

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 79

April 1999

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 - 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

\$10.00 for individual or \$15.00 per couple

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SPRING IS HERE! at least by the calendar and the nice days we have been having. However living in Nebraska most of my life I can remember some April blizzards. Let's hope that's not true this year.

Our February meeting featured Ashley Andrews, an eleven year old, who has with the help of her parents C.G. and Carol Andrews traced her family history in Denmark. She is a 4H club member and won a purple ribbon at the Madison County Fair on her genealogy scrapbook. She also shared a Danish recipe and served some Danish butter cookies.

The March meeting was presented by Gerda Daub O'Dey, who shared her experiences during WW II as a German youth. She also autographed her book "Legacies of Lies and Love" for society members.

Many thanks to Susan Wattier of Randolph, Nebraska for her donation to our library of a book, 100 years at St. Johns Lutheran.

John Kielty has two photo albums with approximately 90 photos. Names Brandenburg, Pence, Fowler, Weich, Eury or Evry, McMullen. Also a book 1846-1920 with surnames Patterson, Primrose listing births, deaths, and marriages. If you need information contact him by writing to our society.

ALL DUES ARE NOW \$10 FOR SINGLE AND \$15 FOR FAMILY

Charlene Kolterman and her committee are off to a good start in revising and updating the Madison County Cemetery records. Keep up the good work!

Please note our zip code change 68702-1031

Hope to see many of you at the Everton Workshop Sat. October 16, 1999 that we are sponsoring here in Norfolk.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Irene Hull
2616 Westside Plaza Dr.
Norfolk, Nebraska 68701



Sincerely,

Audrey Polenske
Audrey Polenske

Rev. James R. Tiegs
11415 Corby Plz #3
Omaha, Nebraska 68164-9629

Will share information on Faubels & Dederman families
in Norfolk, Nebraska

MURPHY'S LAW OF GENEALOGY

There are various versions of this humor. This one was found on the Net, supplied by Deborah Davis of Brasstown, NC.

1. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.
2. When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."
3. You search ten years for your grandmother's maiden name to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic.
4. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.
5. The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.
6. Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.
7. John, son of Thomas the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at the age of 10.
8. Your great-grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.
9. Another genealogist has just insulted the keeper of the vital records you need.
10. The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.
11. The only record you find for your great-grandfather is that his property was sold at a sheriff's sale of insolvency.
12. The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end line has been lost due to fire, flood, or war.
13. The town clerk to whom you wrote for the information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.
14. The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.
15. None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have

names written on them.

16. No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in a will.
17. You learn that your great-aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "somewhere in New York City."
18. Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
19. The 37-volume, 16,000-page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.
20. You finally find your great-grandparents' wedding record and discover that the bride's father was named John Smith.



WELSH RESEARCH

The source of this information is the North Wales Internet Genealogy Pages at <http://www.nwi.co.uk/famhist/fhinfo.htm>

Bishop's Transcripts, available for most parishes from the second half of the 17th century, are a good source of information. The Welsh County Archivists Group and the National Library of Wales are at present preparing a publication which will give the location and covering dates of all Welsh registers and full details of the Bishop's Transcripts.

In some dioceses, the Mormons met with religious objections from bishops and clergy and so have been able to microfilm rather less than half of the pre-1837 registers of Wales.

School attendance, up to the age of 10, was compulsory beginning in 1880. Records of British, National Board and Council schools survive in the Welsh County Record Offices. They include admission registers from the mid-19th century, giving the pupils' names and addresses of their parents. Log books, kept by head teachers since 1862, often provide information on individual pupils.


There is a great deal of information at this web site including Messages Page (lots of genealogy requests).

--from Chicago GS Apr 1997, et al.

Bureau Co. G. S. --Jan. 1999

"Discovering Your Heritage"

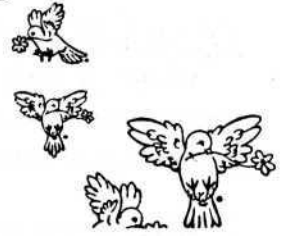
a genealogical workshop
presented by the

 *Everton's Genealogical Helper*

and sponsored by

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Society Name



Evertons has presented nearly 1000 workshops across the United States, Canada, and even Australia to enthusiastic family historians.

At the "*Everton's Discovering Your Heritage*" genealogical workshop, there will be numerous research aids for your use. Some of the aids available are:

Computerized Family File
GEDSRCH
Books for Research

Computerized "Roots" Cellar
Pedigree Library
Discounted supplies

Some Discounted Items!

Join us at the

"Discovering Your Heritage"

genealogical workshop and

SUPPORT YOUR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!

RECEIVE A FREE ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION to

"Everton's Genealogical Helper"

with your paid registration!

DATE OF WORKSHOP: Saturday October 16, 1999 8AM-4PM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00 NO registration at the door
Includes noon meal and Mary O'Boyle Irish singer

LOCATION OF WORKSHOP

Send PREREGISTRATIONS to:

Location: Grace Lutheran Church
Address: 416 Park Avenue
City & State: Norfolk, NE

Society: Madison County Genealogical Society
Address: P. O. Box 1031
City, State & Zip Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

Preregistration Deadline - October 1, 1999

TERMS ABOUT WOMEN

Here's a little quiz regarding some terms about women you may find in your genealogical research.

1. What is a woman called who is named in a will to distribute the estate?

- (a) executrix
- (b) exheres
- (c) estafette

2. Your great-grandmother was a mantua maker -- should you put that in the family history?

- (a) no
- (b) yes
- (c) depends on how sensitive your relatives are about this occupation

3. What is the term for a woman whose husband deserted her, who had illegitimate children, or was a discarded common-law wife?

- (a) relict
- (b) consort
- (c) grass widow

4. What is the genealogical term for a lineage that has no male heirs to carry on the surname?

- (a) de bono et malo
- (b) daughtered out
- (c) decessit sine parole

5. While reading court records you find the term "de ventre inspiciendo" used regarding something they did to your great-great-grandmother. What does that mean?

- (a) the court inspected her handling of the estate of her late husband
- (b) examined her abdomen to determine if she was pregnant
- (c) examined her to see if she was mentally competent

6. If you are involved in matrilineal research, what are you really doing?

(a) tracing your maternal line: i.e., daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grand mother, etc.

(b) tracing all of your mother's ancestors

(c) tracing all the females in each line.

7. The condition or state of a married woman is legally referred to as:

(a) cursetor

(b) non compos mentis

(c) coverture

8. In America between 1804 and 1906 if the husband had filed his declaration of intention what did his widow have to do to become a U.S. citizen?

(a) take the oath of allegiance

(b) file a petition

(c) file a declaration of intention

9. Which U.S. state is known as the "Mother of Presidents" and why?

(a) Massachusetts

(b) North Carolina

(c) Virginia

10. In what year did Mother's Day become recognized by the U.S. government as an annual holiday?

(a) 1899

(b) 1914

(c) 1796.

(ANSWERS GIVEN ON PAGE 32)

.....Internet
contributed by Evelyn Young

* * *

End of the Lyin'

When young we add a year of two,
At middle age, subtract a few;
We're old when we have reached the stage
We brag about our true age.

.....Dorothy Heller

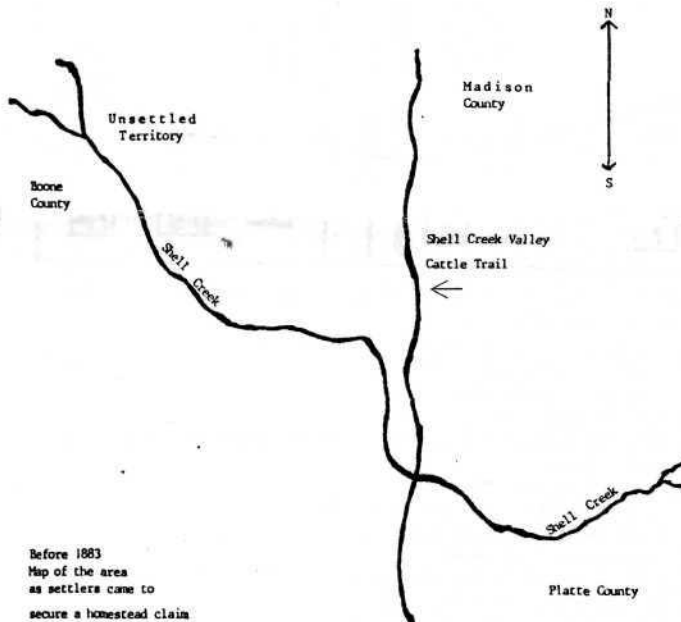
NTSTAN - Nov. 1998

Shell Creek Valley Newman Grove — Old Town

SHELL CREEK VALLEY NEWMAN'S GROVE - OLD TOWN

Prior to 1886 Newman's Grove, Madison County, Nebraska was a small "hamlet" lying just south of Shell Creek in the southwest corner of Madison County and is included in the present townsite.

Madison County is in the third tier of counties, south from the Missouri River on the north side of the state, organized in 1867. Some of the finest farming land, rolling prairie, sloping hills, rich tillable soil and a small creek bottom formed this Shell Creek Valley. Bluejoint grass as high as a horse was most valuable for use as pasture and hay.



A few scattered settlers found their way into the area searching for a place to locate and homestead a claim in this new strange land. Most came up the Platte River Valley through Columbus and a few came from the Elkhorn River Valley.

John Bloomfield (Johnny Smoker), a Scotsman, is felt to be the first settler coming to the Shell Creek community about five years before early settlers. Lewis and son Newman Warren came about 1864 followed by George Witcher, Wm. Searles, Snyder, Hans Olson, Ole and

Hans Severson, and their mother. Wm. Menice, Nils Nelson and wife and Haldor Halverson bringing the first white children. Caroline Halvorson was the first white child born in the Shell Creek area.

The story told of Johnny Smoker is that he located one half mile northwest of the original section of Newman Grove along Shell Creek. He lived a secluded life and was unmarried. He was friendly with the Indians, spoke their language and wanted to leave when the settlement became more populated. He lived in a dugout with a fireplace made of sod. At the top of the dugout he made a hole large enough for a man to crawl in and used it for a smoke outlet, which he would cover in winter with a frame. He built a shelter for his pony. He sold this homestead to Sever Field for \$800, leaving the money for safe keeping at the Gunder Homre Store. He soon came to pick it up and that was the last seen of him. This homestead is the farm of Dale Clark and Clark advised the cave looks as though it were a well made place for a home. Many years ago some bones were found in it. One wonders, if Johnny Smoker became ill or met with foul play and died in his dugout, or if some other settler or person, who stayed there, died to be found years later. An extensive search was made for Johnny Smoker at the time of his disappearance.

The first birth is listed as Lewis M. Hovland; George Hovland was Constable at one time and had walked to work at Wisner to earn a living for his family. The first Postmaster listed is Gunder Hamre in 1874.

A log house was built on the east corner from the present Shell Creek Church by Lewis Warren, one of the first settlers and was used rent free for the first term under the Public School system. E. M. Squire was a strong advocate of education and helped organize District 13 in Newman Grove. Wm. Searles taught the first term.

There was a severe blizzard April 13, 1873. Wild fowl and cattle were lost as they could not find shelter. The grasshoppers of 1873 and 1874 were devastating. You couldn't face them. There were so many they shaded the sun. They came about 3:00 PM and left the next day about noon, when the wind changed. Two hours after they arrived, the crops were destroyed. Early settlers tell many tales of their trials and tribulations of their trips to the new land, the United States, storms at sea and illness that took its toll from dysentery and cholera. They came from Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Denmark, Germany,

Czechoslovakia, England-Wales, Ireland, Russia and other countries and states. Their faith and sturdy character kept them strong during these periods and helped them to rise about their problems to establish comfortable homes, farms and businesses to live "the good life" as known in Nebraska today. Their first thought was to establish a home from the dugout (taking a few days to build), the sod house (with a prairie sod floor and a prairie grass roof) and then a frame home and buildings. It was a three day trip to Columbus to get lumber for this purpose.

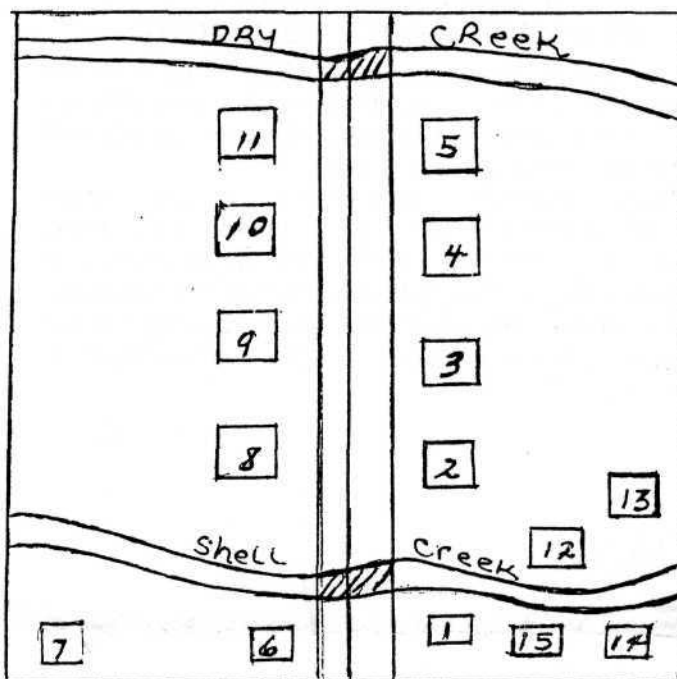
Harvest in the 1870's was done with the cradle and the blade of the scythe. Days were 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM. They raised rye and wheat at 56¢ a bushel, barley at 46¢ and oats at 36¢. The prairie was broken with an axe to make sod furrows, they dropped the corn, then stepped on it. It was cut by hand when mature, shocked and stored for winter feed, and used when seasoned. Corn was rotated with wheat every two years. Equipment was a breaking plow, and a homemade drag, V shaped, and made from a tree. Corn yield was 30-40 bushels an acre. Few hogs, cattle and some calves were raised.

Lewis Warren and George Witcher established a stage route from Newman Grove to Cedar Creek near Oakdale. They marked the route by plowing one furrow with a breaking plow. George was the clerk of the first election held in Shell Creek, the constable and a very respected man.

Newman Warren was the first white man to die in the valley, a young man of 21 (about 1873) leaving his father his homestead and property. After his death, his father, Lewis Warren, worked diligently to name the town for his son. Lewis and wife Mary Jane sold the property for the town site for \$2000. Since there was a lovely grove of trees, they decided to use the name Newman's Grove. Later the 's' was dropped and it is now known as Newman Grove. Some have said, when it was sent to the postoffice for registration, the name came back without the 's' and was never corrected. Lewis Warren died in Kent, WA 5-18-1901. There are reports that the town was named for a Mr. Newman, however records referring to the legal description indicate it was the Warren land and it is felt this was one and the same person.

The Indians were for most part friendly, but the people were fearful of Indian attacks after the 1870 attack by the Yankton Sioux in which they drove away Lewis Warren's cattle, killed some and damaged others with arrows. He drove the injured cattle to the Pawnee Reservation at Genoa and brought back soldiers for protection. He filed a claim with the Court for damages and 37 years later he was allowed claims of \$152. for five head. Lewis Warren's daughter had been out herding the cattle, who had become restless because the Indians were near. A woman, Mrs. Nils Nelson, was shot in the hip and recovered in the Warren home. Colonization slowed for three years and soldier camps were established every 6-10 miles in the area.

Austania helped her father and brother Newman plant cottonwood trees on their land. These trees which measure about 15 feet in circumference are located in our City Park giving much shade from their lofty heights. The trees would have many interesting stories to tell as they have been there over 100 years. Austania's granddaughter, Dorothy (Shephard) Poe learned in 1986 of the approaching Newman Grove Centennial, has visited the community and plans to return in June for the special Celebration.



Sketch shown in R. D. Wilcox book, "Scandinavian Influence on Newman Grove."

1. Immigrant house, built by B & M Railroad
2. Shell Creek Schoolhouse
3. George Hoveland Hotel
4. Mrs. Torguson's house
5. Mrs. Hoffman (Alvera Jackson) dressmaking & millinery
6. Livery Stable
7. First Shell Creek Church
8. Geo. Hoveland's General Store & Postoffice
9. Smith Brothers (Monroe & Clint)
10. John Horn, Blacksmith
11. George Witcher's, Gunder Morn's
12. Brickyard, Gunder Thompson
13. Peter Martin, Cheese factory
14. Gunder Thompson's Sorghum Mill
15. Gunder Thompson Ice Business

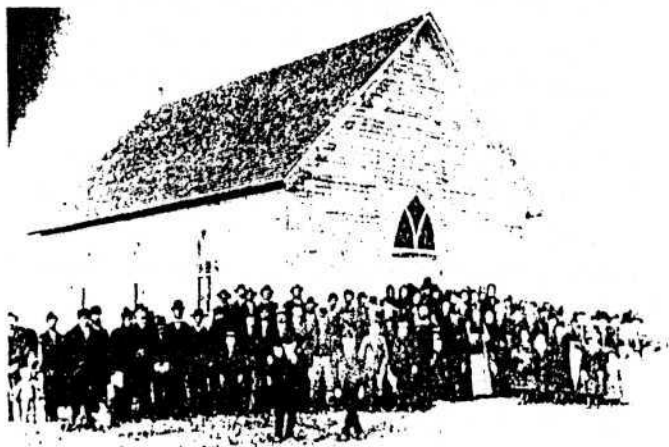
In 1873 Gunder Hamre built the first store from a reclaimed elm given him by Lewis Warren and lumber from Columbus, in "Old Town" north of the Shell Creek Bridge. He was the first Postmaster 6-23-1874. George Hovland bought the store and also became Postmaster. The town was located on the west side of Shell Creek Bridge. The Immigrant House, temporary home for settlers, was built in the summer of 1879 on the bank of Shell Creek by the B & M Railroad Company to encourage settlers to come to the area. The land was free if proven up. The settlers sought adventure, free land and success. By 1883 nearly

all homesteads were occupied in all directions.

Dr. Samuel E. Sanderson was the first practicing physician in Shell Creek 1874-75. Before that time the settlers had to go 40 miles to Columbus or Norfolk. Typhoid, diphtheria and ague were prevalent diseases. Several members might die within a day, as there was no medical help. Four members of one family contracted typhoid and the mother moved to the cooking shanty and escaped the disease though taking care of them. Dr. W. S. Gillette succeeded Dr. Sanderson in 1883, when Sanderson moved to Minnesota. After the railroad reached the area in 1887, Dr. John Cargen and his brother entered practice in the new location of the town. Albert M. Griswold opened the first hardware store in 1886 in the new town. He refused to open his store on Sunday, a day of Worship, for a customer. The man returned on Monday.

There was a distinctive Norwegian settlement in Wisconsin beginning about 1840 in Dane, Rock and Jefferson counties. Many came from Norway and lived there a time. Discussion arose over the chief theological questions. Election and Predestination cases were decided in the Supreme Court. Many of these families came to the Newman Grove area (about 100 families) after or with relatives or friends.

A group of 20 started for Nebraska in the spring of 1872 from Dane County Wisconsin with 10 covered wagons, 7 horse teams, three ox teams. The L. W. Johnson family were original members of Shell Creek Hauge's church. Their first home was 12' x 12' dugout until a sod house was built. During the 1873 blizzard, they remained in the dugout three days. The organization of Hauge's Shell Creek Church began in 1874.

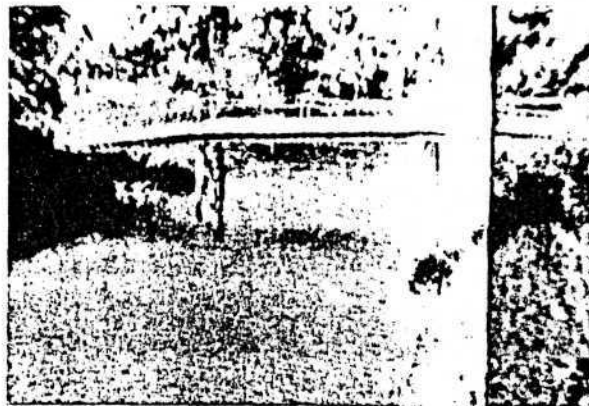


First Church

Trinity Lutheran Church and the Methodist Church celebrate an 1874 beginning. Ole Texley built his dugout in 1872 on Dry Creek west bank using logs for ridge and roof poles donated by John Bloomfield. Ole had no team for two years and borrowed or hired the neighbors to break a few acres of sod. He walked to Wisner for employment until he paid for his trip to Nebraska and bought an ox team. The children fished and swam in Beaver dams (three in one mile) in the area.

Source: Newman Grove Centennial: Our 1st Hundred Years 1988 pg.29-31

The Genoa trading post included Nance County and was the Pawnee Indian Reservation. An Indian Agent and other officials and soldiers were stationed there. Ingeborg Olson married Levi Gutru in 1877. She assisted in the Indian school and learned the language well enough to be an interpreter. She would be there to comfort the children and mothers when word came that members of their families had been killed in battles with the Sioux Indian Tribe. In 1876 the Pawnee Indians were moved from Dakota south to Oklahoma. About 25 soldiers would escort them and camp in this area on their way to Columbus. The soldiers would then return for another group.



Bridge over Shell Creek

The Ostergaard Park was a tract of about 30 acres lying on Shell Creek near the city limits with a beautiful growth of native timber, being destroyed by its owners. Thomas Ostergaard decided to establish a park in 1881 as a resort for picnics with shade and fishing. He bought land, seeded to bluegrass and used areas as a gaming ground, a boat landing with boats, picnic tables and was a popular place in spring and summer and boating on Shell Creek was an enjoyable recreation. He was a philanthropist and encouraged planting trees, shrubs, improving homes, lawns and buildings. It was later known as "Acorn Valley" and enjoyed by many hikers and boy and girl Scouts.

Gulbrand Texley, a carpenter, built a 14' x 18' store for Gunder Hamre of lumber with windows, doors, furniture, roof and floor, which was considered one of the wonders of Shell Creek. Gunder Hamre platted the original town in 1883.

Mary B. Hoffman (2-21-1848/3-13-1909) was Postmistress in 1886. The postoffice was moved from Old Town to the Railroad Addition (new town) in 1887-1888. She was active in promoting the organization of Hope Cemetery, its maintenance and was buried there.

The Texas Cattle Trail passed through Shell Creek Valley at Newman Grove and at times thousands of cattle could be seen making their way to Texas from the north, driven by wild cowboys.

There were times when a tribe of Indians of about 1000 came through Newman Grove and camped in the area.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. (a) executrix. Exheres means disinherited and an estafette (French) is a courier who rides a horse.

2. (b) Yes. Mantua maker refers to one who practices the art of fashionable dress-making which required an apprenticeship.

3. (c) grass widow.

4. (b) daughtered out. De bono et malo means "of good and evil" and decessit sine parole (often abbreviated as d.s.p.) is the Latin for "died without issue."

5. (b) A de ventre inspiciendo was a writ which was sometimes issued by a presumptive heir-at-law which required the sheriff to summon a jury of matrons and a jury of 12 men to inquire if the widow was pregnant. The matrons examined her and reported to the male jury who returned the decision to the court of chancery.

6. (a) tracing your maternal line: i.e., daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, etc.

7. (c) coverture. A cursetor was a vagabond or vagrant and non compos mentis means not of sound mind or in a state of lunacy.

8. (a) take the oath of allegiance.

9. (c) Virginia (because seven of America's first 12 presidents were Virginians).

10. (b) 1914. Congress proposed that Mother's Day be celebrated the second Sunday in the month of May. It came about at the request of Miss Anna Jarvis, who wished to honor the memory of her mother who died May 10, 1905. She had marked her mother's passing yearly by wearing a white carnation and organizing special prayer sessions at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia.

Bureau Co. G. S.--Jan. 1999

* * *



"Leave me alone with my delight
To store up joy against the night..."

.....Oliver St John Gogarty

The Plum Tree by the House

NISIAN - Nov. 1998

* * *

10 COMMANDMENTS OF COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

1. Thou shall not bore the county clerk with stories of thy great-grandfather's adventures crossing the ocean.
2. Thou shall have thy names and dates written in an orderly manner - not on 15 scraps of paper.
3. Thou shall be kind and courteous to county employees and remember thy manners.
4. Thou shall study the county map so thou will know where thee should be.
5. Thou shall not expect thy grandfather's name to be spelled exactly as thee spells his name.
6. Thou shall under no circumstances try to do research in the county clerk's office on election day.
7. Thou shall keep in mind that the county employees have other business to attend to besides helping to find thy ancestors.
8. Thou shall not complain about "Right to Privacy" laws that prohibit you from knowing all of the affairs of thy relatives.
9. Thou shall accept the fact that some records simply do not exist.
10. Thou shall not even be tempted to take original papers. A copy will serve you just as well.

--written by Phyllis Kelley and former co-workers, DeKalb Co. IL Courthouse

* * *

PRISONERS OF WAR

If one of your ancestors was a POW, a service exists to help you with the POW's records. This service is for any POW in any war including the Civil War. Send a SASE to Andersonville National Historic Site, Rt. 1, Box 85, Andersonville, GA 31711. You should have the prisoner of war's name, which war, and any military information you have. You will be billed for copy costs only.

--from Tri-State Gen. Soc., Winter 1995

Bureau Co. G. S.--Jan. 1999

...You Know You're Taking Genealogy Too Seriously if...

You are the only person to show up at the cemetery research party with a shovel.

In order to put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.

You were instrumental in having "non-genealogical use of the genealogy room copy machine" classified as a federal hate crime.

Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.

You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S. Postal Office immediately laid off 1,500 employees.

Out of respect for your best friend's unquestioned reputation for honesty and integrity, you are willing to turn off that noisy surveillance camera while she reviews your 57 genealogical research notebooks in your home. The armed security guard, however, will remain.

You plod merrily along "refining" your recently published family history, blissfully unaware that the number of errata pages now far exceeds the number of pages in your original publication.

During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.

The most recent document in your "Missing Ancestors" file is a 36-page contract between you and Johnson Billboard Advertising Company.

Ed McMahon, several t.v. cameras and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?"

"A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag far behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader."

A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.

QUARANTINED

The inhabitants of this place have been stricken with GENEALOGY FEVER, an infectious and deadly disease.

SYMPTOMS

BLOODSHOT eyes from excessive exposure to computers and microfilm and microfiche readers;
SORE FINGERS from writing, typing, and filing;
HEART PALPITATIONS at the sight of gravestones or old trunks filled with letters, pictures, and memorabilia;
POCKETS AND FILES filled with pencils, pens, and notepapers;
ERRATIC SPEECH patterns punctuated with dates, places, and names of pilgrims and princes;
and NERVOUSNESS AND COLD SWEATS while awaiting the arrival of the daily mail.

P G S COUNTRY WINTER 1999

DON'TS WHEN USING THE CENSUS

[The following list of census records "DON'TS" was compiled by Jan DeWitt and was first published in "Westward Into Nebraska," a publication of the Greater Omaha Genealogical Society and later published in HALIFACTS by Kenneth Cook.]

Census records are easy to use; what can go wrong? Plenty, for both the beginner and the experienced researcher. Here are some negative ideas:

1. Don't stop with the Soundex finding; go back to the original census record.
2. Don't believe the census indexes to be either correct or complete.
3. Don't assume the spelling of the name is as you know it now.
4. Don't assume the relationship to the head of the household is as it is stated. Has anyone found a listing of a "niece-in-law" for instance?
5. Don't assume the wife is the mother of any or all the children listed.
6. Don't assume the ages given provide a birth year.
7. Don't forget to copy the information at the top of the page as well as all the data to the right of the occupation column.
8. Don't forget to copy all the entries for your surname in the county. And better look over the neighbors, too. Four Smiths in a row with Jones in the middle could easily indicate a married daughter and her family.
9. Don't think the records before 1850 can't help. They may only have the one name listed but at least you'll know how many to look for, for a whole family.
10. Don't think census data gives all the answers.
11. Don't forget the 1880-plus records when you're stuck in the early 1800's. 1880 and later censuses give the birth state of the father and mother.
12. Don't forget the 1890 veterans census if your ancestor was in the military. Widows are also listed.
13. Don't forget about state census records.

The fact that there are 13 "DON'TS" is no coincidence. Any one of them could mean bad luck in research.

1930 CENSUS INFORMATION

The 1930 census will be released in 2002, though the exact date has not been set yet. This is pursuant to the 72 year restriction on public access to protect people's privacy. Only part of this census will be indexed - ten southern states. Nine of the ten are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. There are also seven unnamed counties in both Kentucky and West Virginia.

These indexes were a WPA project to employ people. When they started on the 1930 census, they started in the south. But before they could finish, World War II broke out and the labor force was needed elsewhere.

Apparently the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) has NOT approached any "commercial" indexers about indexing the 1930 census. Looking further ahead, the 1940 and 1950 censuses have no index at all. Questions about census records can be sent to inquire@nara.gov for answers from the NARA genealogy staff.

—from LaSalle Co. Gen. Guild, Jul-Aug 1998

MICHIGAN DEATH RECORDS

The Michigan Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics has indexed death records for all counties from 1867 through 1874 with a few records from 1875. This represents 81,540 individuals. The database is fully searchable by several fields: last name, first name, father's last name, county of death or date of death. The information in the records was obtained from microfilmed death ledgers for Michigan and has been transcribed by Michigan genealogists. To search the records, go to <http://www.mdch.state.mich.us/PHA/OSR/gendis/index.htm>

—from South Suburban Gen. & Hist. Soc., June 1998

Bureau Co. Gen. Soc. Jan-Feb 1999

GENEALOGY IS MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF NAMES

BY LORENA SMITH

Genealogy is more than a collection of names of your ancestors. The names will mean nothing to you unless you dig a little deeper in the past and are able to find out:

1. The kind of clothes they wore.
2. The church they attended.
3. The machinery they used.
4. The kind of books they read.
5. The kind of foods they ate and how they prepared it.
7. How they coped with illness.
8. Did wars and politics affected their lives?

You can find out many of these answers searching for information in the Phelps County Genealogy Library at the museum. The information is there, your search will be well worth the effort and you will find much satisfaction and appreciation of your family history.

All you need is a name of a relative and the time they were living to get you started. You can do your own search or the library staff will assist you. You can call for information at the museum or contact Sandra Slater at 995-6712.

Come to the monthly meetings, subscribe to the "Phelps Helps" newsletter and you will learn things that may change your life forever.

~ A Little Humor From the Internet ~

I went searching for an ancestor. I cannot find him still. He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.

He married where a courthouse burned. He minded all his fences. He avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census.

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame. And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.

His parents came from Europe. They could be on some list of passengers to the USA, but somehow they got missed.

And no one else anywhere is searching for this man. So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.

I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed but the weather took engraving and some vandal took the rest.

He died before the county clerks decided to keep records, No family bible has emerged in spite of all my efforts.

To top it off this ancestor, who caused me many groans. Just gave me one more pain, betrothed a girl named JONES.

Holdrege Area Gen. Club--Spring 1999

* * *

Madison Co. Genealogical Soc. Newsletter

NISIA also exchanges newsletters with the Madison Co Geneal'l Soc. There are often interesting articles about history of Nebraska, especially various towns. In Vol 20, No 77, Oct 1998, read about "The Lighter Side of Pioneer Life," "Battle Creek Mills Burned," "This Is Why Tilden Is In Two Counties," as well as many short items such as will terminology, a warning about sticky notes, Civil War photographs, abbreviations used in Civil War records, etc. This informative newsletter is also in the LLCGS collection at Union College.

This article was found in the NISIAN newsletter, Nov. 1998. We appreciate hearing comments from the readers of our newsletter.. Thanks for the compliment.

* * *

U.S. POST OFFICE & LETTERS

Typed envelopes will reach addresses one day earlier than those handwritten. Postal machines' scanners read envelopes from the bottom up, starting with the zip code. If anything is typed lower than the zip code, the letter will be held until it can be manually sorted. (The bottom half inch is reserved for the post office for the printing of the postal bar coding.)

Mail will also reach its destination at least a day sooner if a zip code is used, and adding the 4-digit number is even better. (Printing the bar code on the envelope either below the address or above it also helps.)

Self-addressed, stamped envelopes (SASE) folded inside a letter are a violation of postal regulations because they jam postal sorting machines. Instead use a No. 9 envelope which will fit inside the regular No. 10 envelope without folding.

--from McLean Co. GS Vol. 32:9, et al.

Bureau Co. Gen. Soc. Jan-Feb 1999

New publications recently purchased for the genealogy collection at the Norfolk Public Library.

- 1) From Catherine to Khrushchev: the Story of Russia's Germans by Adam Giesinger—published by American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, Nebraska (not yet catalogued, but soon!)
- 2) Genealogist's Address Book—4th Edition by Elizabeth Petty Bentley (R929.1072 BEN 1998)
- 3) A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors: Special Strategies For Uncovering Hard-To-Find Information About Your Female Lineage by Sharon Debartolo Carmack (929.1072 CAR)
- 4) First Steps In Genealogy: a Beginner's Guide to Researching Your Family History by Desmond Walls Allen (929.1 ALL)
- 5) Irish and Scotch-Irish Who Made a Declaration of Intention to Naturalize From Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Richardson, Sarpy and York Counties In Nebraska, 1855-1940+ compiled by Ellen M. and Raymond D. De Vries. Just arrived and will take awhile to get catalogued.

Judy Hilkemann, Reference Librarian
Norfolk Public Library



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



Bernice Dewey
306 E. Prospect Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701