

Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

Volume 29, Issue No. 130

Published at Norfolk, Nebraska

Nov.—Dec. 2007

From your President, Betty Bohac

I have just arrived from beautiful Wisconsin! Thanks to maps from my trusty computer I found the Alliant Energy Conference Center in Madison, WI. Wow! The Clariton was crammed with Czechs from all over the World. Alas! The young gentleman at the desk had no record of my reservation. He must have known I was not a Czech. Needless to say I was a bit frustrated. For the first time in my life I had the reservation number with me. Problem was they had me registered as Vohac. What a way to begin my attendance at the 2007 International Czech Conference.

For three days I took in as many sessions as possible. Some were worthwhile, others not so good. The most helpful for me was the hands-on computer workshop held at the Wisconsin Historical Library. We were in a room with eighteen computers, eighteen researchers and a well informed instructor. My first hit produced eleven pages on my Great-Grandfather. I was elated and it set the pace for me for the rest of of the conference.

The polka band at the dance recalled the many memories I cherish of the dances my husband and I attended during our courtship. The Czech dancers in their beautiful costumes performed one evening and were very entertaining.

One large room was filled with books, maps and much misc. Czech merchandise. There was more than enough to satisfy the shoppers. I visited there on several occasions. I will bring to the meeting a sample of items I could not resist.

A highlight for many was the reproduction of the Czech exhibition created by the Czech National Archives covering the process from the beginnings of Genealogy through emigration from Czech lands to the USA. I loved the Czech dance music despite the fact that I wasn't able to kick up my heels.

Looking for maps relative to the time frame you are researching? Resources at the University of Wisconsin are readily available. You can go online for a listing.

Our program by the author of "Hectors Bliss" was well attended but it was too bad that many of our members didn't attend. This is Nebraska history now surfacing that began as a result of the Civil War.

Watch the Norfolk Daily News for information on the program for our next meeting. Unfortunately we were unable to firm up our plans. Let that not keep you from attending. We miss you when you're not with us.

We have many new sources in our own library. I hope you do not overlook using them. Karen is very knowledgeable in the search process. Visitors from other states have discovered us!

September 18, 2007 The Madison County Genealogical Society met at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center with 15 members present. The meeting was called to order by our new president Bette Bohac. Vice president Karen read the queries she has received this past month. Bette announced some upcoming events to be held are Oct. 7th Czech Days at York NE, and Oct. 20th a workshop will be held in Omaha by the Omaha Genealogy Society. A discussion was held about having a retreat next year with a speaker and luncheon instead of a tour. The research library is in need of a copy machine. Jeanne and Bernice will check on prices. The group discussed publishing baptism records from area churches in the newsletter. Bernice will check on records from Christ Lutheran Church. We passed around a new sign up sheet for serving refreshments at our monthly meeting and if you were not here we'd like everyone to volunteer to take their turn. The month of Sept. is open or you can help on any other month that works out for you. Our program next month will be given by Dennis Vossberg of Plainview NE. The author of the book "Hectors Bliss" which is an interesting story of the first black homesteaders to our area. Members discussed problems they were having doing their family research. Refreshments were served by Sue Askew and Diane Kimble will be serving in Oct.

Oct. 16 2007 The Madison County Genealogical Society met at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center with 29 members and guests present. Our vice president Karen opened the meeting and the Sec. and Treas. reports were read. A report on purchasing a copy machine will be given at our next meeting. We had a short meeting so our program given by Dennis Vossberg author of the book "Hectors Bliss" could be enjoyed. Refreshments were served by Diane Kimble and at our Nov. meeting Sharon Thompson will serve.
Sec. Sharon Thompson

Honoring Our Ancestors Newsletter

By Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (June 15, 2007 issue)

I thought that it was time to share this piece again. It's from my book *Honoring Our Ancestors* and I wrote it about half a dozen years ago shortly after I started working on the U.S. Army's Repatriation Project. I continue to work on that project, and I suppose it's only appropriate that I received a fresh batch of cases yesterday. There's some comfort in knowing that the resting place of your loved one will always be well maintained, and I like to think there's some comfort in this piece, too. To all those vets out there, a million thanks!

Arlington National Cemetery is a blustery place in November. Hundreds of rows of neatly aligned, memorial markers sprinkle the landscape as far as one can see, but there is little to prevent the wind from having its way with the living who venture among this ocean of white stones. Forewarned, I had donned long underwear under my black suit and winter coat, but I still found myself shivering as I attended the funeral of a man I had never known.

He wasn't my ancestor. In fact, I'm not related to him in any way. But as a so-called "Army brat," I felt privileged to



have the unexpected honor of accepting the flag on behalf of his family. The head of the honor guard, usually so stoic, allowed a trace of emotion to pass across his face as he handed me the flag, and I knew that he was relieved someone was there to receive it.

How did I find myself in this peculiar situation? I'm a researcher for the U.S. Army's Korean Repatriation project. In the years 1950-1953, thousands of American men died or went missing in Korea. Now, half a century later, U.S.-Korean relations are warming up. One consequence has been the return or "repatriation" of the remains of some of our anonymous soldiers.

Over the last five decades the Army has lost track of the families of many of these soldiers. In most instances, the next of kin were parents who have since passed away. In other cases, they were siblings or wives who have moved, changed names, or are now deceased. Two generations have intervened and little has remained stagnant in our mobile, churning world. It is my job to find these families again.

When I succeed, the Army contacts the family and conducts mitochondrial DNA tests to positively identify the remains of the soldiers. When a match is made, the soldier can be laid to rest and his family can release itself from a fifty-year limbo of not knowing. Siblings, wives, children, cousins, and ever-so-rarely, an aged parent finally have a place to go to pay their respects to the loved one who gave his life for his country.

When I make the first contact with a soldier's family, the initial reaction is generally one of quiet disbelief. This is almost always followed by questions, cooperation and even gratitude. It gives me tremendous pleasure to have some small role in bringing these soldiers home to their families. My father served in Vietnam and I had a dear cousin who was killed there. I can't say that I can put myself in the shoes of these startled family members when I cold call my way into their lives, but I'm familiar enough with their world to know that most of them are pleased to be found.

So I was rather surprised when I learned that the family of one of "my" soldiers was not coming to his funeral. The ceremony was scheduled, but only the priest and the honor guard would be there. Today's sophisticated technology was rendering the "unknown soldier" an antiquated concept, but in so doing, was revealing the almost sadder notion of the occasional "forgotten soldier."

It is understandable to some extent. In many cases, these soldiers have already been grieved twice -- first, when they were listed as missing in action and again, when they were officially declared deceased. Perhaps it is just too painful to enter the mourning process a third time, half a century later. Preserved in their survivors' memories as heroic, young men, the very mention of these soldiers' names may well return people to a time of young widows and untapped potential. Maybe this explained the absence of this particular soldier's family on that gusty November day.

I suppose it was easier for me, a stranger who knew him only through documents and the voices of his relatives on the telephone, to attend his funeral. I only knew that his sacrifice needed to be acknowledged by someone, and so it was in that strange way that life has, that I found myself receiving the flag from the coffin of a man who had died ten years before I was born.

He is no longer unknown, and at least as long as I live, this soldier will not be forgotten.

Deaths and Funerals in the Newspaper

Editors Notes: The following are excerpts from the newspaper. Many of the items had lengthy articles on the person when it was published in the paper.

Henry Kampe, age 22, son of Mrs. August Suckstorf, died Monday morning at a Norfolk hospital following a motorcycle accident at Pilger, Nebraska. Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, September 19, 1935, page 1.

William Seiffert, age 79, died at a Norfolk hospital Tuesday. He came to Madison county when 19 years of age. Mr. Seiffert was married twice. His second wife passed away about ten years ago. Surviving are eleven children: Chas., William, Henry, and A. E. Seiffert. Mrs. Lizzie Dewes, Mrs. Lena Muller, Ernest Seiffert, Mrs. Hattie Livingston, Mrs. Anna Klein, Mrs. Bertha Kent, and Royal Seiffert.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk. Interment was made at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, September 19, 1935, page 1.

Mrs. Frank P. Hughes, Sr., died Oct. 10, 1935. Funeral services were held at St. Patrick's church with burial at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery at Battle Creek. Her husband passed away October 29, 1933. Sarah Agnes Donahoe was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1866 and had reached the age of 69 years, 2 months and 4 days. Survivors were one son, Joseph E., three daughters, Mrs. George Kent, Missess Lucile and Margie, Mrs. John J. Hughes is a sister, and two sisters and three brothers reside in Pennsylvania. There were also seven grandchildren.

Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, October 17, 1935, page 1.

Mrs. Drucilla Osborn died Sunday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. L. Boyer. Burial was made at the Osborn Cemetery southwest of Battle Creek. She was born in Grayson county, Virginia on December 2, 1856. She reached the age of 78 years, 10 months and 11 days. She married Zachariah M. Osborn, May 10, 1877 and the two came to Madison county, Nebraska in 1883. Survivors were two sons and two daughters: Allen C., Clyde C., Mrs. W. L. Boyer, and Miss Maude Osborn. Also surviving were her brothers and sisters: Allen R., Robert L., Hoyt, Mrs. Alf Reeves, Mrs. J. M. McMillan, R. F., and Charles Osborn. Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, October 17, 1935, page 1.

Mrs. William Daniel, 75, was a native of Virginia. She was married to W. R. Daniel in Virginia on November 22, 1876 and came to Nebraska in 1885. She died Oct. 13, 1935. Survivors were her husband, four daughters: Mrs. Lewis Braun, Mrs. Guy Duel, Mrs. Harry Beal, Mrs. Eddie Jockheck, and one son, Homer, and nineteen grandchildren. Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, October 17, 1935, page 1.

William R. Daniel died early Sunday morning just one week after the death of his wife, with whom he spent 59 years of married life. Mr. Daniel was born January 5, 1854, in Montgomery county, Iowa. On November 22, 1876 he was married to Miss Alice Murray in Virginia. At the time of his death he had reached the age of 81 years, 9 months and 15 days. Burial was made in Deer Creek Cemetery. Source: [Battle Creek Enterprise](#), Thursday, October 24, 1935, page 1.

Mrs. John S. Braisher, former resident of Battle Creek, died at Orange, California, October 29, according to information received by Mrs. D. L. Best. Death came after an illness

of three months.

Mrs. Braisher was 79 years old and had been a resident of Orange for thirty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Braisher, the former a pioneer harness-maker of Battle Creek, moved from here in 1903. Concerning the funeral an Orange newspaper says: "Following services at the Methodist church Mrs. Braisher was laid at rest in Fairhaven cemetery beside the grave of her husband, John Sydney Braisher, who died in 1917. The Braisher plot in the cemetery is sheltered by a giant breadfruit tree, always treasured by Mrs. Braisher. She leaves no relatives." Source:

Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, November 7, 1935, page 1.

Frank Terry was a native of Madison county, born on the old Terry homestead northwest of Meadow Grove. His age at death was 58 years, 4 months and 28 days. Surviving are the widow and fourteen children, five brothers and three sisters.

Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, November 7, 1935, page 1.

Finding the Stone *by Michael John Neill*

Ancestry Daily News Sept. 8, 2006

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 also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is currently 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.

I am a member of the Madison County Genealogy Society in Florida. You regularly email me the newsletter.

I just wanted to let you know that I have just redone my web pages and there is quite a bit on my Nebraska lines there. I thought maybe some society members would enjoy looking at it and maybe helping me go a bit further.

The address is www.ladyresearcher.com

Judy Weinberg

A Beautiful Christmas

Suggestive of the Delights of Early Fall

Summer Resort Weather

Day was observed in Joyous manner, Santa Claus gives way to the Teddy Bear Craze among the Little Folks Holiday Festivities.

For a third successive Christmas the bright sky and the mild fall-like weather of a summer resort were carried to North Nebraska as a Christmas gift.

Christmas day in Norfolk was as suggestive of the delights of the early fall as a winter day can well be. During the day the thermometer registered as high as forty degrees, averaged thirty-one degrees and at no time during the twenty-four hours fell below twenty-two degrees.

Christmas days in 1906 and 1905 were delightful days. Christmas in 1904 was disagreeable, a cold day with a drizzling rain that turned to ice.

Conservative Dinners

Norfolk---or at least a good portion of it---ate a cautious Christmas dinner. For a good part of the town is on the sick list—not very sick, just “sick.” The arrival of comparatively cold weather brought an epidemic of minor ailments not only to Norfolk but to all north Nebraska. In this city serious illness is light but the man who hasn’t had the grippe is probably suffering with tonsillitis. There is also an epidemic of sore throat about the city, some physicians being called to examine as many as a dozen “tender throats” in a day. A peculiar infection is aboard that shows itself in abscesses forming on the fingers. Many Norfolk children are ill with the chicken pox, said to be the mildest of the diseases of childhood. And for the lot of the “grown-ups” there is the grippe and tonsillitis.

A Teddy Bear Christmas

This was a “Teddie Bear Christmas.”

Skiddoo for Santa Claus! Teddie Bear has the old man on the run.

Good bye to the little toy soldier and the china doll. Teddy Bear has put them both to the bad.

In other years Santa Claus has been the one particular bright star at the Christmas entertainments of the Norfolk Sunday schools. This year old Santa was listed as “among those present.” He was on the outside. “Isn’t this the twenty-fourth of December?” the old man inquired. “It’s twenty-four for us,” said Teddie Bear “But it’s a day sooner for you---twenty-three, likewise hike, get out, chase yourself, skidoo and make haste. This is our busy night.”

Little tots who in yesterday lugged dolls to church on Christmas eve brought “Teddie bears” Tuesday. On the Christmas program the Teddie bear was the one innovation of the year. Little girls who formerly sang to their dolls, bowed to the audience and sang to their Teddie bears.

“Won’t You be My Teddy Bear?” was the favorite song on the Norfolk program Tuesday evening. It was sung in several churches by little Teddie bear owners—present and prospective.

Christmas programs were held in eleven Norfolk churches Tuesday evening. Every church had a Christmas tree and at least one---the Christ Lutheran church---had two trees. Several hundred Norfolk people enjoyed the songs and recitations of the little folks. At the Norfolk Auditorium the curtain did not ascend until 9 o’clock in order to make way for the Christmas programs which began early and were finished by that hour.

This was the first Christmas to fall within the reign of the Teddie bears, now a fad raging over all America. If any Norfolk child was without a Teddy bear last Tuesday—and few were—the “Teddie” was listed among the arrivals of Tuesday evening.

For months Norfolk dealers have had an unending sale of the Teddy bears, constantly appearing in new sizes and colors and selling for a great variety of prices. And they were all great sellers.

But it was a the Christmas tree program that Mr. Teddie Bear really came into his own.
Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Thursday, December 26, 1907, page 3.

Nebraska Air Has Cured Her

Be Merry Christmas for Miss Alice Reardon
Tuberculosis is Gone

Granddaughter of Mrs. Charles Lodge came here just one year ago expected to succumb to Consumption, but she has won in the battle.

This will be a merry Christmas for Miss Alice Reardon, granddaughter of Mrs. Charles Lodge, who came to Madison county just one year ago Tuesday of this week suffering with tuberculosis from which physicians predicted she would die within a very few months, and who has now, in spite of predictions, practically fully recovered from the disease.

Miss Reardon is fifteen years of age and her home is in Joliet, Illinois. Her mother was formerly Miss Emma Lodge of this city. When Miss Reardon came to Norfolk a year ago she weighed 114 pounds; today she weighs 135.

Fresh Air and Horseback Rides.

Fresh air, raw eggs, pure milk and horseback rides have contributed to the patient's recovery in Nebraska. She slept in a tent all summer and now sleeps with four windows wide open every night. She rides a horse four miles a day and eats four raw eggs every day. Every morning she takes a cold bath. She drinks plenty of pure milk during the day.

As a result of this Nature treatment, her cough is gone and she feels fine.

Miss Reardon naturally thinks Nebraska is the greatest place on earth and the Christmas season will be a merry one, indeed.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Monday, December 21, 1908, page 3.

Busiest of Christmas Seasons

Christmas Shoppers now on Home Stretch---Big Stocks---Sparklers Sell.

The spirit of Christmas, the desire to give, the combined pleasure and the fatigue of choosing presents, the total disregard of the value of the---at other seasons---valued dollar, is already apparent on every face and in every store in Norfolk.

Never before, in the opinion of one of the oldest residents of the city, have the store-keepers been so well supplied to fill the demands of the season. Never before has there been on sale so valuable or so variegated a selection to pick and choose from.

Post card or diamond the goods on display are superior to those of previous seasons.

And speaking of diamonds it is justly open to another mention that Norfolk is unhesitatingly a diamond town.

When prominent men, bankers, business men, and merchants of nearby towns, who are constantly making trips to the larger cities of Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City, will come on special trips to Norfolk to buy Christmas diamonds for their wives and daughters it is as-

surely because they can get better values for their money here than they can elsewhere. And there has been a number of outsiders who have during the last week made purchases of "sparklers."

Altogether the sale of jewelry, diamonds in particular, has in the past week completely out shadowed the purchases of any previous week on records. And there is yet the better part of the week to buy in.

At and around the Junction and city depots the scene is just as animated or even more so that it is up town.

Everybody is carrying something, a package, a grip, a hamper, or a Christmas tree. These latter are not over east to navigate through a crowded car, but so far the temporary loss of eyesight or the disarrangement of a tongue has not been reported to have called for anything more serious than a gently worded reproof.

Good nature is the undercurrent of the season and while that stays with us all else go hang. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Monday, December 21, 1908, page 3.

This is Vossberg's notes on the program he gave on October 16th for the newsletter.
Dennis Vossberg (402) 582-3679 Box 268, Plainview. NE 68769
October 17, 2007

Madison County Historical Society, C/O Karen Rogat
515 Queen City Blvd, Norfolk, NE 68701

Dear Karen,

Here is my submission for your newsletter. Not knowing exactly what perspective to write it from, I took a chance and just made it like a thank-you letter written to your membership:

On Wednesday evening, October 16, it was my privilege to be the speaker for your meeting at the Elkhorn Valley Museum. It looked like there was a crowd of approximately 25 people, of which maybe ten were guests. After a short business meeting I was introduced by vice-president Karen Rogat, who was filling in for Betty Bohak.

The presentation was about my book. *Hector's Bliss, Black Homesteaders at Goose Lake, Nebraska*. The book is a historical novel set primarily in the eastern Sandhills region south of O'Neill. Hector Dixon was the most prominent of the dozen or more black families. Their address was "Bliss", so-named for a local white family who had the post office in their home. Prior to the book's publication few people were aware of this colony of mostly ex-slaves who were lured into the area by land hustlers. They lived near Goose Lake from approximately 1882 until the end of the First World War, in 1918. Then the black pioneers disappeared from the area, leaving fading memories, fascinating legends, and lingering mysteries. One of the greatest mysteries concerns a "Lost Negro Cemetery" that blew open during the relentless dust storms of the great depression and exposed many of the early burials.

The inspiration for the story was the discovery of a little toy gun that was found near the foundation of an old sod house in the Bliss area. It eventually led me into nearly two years of research and writing. The toy gun was passed around during the talk, along with pictures of Hector Dixon and his wife, Julia, who had also been a slave. Much of the discussion concerned how the black pioneers adjusted and interacted with their neighbors, along with little-known facts about their history. The discovery of one particular black descendant of the colony led to a wealth of information about her family's place in this unique aspect of Nebraska's history.

This book is available at the Elkhorn Valley Museum gift shop. Watch for a review in the November-December issue of "Nebraska Life" magazine.

With best regards, Dennis Vossberg

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.

Pumps & Windmills

Battle Creek: A. H. Gardels

Madison: F. A. Herden

Tilden: J. A. Goulding

Real Estate, Rentals & Loans

Battle Creek: T. D. Preece, J. A. Wright

Madison: I. M. Dawson, J. M. Dineen, Herman Fricke, Jr., M. C. Garrett, E. S. Mitchell, O. V. Scheer, J. F. Storek

Meadow Grove: J. M. Lewis, A. C. Williams

Newman Grove: Levi Gutru, F. E. Hough, O. A. Larson, Gerhart Lubbin, O. H. Oberg, J. J. O'Shea, S. J. Simonson, Jno. Thomassen, G. J. Vogt

Norfolk: J. J. Cleland, F. G. Coryell, P. H. Davis, J. F. Flynn, W. J. Gow & Bro., C. J. Hairland, O. H. Johnson, H. J. Kierstead, R. S. Lackey, F. M. Leach, Owen McGinty, Rose McHenry, I. N. Nightengale, T. E. Odiorne, Ernest Raasch & Bro., J. W. Ransom & Son, E. R. Ray, Samuel Reynolds, G. W. Schwede, C. E. Shaw, L. D. Snader, Isaiah Sonneland, H. O. Spring, T. F. Stevens, A. E. Stubbs, G. H. Tatge

Tilden: W. E. Brogan, J. C. Bruhn, J. R. Saxton,

Restaurant

Battle Creek: J. W. Bivans, A. H. Gardels

Enola: G. W. Chandler

Madison: Mrs. M. K. Chambers, A. B. Lang

Meadow Grove: C. R. Church

Newman Grove: C. F. Linderholm

Norfolk: Wm. Higginbotham, P. H. McNeely, H. S. Overocker, Elsie Sunderlin, Geo. Zavitson

Tilden: Geo. Duranske, Mrs. Eva Wright

Rug Manufacturer

Norfolk: N. W. Farris

Second Hand Goods

Madison: Geo. Reiss

Service Station Automobile

Madison: Louis Walenhorst

Sheet Music

Norfolk: D. R. Bauman

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE 68701

President: Betty Bohac,
Vice-President: Karen Rogat
Secretary: Sharon Thompson
Treasurer: Diane Kimble
Newsletter Editors:
Nancy Zaruba & Richard Strenge

MCGS Library is located at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE Please call: (402) 371-3886.

Meetings: The 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.

Memberships are \$15 per year.

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

Information and queries:

madisoncgs@cableone.net

Membership and newsletter:

nzaruba@kdsi.net

TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

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Watch for the Christmas Party in January...

Details in the January-February newsletter