

Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

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From your President, Karen Rogat

The mailing address has changed to 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, Nebraska 68701. The PO Box has been discontinued. Please change your records

The Genealogy Society will have a display in the museum's member display case this fall...I can use suggestions on what to put in.

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My husband and I have a small garden in the back yard. As we were tending to the weeds and watering the other day, we started to reminisce about "the old days". There is something about getting the dirt under your fingernails that keeps us in touch with our ancestors.

When my family lived out on the farm (which we rented), we had no running water in the house, much less a spigot near the garden, so many a bucketsful of water were toted to the large garden. My grandma and mother would plant, hoe, fertilize, water, and then hoe again (as a kid it seemed like they were doing this all day). They would then stand back, admire their accomplishments, and dream of the bountiful harvest to come. Of course, while waiting for the harvest to begin, we have to go into the dark cool cellar and bring up all the empty jars so they could be washed and readied for canning and preserving to come. When the jars were off the shelves, us kids had to clean out the cobwebs and dirt that accumulated over the past year. The one consolation about this job was that it was so cool compared to the heat of summer.

As genealogists, we preserve the family memories for the future. I know that there is more work to do for my family but when I look over the family history that I have accumulated I feel the same feeling of accomplishment that my grandma and mother did with their preserving.

Use our research library at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center to help you preserve your bountiful harvest of family history. You can stop in, call, write, or email us at Madison County Genealogy Society, 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE 68701 ... the phone number is (402) 371-3886...email is madisoncgs@cableone.net. We are open Monday-Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 1-5.

May and June Meeting Notes:

The monthly meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held May 15, 2007 at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. Pres. Karen called the meeting to order. 10 members were in attendance.

The secretary's minutes were read by Patty and Betty gave the treasurer's report. More ideas were tossed around for our field trip in August and a comment was made that it doesn't necessarily have to be held on the monthly meeting date. Betty said she would be in charge of lining up something for the meeting and Patty said she would help her. Betty brought up the idea that it would be nice for the genealogy society to have the "museum display" some time in the upcoming months.

Karen reminded everyone to be thinking about a committee to select new officers for the coming year. Karen served refreshments.

Ruthie had lined up a "Scavenger Hunt" questionnaire of buildings in Norfolk, both past and present for our program. A lively discussion was held with some telling about what they remembered about said locations.

The Madison County Genealogical Society met June 19, 2007 at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. Attending were 11 members and 5 guests.

Discussion was held concerning our field trip in August with nothing decided upon. A nominating committee was chosen to seek new officers for the coming year. Serving on the committee will be Betty Bohac, Sharon Thompson and Diane Kimble.

Karen reported that we had received many newsletters from other society's and also told about queries that had been received.

The post office box for the society has been closed out and all correspondence for the society should be sent to the Elkhorn Valley Museum at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE from now on.

Karen presented the ballot for us to cast our vote on, for new board members for the Elkhorn Valley Museum, board of directors. Refreshments were served by Patty Eucker.

Nancy Koopman of Norfolk, NE presented the program for the evening. She told a most interesting story about tracing some land that was rumored to belong to the family for over 100 years and all the proceedings they have had to endure to prove they were heirs to the said estate.

Betty Bohac is to serve refreshments for our July meeting

Your Quick Tips

Check Previous and Following Pages

When searching census records, be sure to look at previous and following pages. There may be a parent, sibling, or child who lived across the street from the ancestor you are researching. But if census taker went down one side of the street and back up the other side, someone who actually lived across the street would show up on a different page.

Alice Holtin, Henderson, TN

Upcoming Events:

August 15-18, 2007 - Fort Wayne, IN - FGS/ACPL Conference: Meeting at the Crossroads of America - "Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options," "Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research," "Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones," "Trace Your Roots with DNA" and "The Quest for Ellis Island Annie"

September 22, 2007, St. Paul, Minnesota

Footsteps to Your Family History – 2.5 hour genealogy class

October 4-6, 2007 - Marshalltown, IA - Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Fall Conference - "The Quest for Annie Moore," "Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research," "Remembering Our Ancestors," "Trace Your Roots with DNA," "Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options" and "Cases That Made My Brain Hurt"

October 18-20, 2007— Madison, WI —2007 Czech Genealogical Society Int'l

October 28-November 4, 2007 - 2007 Genealogy Conference and Cruise - hosted by Wholly Genes Software - "Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones" and "Cases That Made My Brain Hurt"

April 26, 2008 - Topeka, KS - Topeka Genealogical Society - "Trace Your Roots with DNA," "Beyond Y-DNA: Your Genetic Genealogy Options," "Building a Village-Based Community" and "Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones"

May 2-3, 2008 - Nebr. St. Gen. Society Conference—Lincoln

Genealogy expert to speak at symposium.

Omaha World-Herald July 1, 2007

If your family tree is a mystery or you simply want to track down information about a long-lost uncle, consider attending the land records and genealogy symposium at Homestead National Monument.

Homesteading history, westward expansion, land records and family history research is the focus of the July 13-14 event at the Truman Center building on Southeast Community College's Beatrice campus.

The keynote address, "Genealogy in the Information Age and the Impact of New Tools," will be July 13 by David E. Rencher. He is director of the Records and Information Division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Family and Church History Department in Salt Lake City.

Cost for the two-day event is \$89 or \$69 to attend one day. Registration closes Monday. For more information, contact Todd Arrington, Homestead National Monument historian, at 402-223-3514 or todd.arrington@nps.gov.

SCC-Beatrice, Homestead Monument

Contact: Kelly Morgan kmorgan@southeast.edu (402) 228-3468 **Location :** Beatrice, Ne

Start Date : 7/13/2007 8:00 AM **End Date :** 7/14/2007 5:00 PM

Planners have designed the symposium to help participants learn about federal land records, courthouse documents, immigration records, maps, land platting and more. They will also learn how to use these and other records for successful historical and genealogical research. This is a bi-annual event that started in 2001.

**Girl Appeals to Sheriff to Find Parents
Has Not seen Brothers or Parents in Sixteen Years.**

Who is there in Madison county who recalls a family by the name of Mohl, at one time, residents of Norfolk. The present whereabouts of this family is sought by Sheriff Smith in answer to a pathetic letter from 20 year old Lucille M. Laurent, Lexington, Nebr.

Miss Laurent, prior to her adoption was Lucy Mohl. When but four years of age she, with a brother, Ernest, were taken by Sheriff Smith to an orphanage at Lincoln, Nebr. The two children were separated and the sister writes that she has not seen or heard from the brother in sixteen years.

A six month old baby whose first name the girl does not remember was left with the mother at the time Sheriff Smith took the two older children to the home at Lincoln.

The foster parents of the girl are both dead, she writes Sheriff Smith. "I have no one but myself to make a living for the girl writes," and I would like to find my real parents, so please help me out all you can.

Thus far Sheriff Smith has been unable to learn the whereabouts of the parents, Robert and Augusta Mohl.

"I have inquired of a number of older settlers but no one seems to remember the family," Sheriff Smith said. "Families living neighbors to them in Norfolk have since passed away," Sheriff Smith said. Source: Madison Star-Mail, June 28, 1928, page 1.

**Story in Star-Mail May Reunite Family Separated 16 Years
Norfolk Editor has knowledge of Parents Whereabouts**

Efforts of Sheriff Smith to locate the parents of 20 year old Lucille M. Laurent, Lexington, may bear fruit.

As the result of a story printed in the Star-Mail two weeks ago, Marie Weekes of the Norfolk Press, has volunteered information that may lead to bringing the girl and her

parents together.

A few weeks ago, Miss Laurent wrote Sheriff Smith a letter asking his help in locating her parents and brothers whom she has not seen for 16 years. The girl, it will be recalled, was placed in a Lincoln orphanage when but four years of age. A short time later she was adopted by a family at Lexington. Now that her foster parents are dead, she is anxious to learn whether or not her real parents are still alive.

Recalling the court trial that lead to the separation of the children from their parents, the Norfolk editor writes:

The Press editor recalls little Lucy Mohl now known as Lucille M. Laurent and already she has apprized Lucy's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Will Christian than whom there are no kinder, greater hearted people of Lucille's whereabouts and her desire to know about her family. The press editor recalls the day the court decided that the Mohl children should be given over to the state for it was to the state home for dependent children and not an orphanage these children were sent. It was a pathetic scene in the court house at Madison when these children were parted from their mother. Another family by the name of Williamson was before the court the same day. Burr Taft was county commissioner. James Nichols was county attorney and while the evidence was such as to show the children's best interests would be served by the separation it was a tragic scene and the present republican candidate for congress was among these who was loath to permit the children to be taken from their parents. Indeed, it was through his efforts the baby boy was left to the mother.

"The brother, Ernest, was a promising young chap, intelligent, studious and we imagine he will be found to be a brother entirely worthy of his sister's pridelful devotion. The baby brother, Arthur, is with their mother in Texas. Rumor has it that the father, Bob Mohl, is dead. He worked for Mr. Estabrook here for many years in the produce business the latter conducted and went with him to

Texas.

"Norfolkans who recall little Lucy Mohl will be glad to know she is the fine young woman they expected her to be." Source: Madison Star-Mail, July 12, 1928, page 6.

Girl Finds Mother Is Alive In Texas

Lucille M. Laurent, twenty year old Lexington, Nebr., girl, in whose behalf a search for her parents was made by Sheriff Smith, is in Norfolk at the home of an uncle, the Star-Mail was informed today.

A letter printed in the Star-Mail three weeks ago and subsequent comment in the Norfolk Press, led to locating the girl's uncle, an employee at the Norfolk City Water Plant.

Through the uncle, Miss Laurent learns that her mother is alive and resides in Texas. The father, according to Sheriff Smith passed away several years ago.

Unusual interest was displayed in this case, following the publicity given it three weeks ago. May witnesses at the hearing in county court here sixteen years ago, recalled the scenes which resulted in placing three of the children in an orphanage home at Lincoln.

Mrs. Marie Weekes, editor of the Norfolk Press, was one of those present at the hearing and it was largely through her efforts that the relatives of the girl were found. Source: Madison Star-Mail, July 19, 1928, page 8.

The following article was found in the Meadow Grove News, Thursday, July 12, 1928 on page 1 and continued in that paper on the last page.

Emerick 47 Years Ago

Told by Chaplain Chas. H. Frady, Now a Resident of Long Beach, Cal.

(Taken from Nebraska History Magazine, by special permission of Nebraska Historical Society of Lincoln.)

I would be pleased to write an account of many Sunday schools which by Divine help, I planted on the front and in isolated communi-

ties, however, I cannot desist in relating one more, viz., the Emerick Union Sunday school in Madison county, Nebraska.

This settlement in its early beginning was supplied with two young unmarried ministers, following one after the other, who, by unwise conduct, so incensed the inhabitants that they declared, that a coat of "Tar and Feathers" would be given to the next minister of Christian agent that might enter the neighborhood. The threat was heralded widely. It was told me by many persons that it was not advisable to undertake to do anything for the community, but the time came when I felt impressed that it was my duty to make an effort at least. Thus late in October, 1881, on foot, I made my way thither. Upon reaching a point from whence I could look over the two valleys which embraced the settlement, I counted thirty houses. On my knees I prayed to God that the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, might fully direct me for the task. I had no fear of receiving the coat of "Tar and Feathers" threatened; but just how to reconcile the people and to accomplish something beneficial and of eternal good for them, I left with God.

It was near sundown when I selected a plain home 16' x 24' in dimensions at which first to call. It proved to be the home of Mr. James Switzer. Reaching the house I knocked on the door, Mrs. Switzer answered. Before entering I told her my name and my mission, she replied that it was best for me, at once to retrace my steps, she believing that the neighbors might do violence to me. In answer I told her I was very tired and that it was late and I was hungry. She then said for me to come in and she would give me something to eat.

Chaplain Frady Feeds the Hogs

I remember the menu, from the barrel in the corner by the stove she brought forth a saucer of sauerkraut and from the cupboard a chunk of cold cornbread. I ate

the same, then she insisted that I had better go. I noticed that she was about to go to milk the cows. Then I quickly took one pail and went along and milked two of the cows, then hearing the pigs squealing I carried the slop to them. By that time it was dark. I saw plainly that she did not know just what turn to make to get rid of me. She finally said that the house was small and she had only one bed in the room, that her children had to sleep in the garret and that she had no convenience for me. I told her just to give me a cover of some kind and I would go out and sleep with the dog on the haystack.

She told me that her husband had gone to Madison and would be back she thought about ten o'clock. To amuse the children I told many a story. Finally I sang some old familiar songs to which she said, I wish that Mr. Switzer was home, that he liked to sing so well." At last I had found the key to the situation. The clock struck ten, the dog gave one yelp and down the road he went. The children said, "Papa is coming." I told Elmer, a lad of about twelve years of age, that we would go out and unhitch the team and let his father come in the house at once. Doing so, I unhitched one horse in a jiffy and then told the boy to take the team to the stable. I followed Mr. Switzer into the house, immediately, before his wife could inform him as to who I was and my business.

Old Time Sons Win Favor With Pioneer

I talked so rapidly with him about things in general and about Pennsylvania, from which he emigrated, that his wife had no chance to get a word in edgeways. She got his supper ready and he "sat in" (as we say on the front) and as he had his mouth full and his ears open. I began to sing, he squared his chair around and said, "Gosh, that's fine." I handed him a copy of the "Gospel Hymns"; song after song we sang, quitting long after midnight then, he asked, "Who are you?" I told him and he said it was then too late for me to go. Mrs. Switzer went up into the garret and slept with the children and I snoozed with Mr. Switzer. In the morning, he suggested that I return from the neighborhood, but I told him if he and his good wife would allow me to return to their home at

eventide that I would call upon his neighbors. They consented, provided I would assume my own risk.

It was enough said, I visited different homes from day to day for two weeks, went away to my appointments on intervening Sundays. I helped the men husk corn, chopped wood for the women, spoke words of cheer to the sick, and took down the names of persons, old or young, in the community, but kept out of the houses only when the men were present. I announced a meeting for the second Sunday. When the hour for service arrived Mr. Switzer and two of his children were all that came. Then he said it was no use to go further with the effort for the place, I told him that I would try two weeks more, which I did. At the appointed hour for the second meeting Mr. Switzer came and seven children but no adults. To my appeal, Mr. Switzer agreed to take charge of the Sunday School as superintendent and teacher.

Christmas in Emerick

I supplied the school in full and told him to advertise at once. "A great time for the coming Christmas," that I would look after presents for the people, that he was to get as large as Christmas tree as would go in the school house, to which he agreed.

I had the name of every individual in the settlement and their respective ages. The list of names I sent to a certain Sunday school in Chicago, and asked that they send to me a box by freight, such things as they would consider suitable for each individual.

Mr. Switzer did his best in charge of the school, the interest increased and a goodly number enrolled. Christmas drew near and the tree was set up in the school house; the people wondered what would follow. When the day before Christmas arrived and the Sunday School Missionary had not shown up and there were no presents in sight for any one, Mr. Switzer told me that he felt like finding a hole somewhere to crawl into and not to come out of it before "ground-hog day." The noon hour came

and the missionary hove insight with a box about four feet square in the back part of his gospel wagon, full of presents from the Chicago Sunday school. The afternoon was occupied in putting on the tree (which was not half large enough) part of the nice things, the others were put on the floor beneath the tree. At length Christmas Eve was at hand. All the people came, but two-thirds of them could not get in the house. Songs were sung, prayers of thankfulness were made, and then the presents were given out to those both inside and outside of the schoolhouse, not one person was missed, from Grandma and Grandpa to the youngest child. There were suitable presents for all, even expectant mothers received bundles of clothing for their unborn babes. At last all the people had been served, the old threat was forgotten and my untiring effort for them realized. Then I knew that they could not say "No" so I announced a meeting for the next day, Christmas. The same was well attended and services continued for several days.

A Prayer Eighteen Miles Long

On the evening two days before New Years an old veteran of the Civil War, Father Nye, who had been an inebriate for many years came to me and asked if there was Salvation for him. I read to him the declaration of Jesus as found in: John 6:37; Matthew 10:32: 1 John 1:9. He accepted Christ, then he told me that he and his aged wife were in need of eatables to live on. In answer to my inquiry he said the only thing he had to sell to buy food was a shoat of about eighty pounds. I told him that the next morning at four o'clock I wanted him to get out of bed, feed his team, load the shoat in his wagon, eat his breakfast and start for town, Battle Creek, eighteen miles away, at five o'clock; that he should pray all the way there, sell the shoat, buy his groceries and other necessities and get back home in time to be at the three o'clock meeting in the afternoon, that I would be in prayer for him until the time for him to start for town in the morning.

He consented. I continued in prayer throughout the night for him. Shortly after four o'clock, from a home nearby where I was stop-

ping, I heard the shoat squealing and when the clock struck five I heard the wagon moving off. I praised God!

Promptly at three o'clock, time for meeting, Father Nye was at hand, his face shining and he related his victory saying, "I prayed all the way to town, prayed until I sold the shoat, prayed until I purchased the groceries, prayed until I got by the saloons and out of town on my way back, then I could pray no longer but began to sing, "Hallelujah!" until I reached home." An eighteen mile prayer followed by an eighteen mile song. Praise the Lord! Seemed to me it was sufficient to regenerate any soul.

New Years day Brother Charles Rouse, a devoted man who desired to enter the ministry came to assist. My duties demanded that I should go. I left the meetings in his care which continued for a time. At the close he organized a church (Methodist Episcopal) having thirty or more members and he was appointed their pastor.

Fifteen years afterwards I revisited the Emerick settlement and held services for the people in their church building. I walked through the little cemetery back of the building and counted sixty graves in which lay the mortal remains---in most instances those whom thru the help of God I got into the Sunday school as mentioned.

Can You Beat This?

Miss Izola Higbee has been appointed teacher of the Dry Hollow school, north of Battle Creek, for the ensuing year. Her mother, Mrs. Audrey Higbee, taught this school, her grandmother, Mrs. Martha Cloyd, her great aunt, Mrs. Olive Cloyd and her aunt, Miss Cora Cloyd, were all teachers of this school.

It looks as tho the Cloyd family and their descendants have a mortgage on this school. We see no reason why they should not have one. They all made good, and we feel sure that Izola will be a worthy successor of those who blazed the trail. Source: Meadow Grove News, Thursday July 12, 1928, page 1.

Big Crowd at Yellow Banks Park July 4

All roads pointed the way to Yellow Banks Park July 4th there being an almost continuous line of cars to this popular resort the entire day and evening. It was estimated by quite a number that from 8,000 to 10,000 people were in attendance. Everybody enjoyed themselves to the limit and the very best of order prevailed. We knew that the park was beautiful, plenty of shade and the fine green grass in evidence everywhere, but since nature has been so ably assisted by the owners, who have made the best of roads all around the park, all kinds of parking space nicely marked off, a fine pavilion, ball park and plenty of seats, bathing, boating, and all kinds of amusements, is it any wonder that thousands are wending their way to this wonderful resort. It is only in infancy yet and will continue to grow in popularity as the years go by. Source: Meadow Grove News, Thursday, July 5, 1928, page 1.

Historical Society Has Photo of First Hotel Keeper Here On Way to Elkhorn, Liked Madison and Settled Here

The Madison County Historical Society have displayed at the court house this week a few photographs that have been sent to their care. One of these is of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Huylar. The founder of Madison. F. W. Barnes writes that after his party had crossed Union creek and camped on the north side during the month of May, 1867, during the last part of June, Chas. Huylar and Emery Thavnet, with two covered wagons and a herd of cattle, arrived at the south bank of Union creek and were helped to ford as soon as the high water subsided. They were bound for the Elkhorn, but were satisfied to settle at Madison. They homesteaded on the place now called the Dorr farm. Mrs. Huylar kept here house there open for travelers, and later they had a hotel in Madison.

Another portrait is of M. C. Flagg, a young college graduate from New York state, who arrived in Madison in June, 1868, homesteading on the quarter which includes "Platt's Island," a picnic

ground just to the west of Madison. He gave his oxen classical names, we are told and was always ready to give a humorous oration on almost any subject. He started a store in a dugout, and had a good run of business, all on credit. When he went to Columbus to find work to replenish his stock, some one "jumped his claim," and the sheriff gathered up what remnants of stock were left.

M. C. Flagg was the treasurer of the first board elected to take care of the affairs of school district number 1. It was on his island, that the historical flag raising was had in 1869, and the pleasure ground, say officers of the society, could well be called "Flagg Island," for two reasons.

Other pictures are of Lew Bickley, who taught the second year of school in Madison, Jake Saladay, and C. A. Thomas who taught in 1875. Mr. Thomas is still living, and is assisting the historical society in their efforts to record the early history of the county. Source: Madison Star-Mail, August 9, 1928, page 6.

Finding Barack Obama's Irish Roots

Well, it took a couple of months and lots of sleuthing, but we finally found out where Barack Obama's Irish roots are from in the old country: Moneygall. It was a combination of U.S. census records and tombstones that led me to zero in on Moneygall in then-Kings County, now County Offaly.

I conducted the research in my capacity as Chief Family Historian for Ancestry.com, and enlisted the help of Irish expert Kyle Betit of ProGenealogists.com once I had a location. Then it was a matter of finding out exactly where the records we needed to solve the mystery resided today. That's where Canon Neill came in, as the records turned out to be in the possession of one of his parishioners.

(Honoring Our Ancestors June 2007 newsletter: Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak)

Finding the Stone

by Michael John Neill from Ancestry.com

Our ancestors may have moved a great deal while they were alive. Fortunately they usually don't move after they are dead. Still in many cases it is difficult to even find this fixed target. Despite these problems, there are several approaches we can take to finding that buried ancestor.

The Death Certificate

The death certificate is an obvious place to look for a burial. The only problem is that in many cases our burial questions are from the era before death certificates.

The Obituary or Death Notice

Obituaries are another excellent place to begin looking. Again the problem here is that in most cases our problems are in an era where these records are not of assistance.

Look at the Probate

Does your ancestor's probate settlement indicate any payments that may provide clues as to his burial location? More recent estate accountings may spell out the name of the cemetery and go so far as to provide a precise location of interment. Earlier records, if they provide any information at all, may only go so far as to indicate a payment for a casket or digging a grave. Still it may be worth a look.

Look at the Residence

Chances are your ancestor is buried relatively close to where he or she died. This becomes truer as one's research extends back in time, because the transportation of dead bodies was less likely than it is today. Determine what cemeteries are located nearest to your ancestor's place of death. If the date and place of death are not known, use the ancestor's last known residence as the place to center your search for a burial location. Census records may provide this information, but other records providing residential details such as city directories and land records should also be utilized when available to better approximate the likely location of the death.

Locating cemeteries close to your ancestor's last known residence requires searching in several locations, including the United States Geological Survey Geographic Names Information System.

This site has a significant number of cemetery names in its database. It does not include every cemetery in the United States (small rural cemeteries are the most likely to be omitted) and does not have transcriptions of any stones, but this site will provide the specific location of the cemetery.

Those wishing to learn names of more cemeteries in their county of interest should continue their search at the appropriate county Web page on the USGenWeb project and search for published transcriptions as mentioned later in the article.

Military Service

If your ancestor served in the military, there may be special finding aids to assist you in your search for his or her burial location. An article I wrote a few years ago, *Final Resting Place*, contains information on locating these records.

Look at Their Religion

If your ancestor was a member of a specific denomination, you may find him or her resting in a cemetery adjacent to the church they attended. The church cemetery might not have been the nearest cemetery, so broaden your geographic area slightly particularly in urban areas where a cemetery of the "right" denomination may still be within a reasonable distance. Do not ignore a cemetery of the "wrong" denomination as an ancestor may be buried with a spouse for whom the cemetery was of the "right" denomination. A cemetery that started out as a church cemetery may no longer be owned or maintained by the church and today may include many burials of individuals who are not church members.

Look at Their Ethnicity

Is there a nearby cemetery that has burials from a particular ethnic group? Many of these cemeteries were affiliated with a church (at least originally) but a few were not. It may be worth a look.

Look for Their Relatives

If the burial location of great-grandma is elusive, determine the burial location of all her children and her siblings. While this approach is not always successful, there are many times where family members are buried in adjacent plots. Records on another family member may be detailed enough to allow the location of the desired individual. And remember, after Grandma died in 1875, Grandpa may have moved three states west to be near his children. Chances are when he died he was buried there and not taken back to be buried next to his wife.

Determine What Cemeteries Have Been Transcribed

In many cases, it is possible to search the stones of a cemetery without ever traveling or making an actual visit. A significant number of cemeteries have had their tombstones transcribed, and in some cases, published either online or in print form. There are several ways to find these transcriptions.

Library card catalogs. Search the subject headings of national, regional, and local libraries in the area of interest for cemeteries in the desired county and town.

Local Historical/Genealogical Societies. These organizations may have transcriptions in their vertical files or actually published transcriptions in book form.

USGenWeb sites. These volunteer online research sites may have transcriptions of cemeteries on their website for the county of interest. Be certain to check out the specific county page for links to other sites containing cemetery transcriptions for the county in which you are searching.

Is It Complete and Is It a Transcription?

Some online listings of cemetery interments are only those that have been submitted by site users. While this can make finding some ancestors easier, bear in mind that such collections may be incomplete and that other searches may be necessary. Some sites will indicate that their listings of burials in a cemetery are those submitted by volunteers. Also determine if the database you are using contains an actual transcription of the stone or is a listing of who is in the cemetery. Listings of burials are helpful, but a transcription may provide additional information. Once you have located the tombstone of your ancestor, determine if there are additional records. Other information may consist of paper records created by the cemetery or the caretaker, deeds to cemetery lots (which many times are not recorded in the local courthouse), and the actual tombstone. In some areas, locating records of the cemetery may be as easy as making a phone call. In others, contacting local libraries, historical/genealogical societies, and county officials may be necessary to locate the appropriate contact person. If those approaches do not work, in rural areas a call to a local mortuary may provide the answer. Keep in mind though when calling a local business that they have other work to do besides answering genealogical queries.

Was There Even a Stone?

Of course, there is always the chance that the stone had fallen away by the time someone transcribed the cemetery. And your family might never have put up a stone in the first place. In cases such as these, if the cemetery doesn't have any records, you may never determine where your ancestor is buried.

About the Author Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is a member of the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). He conducts seminars and lectures nationally on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry Magazine. You can e-mail him at mjnrootdig@myfamily.com or visit his website at: www.rootdig.com, but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research.

Madison County Directory 1919-1920
Extractions by Richard Strenge

The following is listed by business type, then by city and then the surname in that city in which that person was located or doing business in at the time the directory was printed.

Optical Work

Norfolk: C. C. Fisher

Optician

Norfolk: C. C. Fisher, Harry Zick

Optometrist

Madison: A. S. Miller

Norfolk: C. C. Fisher, R. C. Simmons, S. P. Taylor

Osteopath

Madison: Chas. Hartner

Norfolk: J. M. Crane, R. O. Dunn, S. P. Taylor

Painter Automobile

Norfolk: Walter Bros., B. F. Whittington

Painter House & Sign

Madison: P. F. Oberg

Meadow Grove: C. C. Harris

Newman Grove: J. J. Annell, O. A. Larson, L. J. Peterson

Norfolk: A. W. Boss, C. B. Davenport, H. A. Haley, F. W. Knittel, Herman Maas,
A. D. Yates

Tilden: Jno. Hawk

Painter Sign

Norfolk: Hull Bros.

Phonographs & Supplies

Battle Creek: P. C. Butler

Newman Grove: Phil Lannigan

Norfolk: J. R. Carter, G. B. Christoph

Photographer

Madison: M. D. Taylor

Newman Grove: H. H. Aas, Thorsten Olson

Norfolk: Harry W. Bates, A. M. Eby, G. G. Stockton

Tilden: H. B. Johnson

**MADISON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

515 Queen City Blvd.
Norfolk, NE 68701

TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

Information and queries: madisoncgs@cableone.net

Membership and newsletter: nzaruba@kdsi.net

Meetings: The 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE.

MCGS Library is located at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE. Hours are Monday—Saturday 10-5 and Sundays 1-5. Please call: (402) 371-3886.

Memberships are \$15 per year.

Research Requests: \$10 and a family group sheet to MCGS, 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE 68701.

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July meeting is elections. Please attend.