteen decorated cakes, and after that desert.

In 1878 ex-Governor Furnas of Brownville was invited to participate in a Reunion, Banquet and Ball, given by the citizens of Omaha and Council Bluffs, on December 20 at the Union Pacific Hotel, Council Bluffs, Ia. For \$3 a couple the guests could participate in a banquet from 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 o'clock. A special train left the Union Pacific Depot at 8 p.m. for Council Bluffs. Guests included General George Crook and General G. M. Dodge.

Battle Creek Enterprise  
Battle Creek, NE  
August 5, 1970

## WASH DOWN YOUR WALLS WITH STALE BREAD ???

In this day of modern conveniences, one seldom stops to think of how difficult the everyday life of the pioneer wife must have been. Without scouring powders, cleansing agents, insect sprays, refrigeration, or beautifying cosmetics, she struggled against nature's forces to make her home comfortable and livable. The following

is a compilation of "Household Hints and Helps" for the modern woman of yesteryear, published in Early Days in Polk County, by Mildred Foldman, a copy of which is found in the Library of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

To Preserve Eggs - One quart of salt, one pint of slacked lime and three gallons water, This liquid will keep eggs for years.

To Clean Mud From Clothing - Use a corn cob to rub the mud from clothing, then brush well.

To Remove Suntan - Wash with a solution of lemon juice and carbonate of soda; follow with the juice of unripe grapes if they may be had; if not, with Fuller's Earth Water.

To Remove Wrinkles - Melt and stir together one ounce of white wax, two ounces of strained honey and two ounces of the juice of lily bulbs; apply to the face every night, and it is said your wrinkles will disappear.

To Exterminate Bed Bugs - Use kerosene oil freely wherever the bugs are found.

To dry boots - Fill wet boots with dry oats and set aside for a few hours. The oats will draw the moisture from the boots and the swelling out, will keep the leather from shrinking and hardening as it would do if placed near the fire to dry.

To Wash Painted Surfaces - Wash with milk.

To Drive Away Fleas - Sprinkle a few drops of lavender about the beds and other places they infest.

To Remove Bad Smells From Clothing - Articles of clothing or any other articles which have bad smelling substances on them may be freed from the smell by wrapping them up lightly and burying in the ground for a day or two.

To Clean Wall Paper - Blow the dust off the wall with a bellows and then, beginning at the top of the room, go all over the paper, rubbing it with downward strokes with pieces of stale bread.

To Purify Cistern Water - Cistern water may be purified by hanging a bag of charcoal in the water.

To Kill Insects, Such as Bed Bugs, Moths, Etc. - Hot alum water is the best thing known to destroy insects. Boil alum in water until it is dissolved; then apply the hot solution with a brush to closets, bedstead, cracks, or wherever insects are found. All creeping insects may be destroyed by its use. There is no danger of poisoning and its persistent use will rid you of the pests.

Out of Old Nebraska---Cont.

Moth - Moths will not lay their eggs where fine-cut tobacco has been scattered.

To Keep Flies Off Gilt Frames - Boil three or four onions in a pint of water and apply the water to the frames with a soft cloth or brush.

To Remove Mildew - Dip the article in sour buttermilk, lay it in the sun to whiten and wash in clean water.

Battle Creek Enterprise  
August 6, 1970

the Nebraska State Historical Society

### EDUCATION

The *Omaha Daily Bee* noted on October 3, 1903, that Nebraska's corps of rural school teachers was changing, both in the relative percentages of men and women teachers and in the rates of pay given to members of each group. In an article entitled "Passing of Male Teachers," the *Bee* noted:

"The county schoolmaster is fast passing away, says the Lincoln Star, and in his stead is appearing more and more each year, the country school ma'ams. Superintendent [William K.] Fowler has been investigating the matter and finds that the percentage of male school teachers in the state has decreased...The percentage has been falling since 1871 at the rate of 1 per cent per year and in a few years the schoolmaster will be a historical memory only...

"The remarkable difference between the salaries paid men and women teachers is largely the fault of the women themselves. The high schools of the state turn out about 2,800 new teachers each year. These young women are entirely unexperienced and as a result work for almost nothing the first year or two to gain experience...

"Women are the best teachers, and many a woman teacher working for \$35 per month is more valuable to her school district than the man teacher in the adjoining one drawing \$55 per month.

A man has not the patience with the little ones that is an absolute requirement of successful teaching, and the day has passed when a pugilist is required to preside over

the little red schoolhouse. Women are driving the men from this field of employment, and are conquering by kindness where formerly only brute force would prevail."

Battle Creek Enterprise  
August 5, 1998

### Battle Creek Mills Burned

*(The following article was taken from the July 16, 1898 issue of the Tilden Citizen. Yes, 100 years ago!)*

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 partly 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 taxed to Madison and the matter in some way adjusted by law. During the high waters this Spring the dam went out. Mr. Herbison, shortly afterward, began the construction of a new dam and it is understood that it 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.

# Old-Timers Had Fun, Too

Norfolk Daily News  
5 December, 1979

By GERALD M. DANSKIN

Early Nebraskans had to be resourceful in providing social activities for themselves without having to drive to a neighboring city, according to Louise Pound, author of "Nebraska Folklore." The churches were the center of activities for many, although there were community dances, box socials, literaries, parties and other events to attend.

Inasmuch as cash was rather scarce, but food was abundant, members of the churches would hold a "pounding" for new ministers at which time those in attendance would bring game meat, other foods and useful gifts.

Other activities mentioned by Louise Pound were: ice cream socials, youth meetings sponsored by the churches, oyster stew meals, covered dish dinners, bazaars; "fairs" at which fancy work, cakes and other edibles were brought and sold; pasture parties, picnics, hayrides, bobsled parties, quilting bees; "bean picking" at which a bushel sack of beans was emptied on a table and the guests separated the good ones from the bad ones; and programs consisting of performances by local talent — musicians, speakers, debaters and actors.

The latter programs were often a part of a "literary." They not only provided entertainment for those present, but those who performed were given an opportunity to display their talents.

THESE EVENTS were often held in the school house and were attended by young and old. Santa Claus would usually make an appearance at the annual Christmas party, but the children would usually figure out who he was by his size and voice and by the fact that Mr. "so and so" was conspicuously absent.

Many of the above activities are still carried on in various communities and I highly recommend that the literaries be revived if they have been dropped and that those activities that are still in practice be continued. There's plenty of hidden talent just bursting to be discovered and the feeling of being a community is enhanced to the benefit of all concerned.

Horse racing was a sport in many places, although I don't remember of there being such a sport where I lived. Much rivalry developed, especially when it was between two different communities, each boasting of a fast horse. Baseball was played between Seward and Milford as early as 1871 and was well organized by 1880. Horseshoe, croquet,

bicycling attracted interest. They would also have tug of wars between groups.

Traditional outdoor games listed in the book "Nebraska Folklore" are: hide and seek, run sheep run, dare base, London bridge, crack the whip (and heaven help the one on the end); fox and geese, and tag.

There were contests in broad, high, standing and running jumping and in wrestling, and racing. Men's racing would consist of three legged, sack race, peanut race and wheelbarrow race. A member of the team would serve as the wheelbarrow.

"IF YOU WANT to reach one hundred, the best place to live is right here in Nebraska," writes Dr. Denham Harman, executive director of the American Aging Association and professor of medicine and biochemistry at the University of Nebraska, as quoted in the November issue of McCall's. "Statistics show that, in general, Midwesterners do live longer than inhabitants of other parts of the country," he concludes.

The article, "How to Live to Be 100" by Merrell Skrocke lists results of a survey of 1,000 centenarians, including results which indicate five basic responses: They do nothing to excess, are early risers, have always worked hard, are religious and "take things as they come." Other than the patterns as mentioned, the long-livers do not fit any specific pattern.

"One of the reasons for the large number of centenarians in the Caucus is that older people there are an integral part of the Community. They're influential, command a great deal of respect and have a sense of self worth; they're not put on the shelf" continues the author.

He further writes, "Nearly seven out of 10 centenarians are women, who traditionally have a greater life expectancy than men. (No one knows why, although occupational differences are suspected. The female age advantage is expected to shrink as more women take on the stress of jobs outside the home.")



# This Is Why Tilden Is In Two Counties

Article submitted by Ardell and Rosie Owens.

"Tilden, a Republican town with a Democratic name, situated in the heart of the Elkhorn Valley on Highway 275, served by the Chicago and North Western railroad, has its depot and playground in Antelope County and its post office and principal business houses in Madison County." The above quotation is from the scrapbook at the time of the interview.

"Early in the summer of 1879, the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad made plans to continue up the valley from Norfolk through Antelope County. Both Neligh and Oakdale were anxious to get the railroad which could easily miss one or the other or both towns.

The railroad company agreed to construct the road to Oakdale by July 1, 1880, and to maintain the depot at that place, and also one at the east line of Antelope County.

### Established Depot

The railroad company then established a depot on its line at the east line of the county in accordance with its contract, and proceeded to survey and plat the town of Burnett which it located on the southwest quarter of section 18, and the north west quarter of section 19, township 24, Madison County, and the southeast quarter of section 13, and the northeast quarter of section 24, Antelope County, though most of the town was in Madison County.

In 1884, a fine large bank building was erected, which in later years was used as the public library. Across the front near the top was seen in bold lettering, "Bank of Burnett."

### Name Changed

In the beginning the town was called Burnett, but since there was a town in Lancaster County by the name of Bennett, which caused trouble in the distribution of mail, the postmaster asked to have the name changed to Tilden at the request of Samuel J. Tilden, one time Democratic candidate for the presidency, and an enthusiastic admirer of the town. Thus, the name Burnett disappeared from the map.

Tilden, agriculturally located "right in the heart of Egypt," enjoyed a steady growth right from the beginning.

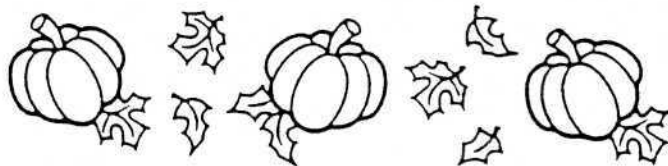
Tilden's first editor was A.E. Sheldon, Nebraska author and superintendent of the State Historical Society.

### Mayor of Tilden

At the time the story was written, Bruno Hansen was mayor of Tilden. The oldest citizens were Henry Schumacher, 91, who drove his own car and had the best garden in town; Lorenz Thomsen, 89, who served for 39 years on the Antelope County Board of Supervisors, and Peter Michaelson, 86, carpenter, blacksmith, livestock dealer, owner of a telephone system, automobile dealer, and producer of honey.

"A few of Tilden's distinguished citizens, graduates of the local high school, were Russell King, artist and cartoonist for Saturday Evening Post; Band; Maurice Lenser, nationally known magician; Jettabee Ann Hopkins, radio writer and artist with National Broadcasting Company."

Tilden Citizen--date unknown



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**TIDBITS FOUND IN EXCHANGES**

What do you know about New York's Castle Garden? If you have ancestors who immigrated through the port of New York prior to 1892 and the opening of Ellis Island, you will want to know this history: Castle Garden as a building had a long and varied history before becoming a center for immigrant inspections about 1860. The place had been a fort, an amusement hall and an opera house—singer Jenny Lind performed there to an audience of 10,000 fans. For the three decades prior to 1892, the state of New York ran Castle Garden as an overstuffed center for immigrant processing. But by 1875, the building once thought so large, was becoming too small and a little island in New York harbor was chosen for the new immigrant station. And so history marched on.

Genealogy Bulletin #45 page 16.

**NEBRASKA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health; P O Box 95007, Lincoln NE 68509. Births and deaths since January, 1904, marriages since January 1909. Fee for certified copies: births \$10.00; marriages and deaths, \$9.00.

Genealogy Bulletin #45 page 8

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADDRESS**

To secure information from Social Security Applications; you must now use a new address:

Social Security Administration  
Office of Controller of Record Operations  
The FOI Workgroup  
P O Box 17772  
300 N Greene St  
Baltimore MD 21201.

Immigrant Gen Society August 1998 page



**JUST WHAT YOU WERE WANTING!**

For relief from junk mail, write Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 1100 15<sup>th</sup> St NW Washington DC 20005.

For relief from telemarketing, write The Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Ass'n P O Box 9014, Farmingdale NY 11735.

Grtr York Gen Spring Qtly 1998.

ENGS, Fremont, NE -Aug. 1998

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"Genealogists are like squirrels—always chasing the elusive nut."

from The Family Tree, J/J 1997

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Battle Creek Enterprise-

**Ponderables** 9 Sept 1998

Most people assume that when the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, everybody just lines up and signed the famous document. Not so. Only two people signed the Declaration on the 4th of July: John Hancock & Charles Thomson. Most of the others signed it nearly a month later on August 2, but the last signature was not added until five years later.

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

Have you ever thought about why WE have the Declaration of Independence? Supposedly the Declaration of Independence was sent to King George III. Why is it in Washington? Did the king send it back? According to the National Archives, there is and was only one signed copy. It was not sent to King George III.

On the night of July 4, 1776, about 200 printed copies, known as the "Dunlap Broad-sides" were made, of which 21 are known to still exist.

The Archives believes these 200 went to the Colonies, but that possibly a subsequent copy was sent to the king.

There are two Dunlaps in Britain today: one among the Admiralty Records and the other among State Papers, Colonial. It is interesting to note that a copy of the Broadside recently sold for \$2.42 million! Don't throw away your attic clutter without giving it a close once-over.

from The IPGS Newsletter, et al -Via Bureau Co. Gen. Soc. Sep-Oct. 1998

**MILITARY GRAVE MARKERS**

If you find that your ancestor's grave is marked with a military marker issued by the government, it had to be applied for. You may request a copy of the application by sending your information along with a SASE to Central Office, VA Affairs Office, 310 Vermont Ave.

Bureau Co. Gen. Soc.--Sep-Oct 1998

# Ireland Brings Famine Out From the Shadows

THE (FORT LAUDERDALE) SUN-SENTINEL

Carr's Hill, Cork County, Ireland — Nothing is left.

No bones. No tombstones. No names of the dead.

There is little to tell that spread beneath this lush, lumpy Irish field are 30,000 victims of the Great Irish Potato Famine.

One hundred and fifty years ago this summer, rampant starvation had clamped a ghastly hold on the Emerald Isle.

Before it subsided in 1851, hunger and disease would consume more than a million people and force at least another 1.5 million to flee overseas.

Dog breeder Brendan O'Day has walked this mountain for decades. Sometimes in the early morning light, he lets his aging hounds loose and sits on a rock in this paupers' cemetery known as Carr's Hill.

In his mind, O'Day sees crowds of gasping, skeletal humans. He imagines their last breaths, sees their bodies being dumped into pits. He envisions their emaciated bodies sprinkled with lime and then covered haphazardly with fertile Irish soil.

The famine changed the course of Irish history, splintering families and fueling an erosion of language and culture. It spawned a tide of immigration that multiplied into a diaspora that today is more than 70 million strong. It left a psychological mark on Irish people the world over that endures generations later.

Often, as O'Day scans the graveyard, he breaks into tears. For the dead. For Ireland. For what Irish folk lost and have never recovered.

"But you know, if I sit there long enough I feel an incredible peace," O'Day says. "It's like no other peace I've ever known because I'm among the saints. They must be sitting next to God with halos on their heads for the way they suffered."

It's hard to understand how a famine could have happened on this verdant land. Even as hunger raged, seas full of fish beckoned offshore and stockpiles of grain used to fatten cattle for export were within reach.

But this famine — only two others in world history have caused more deaths — was rooted, some say, as much in brutal capitalism as in blight. It was a natural catastrophe made horribly worse by ignorance, greed and discrimination, students of the famine say.

"This wasn't just some terrible accident," says Decklan Jones, curator of a famine museum in the Midlands, where thousands died in a workcamp.

"Sure there was a crop failure," he says. "But what followed was a failure of people to do what was right."

Through the mid-1800s, Ireland swelled with more than 8 million people — about 3 million more than live on the island today.

The Irish lived under stern British rule. Most were poor tenant farmers who could not afford to own land. They paid rent to wealthy British and Irish barons. The landlords kept farmers on short leases.

Irish family farmers raised grain for export. But they lived off the potato — a meal in itself that is strong in carbohydrates, vitamin C and essential minerals.

Then, in 1845, blight hit — a fungus somehow was carried from North America. In the unseasonably warm rains that followed, the fungus spread. Potatoes rotted in the fields. It happened again the next year.

And the downward spiral began: Farmers and their families consumed food intended for rent. They went broke. Evictions followed. Peasants ate rotting produce in the fields. Whole villages got sick. Workhouses turned into fever hospitals.

Death tolls mounted. Cemeteries bulged. Priests stopped buying coffins to conserve money for relief. Fields of contaminated potatoes turned into graveyards.

At first, the British government turned a blind eye, saying that Ireland must tend to its own problems. Some British leaders viewed the famine as a sign from God that the overcrowded island needed to be depopulated. Others were worried about disrupting the British economy, which was dependent on beef exports from Ireland.

It was not until this June that a British leader, newly elected Prime Minister Tony Blair, admitted that Britain could have acted more swiftly to help.

"Let nature take its course," was the official British line in 1845.

By 1847, the British offered aid. It backfired. Efforts at forming road crews for paying jobs failed because people were too frail for manual labor. A soup mixture of beef and flour only got malnourished people even more dehydrated. A bitter winter — Black '47 — was a cruel blow.

The dying intensified and by the summer, starving survivors walked in droves to southern ports and were crammed into bellies of steamers bound for North America. The vessels came to be known as coffin ships because a third to a half of the passengers died in ships' hulls from disease and hunger.

Back on land, workhouses established by the British to help the poor with housing and labor instead became death camps. In the summer of 1847, workhouse deaths were averaging 2,700 per week.

"By then, people were so tired, broke, sick and hungry that they just gave in and died by the hundreds every day," Jones says.

About a dozen years ago, social worker Don Mullan heard Desmond Tutu of South Africa talk about the government humiliation of black people in his native land. It struck a chord with Mullan, who drew parallels to the British rule over the Irish during the famine.

"I thought of how we pushed the famine back into our conscience," he says. "I was determined to do something to ease the shame."

Mullan helped start a wave of famine commemorations that were highlighted in June by a street festival in Millstreet, County Cork. He organized yearly marches to recreate the deathly famine walks. He helped local communities clean up remote gravesites and place markers in memory of the victims.

His efforts helped galvanize the Irish community abroad, a major contributor to restoring and marking famine sites.

His efforts helped galvanize the Irish community abroad, a major contributor to restoring and marking famine sites.

"The conspiracy of silence can be no more," says Marie Smith of Miami, who has run famine education programs for the Irish-American Unity Foundation in South Florida.

"Many of us are here because our families were forced out during the famine," says Ms. Smith, one of more than 1.9 million Floridians of Irish heritage. "We can't act as if it never happened because it really tells us who we are."

With more than \$3.5 million in donations from abroad, Ireland's first major famine museum opened in 1994 in Strokestown, County Roscommon, the site of a workhouse during the famine. It was one of 350 famine-era workhouses built by the British, many of which turned into places of mass starvation.

Source—Omaha World Herald—7 Sept. 1997

## INDEXES - BEWARE!

An accurate index is great to use, for it saves so much time. You'll note that the word accurate is underlined. Many articles have been written that caution the use of an index, but one more can't hurt. Glance through the ten rules listed below and remind yourself that the next one you use may be defeating your purpose. The name you're hunting for may well have appeared on the original document even though the index you're depending on failed to include it.

It's easy to give an example of the point being made. Many of us here [LaSalle Co.] use a publication made for the 1850 Federal Census for LaSalle Co. It was published some years ago through the Yakima Valley, Washington Genealogical Society, the result of work done by a person who had ancestors living here in 1850. When the index was compiled, the own family of the one who made this index was omitted. Even though a number of other errors have been found, many continue to depend on this index and accept it without question.

Small wonder that in time the Guild plans to redo this 1850 census for LaSalle Co. Ours should contain far fewer errors and omissions, including the index we'll include. First we have to finish the one for 1880, that's now in progress.

### HANSEN'S TEN RULES FOR USING INDEXES.

1. An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.
2. The larger the size of the index, the more easily pertinent listings are overlooked.
3. In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel or consonant.
4. Virtually every pre-WWII record, in whatever form we see it today, originated as an attempt by an individual to put on paper what he or she thought was heard.
5. There is no perfect indexing system.
6. It doesn't matter how you spell the name; it only matters how the indexer spelled it.
7. Just because an index is described as complete or comprehensive, doesn't mean it is complete or comprehensive.
8. If you haven't found it in the index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in the

index. You cannot conclude that it's not in the record.

9. The index isn't always at the back of the book.
10. Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.

--courtesy of James L. Hansen, State Hist. Society of WI; via LaSalle Co. Gen. Guild, Mar/Apr 1997  
Bureau Co. Gen Soc.--July-Aug. 1997

### "STICKY NOTES"

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has issued a warning about the use of "sticky notes" on important papers.

The chemicals in the adhesive break down over a period of time and can cause deterioration in the paper, making the printing on the paper illegible. The Archives' lab also found that the adhesive lifted ink from photocopied images in as little time as two weeks. In addition to these problems, NARA's labs also found that the dyes used to color the "sticky notes" paper run when wet.

This type of adhesive-edged note should never be used on any original documents or on any photocopied items that are going to be saved.

--from *Ancestry*, May-June 1997

Via Bureau Co. Gen Soc.--July-Aug, 1997

Noted in *Antique Week* 3 Aug 1998 page 22B, from Mar/Apr 1998 *Kishwaukee Gen Newsletter-Rockford IL* via-ENGS-Fremont NE.--Sept, 1998

### WILL TERMINOLOGY

The following glossary of probate terms is a handy tool to have on hand when researching wills:

**Abstract** - summary of essential facts contained in a document of records.

**Administration** - process by which an intestate estate is settled; the process by which the estate of a decedent is settled.

**Codicil** - addition or subtraction from a will.

**Decedent** - a person who is deceased.

**Executor** - person named by testator to carry out provisions of the will.

**Goods and Chattels** - personal property, as distinguished from real property.

**Holographic Will** - will written entirely in the handwriting of the testator.

**Intestate** - one who dies without having made a valid will.

**Probate** - act or process of proving a will. The process by which the estate of a decedent is settled.

**Nuncupative Will** - oral will declared by the testator before witnesses and later reduced to writing.

**Testator** - one who executes a will.

Following are some abbreviations used in the Civil War Unit Designations.

FEDERALS - Also known as Yankees  
 INF - Infantry, can also be mounted  
 CAV - Cavalry, can be mounted or dismounted  
 ART - Artillery, can be light or heavy  
 REG'T - Regiment, part of division comprising several companies  
 ENG - Engineers, road builders, telegraph lines or trains  
 TROOP - Same as company, only mounted  
 VOL - Volunteers, not drafted  
 VV - Veteran volunteer, serving 2nd or 3rd hitch  
 GALV - Galvanized Confederate POWs who served in Federal blue on Western Plains fighting Indians  
 USCT - U S Colored troops, all black in the ranks led by white officers  
 AC or AD - African corps or African descent. Black units from Louisiana, Mississippi or Alabama  
 SC - Signal Corps  
 MED CO or MC - Medical Corps  
 VRC - Veteran Reserve Corp  
 CONFEDERATES. - Also called Rebels, Secessionists, Sesesh's  
 IN - Indiana Nation, Oklahoma  
 PARTISAN - Sympathizer or guerrilla, not in regular service

## TERMS

ENLISTED - Signed up for Service..3 mos, 6 mos, 1 yr, 3 yr or term  
 MUSTERED IN - Sworn into service at Assembly point  
 MUSTERED OUT - Officially released from duty  
 BOUNTY - Fee paid to enlistee, can be federal, state and/or county

## POST WAR VETERANS UNITS

GAR - Grand Army of the Republic-Union Army Veterans  
 LADIES OF THE GAR, - Women's support group  
 UCV - United Confederate Veterans  
 DOC - Daughters of the Confederacy  
 CLO - Confederate Ladies Organization  
 SUV - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
 SCV - Sons of Confederate Veterans  
 MOSB - Military Order of the Stars and Bars(descendants of Confederate soldiers)  
 DUV - Daughters of Union Veterans  
 by Harold Sonny Wells of Liberty MO.

Found in Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver WA April 1996 Quarterly. -Via ENGS,Fremont, NE June, 1996

I have sat in on several classes taught by DORTHY PERSON, one of the many great idea's that DORTHY has shared is that of preserving large documents, such as Descendancy Charts, Maps, things that you can fold and pack with you, without worry of damaging the paper.

Now I have, until recently thought that this is a great idea for creative people like DORTHY, but not me. When I suggested this great idea to another genealogists, she did not think she had any talent either, so we tried it together. To our surprise it worked!

I would like to share this with all of you who have not had opportunity to sit in on one of DORTHY'S classes.

First, put your map face down on the ironing board or table(a flat surface.) On top of the map put a layer of thick plastic like a dry cleaner's bag. Top that with an old piece of cloth like an old sheet. Press with an iron set at the temperature of the cloth. This is an up-and-down motion. DO NOT iron back and forth. Just press down and move the iron to a new place. Do this over the entire surface of the map. This will melt the plastic and bond the paper of the map to the piece of cloth. When it is all bonded, trim around the edge of the map and cloth. Your map can be folded, rolled or bent and it will not be harmed. (We are now only limited by the number of old sheets we have.)

YOU CAN DO THIS.

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## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

Found in the ANTIQUEWEEK 6 MAY 1996 8C

1727 Start of mass immigration of Palatines into PA.  
 1748-1775 At least 9,322 convicts transported from England to Maryland.

1751 Marylanders and Pennsylvanians migrate to north-western Carolina and settle in back country.

1757 Settlement of eastern Tennessee.

1770 Four hundred New England families migrate to Natchez, Miss.

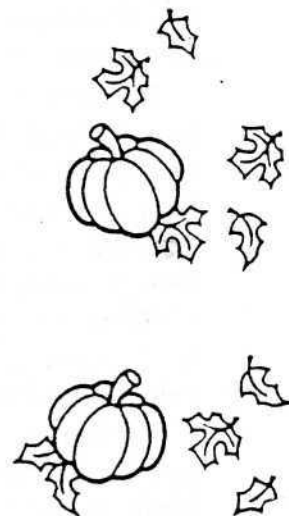
1774 - Pennsylvanians migrate to Kentucky.

Via-ENGS-Fremont, NE--June 1996

## Civil War Photographs

Over 80,000 photographs of Civil War vets are stored at the U.S. Army Military History Institute located at Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania. Requests to check files for ancestors are accepted. Include the soldier's name, rank, unit and dates of birth and death. If they are able to locate your ancestor, you will be contacted as to the fee for making photocopies. This collection of photographs is being added to all the time; you can send a copy of a Civil War soldier; Carlisle will copy it. The original along with an 8 x 10 copy will be sent back to you. For more information contact: U.S. Army Military History Institute, Attention: Reference Activity, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008.

Additional places to check for Civil War photos are: The National Archives, call (202) 501-5455 and The Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, call (202) 707-6395. Homesteader--Spring-1997





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## What's Killing My Family?

"In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people - and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the United States are listed below.

- 1657 Boston: Measles
- 1687 Boston: Measles
- 1690 New York: Yellow Fever
- 1713 Boston: Measles
- 1729 Boston: Measles
- 1732-33 Worldwide: Influenza
- 1738 South Carolina: Smallpox
- 1739-40 Boston: Measles
- 1747 Conn, NY, PA & SC: Measles
- 1759 North America (areas inhabited by white people): Measles
- 1761 North America & West Indies: Influenza
- 1772 North America: Measles
- 1775 North America (especially hard in New England): Epidemic (unknown)
- 1775-76 Worldwide: Influenza (one of worst flu epidemics)
- 1788 Philadelphia & NY: Measles
- 1793 Vermont: Influenza and a "putrid fever"
- 1793 Virginia: Influenza (killed 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks)
- 1793 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)
- 1783\* Delaware (Dover) "extremely fatal" bilious disorder
- 1793 Pennsylvania (Harrisburg & Middletown) many unexplained deaths
- 1794 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever
- 1796-97 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever
- 1798 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)
- 1803 New York: Yellow Fever
- 1820-23 Nationwide: "fever" (starts on Schuylkill River, PA & spreads)
- 1831-32 Nationwide: Asiatic Cholera (brought by English emigrants)
- 1832 New York & other major cities: Cholera
- 1837 Philadelphia: Typhus
- 1841 Nationwide: Yellow Fever (especially severe in South)
- 1847 New Orleans: Yellow Fever
- 1847-48 Worldwide: Influenza
- 1848-49 North America: Cholera

- 1850 Nationwide: Yellow Fever
- 1850-51 North America: Influenza
- 1852 Nationwide: Yellow Fever (New Orleans 8,000 die in summer)
- 1855 Nationwide (many parts) Yellow Fever
- 1857-59 Worldwide: Influenza (one of disease's greatest epidemics)
- 1860-61 Pennsylvania: Smallpox
- 1865-73 Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis & Washington DC: A series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever
- 1873-75 North America & Europe: Influenza
- 1878 New Orleans: Yellow Fever (last great epidemic of disease)
- 1885 Plymouth, PA: Typhoid
- 1886 Jacksonville, FL: Yellow Fever
- 1918 Worldwide: Influenza (high point year) More people hospitalized in World War I from Influenza than wounds. US Army training camps became death camps - with 80% death rate in some camps.

"Finally, these specific instances of cholera were mentioned:

- 1833 Columbus, OH;
- 1834 New York City;
- 1849 New York;
- 1851 Coles Co, IL;
- 1851 The Great Plains;
- 1851 Missouri."

Information taken from: Sept-Oct, 1997, Newsletter - Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County "Source: Ancestors West, SSBCGS, Vol 20, No 1, Fall 1993, South Bend (IN) Area Genealogical Society via Julie Burnett, Sue in Arizona and Judy Nordgren SMCAGS" Via-P G S Gen. Soc.--Spring, 1998

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The W. Dale Clark Library located at 14th & Farnum St. in Omaha, NE houses many reference materials useful to the genealogist. The library has microfilm of censuses, several Omaha newspapers, as well as a variety of other records, including cemetery records, church records, some naturalizations, marriage index records, and military service records. Genealogical journals, how-to books for beginners, atlases, gazetteers, place-name directories, selected biographies, regional and ethnic histories, directories of historical societies, and histories of Omaha and other towns and counties in Nebraska are contained here. The library has Omaha city directories from 1866 to the present. In addition to the Nebraska census records, some censuses from other states and an extensive collection of census indexes from throughout the U.S. is available.

Source the Homesteader, Spring 1997

## AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1861-1865

North - Soldiers in the Northern army were called Union, Federal, Yankee.

South - Soldiers in the Southern army were called Confederates or Rebels.

Army of the ... - Described a particular portion of the army operating in a certain geographic area. Northern armies were usually named after rivers; Southern armies were usually named after states.

Battery - A unit of artillery (cannons).

Battalion - A unit of infantry too small to be a regiment. This designation usually came after a unit "veteranized."

Bounty - Money paid to a man to get him to enlist. Usually offered by the county or state to help make their quotas. (Not often used until this century.)

Bonus - Same as a bounty.

Bounty Jumper - A man who enlisted to collect the bounty, deserted at the first opportunity and then enlisted again somewhere else to collect another bounty.

Company - A subdivision within a regiment.

Descriptive Book - A detailed listing of each man in the unit, often includes place of birth, home post office, age, marital status.

Draft - Each state had a quota of men to provide to the war effort. If not enough volunteers were found, men were drafted.

Enlistment date - The date the man signed the enlistment papers, not necessarily the same date as when he was mustered in.

Enrolled - Same as enlistment date.

G.A.R. - Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization formed after the war by Northern Civil War Veterans.

Indian Wars - Some men, especially those in Minnesota, fought Indians rather than Rebels. These records are sometimes separate from other Civil War records, depending on the unit.

Invalid Corps - Men unable to continue fighting with the army could end up in this part of the army, serving as hospital stewards, clerks, etc.

Muster roll/sheet - A monthly record of an individual soldier's presence with the army.

There were also unit muster sheets/rolls which kept the unit information on each man.

Muster in date - The date the man physically got to the unit and was "sworn in." His pay dated from this date.

Military Records - Located in the National Archives. These give military activity, and usually contain little family information.

O.R. - An abbreviation for Official Records of the Rebellion, a 128-volume set of detailed books covering the actions and orders of the Civil War. Much unit information can be found in the O.R., many individuals are also named, but for military actions, not family.

Pension Records - Located in the National Archives. These often give a great deal of family information and are the first place to look for genealogy information in the soldier's official records. These must be requested on specific forms available from the National Archives.

Regiment - A unit of men under a commanding officer and from a single state. Civil War regiments were given a number designation along with their state name. Example: First Minnesota, Eighth Wisconsin, etc.

Return - A final report of a unit.

Roster - List of all men serving in the unit.

Substitute - If a man were to be drafted and he did not want to fight, he could hire a substitute to fight in his place. This often cost as much as \$300.00 a man.

V.R. Corps - Veteran Reserve Corps, a unit for men no longer able to serve actively, sometimes serving as hospital stewards, clerks, etc.

Veteranizing - A term used when men were re-enlisting.

Uniforms - They were not all blue and gray, especially in 1861 !! Standard branch designations were (in both North and South):

- Artillery - Red piping and/or trim on their uniforms.
- Cavalry - Yellow piping and/or trim on their uniforms.
- Infantry - Blue piping and/or trim on their uniforms.

--from Anoka Co. MN G.S., via Whiteside Co. Fall 1997  
Bureau Co. Gen Soc.--Sep-Oct 1998

QUERIERS!

Due 15th of month prior to the newsletter. Our newsletter is printed Jan, April, July, October. Send to Madison Co. Geneological Society Box 1031 Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

NEW MEMBERS

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604 Kaplan Circle  
Norfolk, Ne. 68701

John Kielty 402-379-9194  
707 S. 4th  
Norfolk, Ne. 68701

Carol Monk 402-371-3477  
2207 Madison Ave.  
Norfolk, Ne. 68701

EVERTON WORKSHOP IN NORFOLK OCTOBER 16, 1999

Mark this date on your 1999 calendar. Yes 1999 is right. Mark Saturday October 16, 1999 on your calendar. We will have an all day hands on Geneological workshop presented by Everton Publishing sponsored by Madison County Geneological Society Norfolk, Watch for further information.

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\* P. O. Box 1031 \*  
\* Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031 \*  
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