# Madison County Remembers...

## A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

Volume 31, Issue No. 141

Published at Norfolk, Nebraska

September-October 2009

#### President's Message

Newsletter material is not always a topic of conversations. For the past number of year's items that are submitted for our newsletter has been mostly from research work done by the editors of this newsletter. It amazes me that the items I have been finding and submitting have been items that have touched a number of people. A number of years ago I put an item in about a gentleman who I found out later was one of the teachers for Johnny Carson. A couple was at the museum and was talking about this man who had been the teacher for Johnny Carson. Our newsletter had just been out a few days and I picked up a copy and showed the item to them. It was the same person they were talking about and they were wondering if the tie mannerism that Johnny was known by came from the influence of this teacher who also did the same thing.

Several years ago I was out in a number of cemeteries and found the marker for Elizabeth Dunn who had died at the age of 101 years plus. I thought she would have a very interesting story to tell, as I mentioned it in our May-June 2009 issue. Now one of our members read that article and knew the daughter of Mrs. Dunn. You can read her submission in this newsletter. Over the past year there have been a number of other items that have been relatives of Phyllis McCain. There also have been a number of items on other of our sodety members that were in our newsletters. I have not even asked our members for their family histories so the items that were found were "by chance" but a better term is serendipity.

A couple of months ago a moving van was parked by the house of a neighbor of mine. I thought when I saw it he was moving most likely to a nursing home. What was going to happen to his possessions I did not know. Then several weeks later a sign appeared on the yard saying the continued on next page

# **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The September meeting and program will be held on September 15 at the Holiday Inn Express at 7 p.m. The program will be "The Research Process– ferreting out clues to direct your research."

The October meeting and program will be held on SATURDAY, October 24 at 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. This will be a very special presentation with the program sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Cherrie Beam-Clarke will present: "Promise in a New Land: Migrating and Settling in Nebraska. She will portray Maria Monahan, with Irish brogue and period costume, depicting a Nebraska settler between 1845 and 1870. Viewers will be transported in time to sail the ocean, ride the wagon trail, feel the loneliness and fight prairie fires. Laugh and cry with stories of successful crops, dancing, hard work, losing loved ones and becoming an American.

> Highlights in this Issue INDEX on page 11

PAGE 02

MADISON COUNTY REMEMBERS...

VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141

house was for sale and another sign announcing a date for an auction. As the time approached for the auction I overlooked the first sale bill in the newspaper. The one I saw was just a few days before the auction. It listed the date of the auction, plus location, items on the auction and his name. The curious thing for me was the word after his name.

It stated his name followed by the word Estate. Now for me that was a surprise. I had not seen in the paper a notice of his death. For me having an estate sale means a settlement of property after the death of the person. The sale bill even mentioned the two people who were personal representatives for the estate. So the day of the auction I was there to find out when he had died. Another neighbor who I spoke with also was surprised to have not seen in the paper the notice of his death. I approached the next door neighbor and asked them about the mans death and the reply was surprising. He was very much alive and was at his house just the day before.

Now advance down the road some fifty years from today. You find while looking for information on this man the sale bill of his property and the word estate after his name. What would you do with that information? Take it as many people would and look for a death notice in the paper. If they do just that then they will not find it. They can look as much as they want but they will not find the obituary listing prior to the date of his auction.

The records we search may contain the true happenings and events. They may also contain errors that in most cases were not intentional. So while looking for birth, marriage, and death notices also check for sale bills of the person's house, personal property or farm. They may help you locate where they lived at one time. It may also lead you into another record source you may not have thought of before.

May your searching be a serendipity moment for you. If you have items that would be of interest to our readers please submit them to us. We look forward to seeing them and you at one of our meetings.

Your President, Richard Strenge

#### Madison County Genealogical Society Meeting Minutes July 21, 2009

The regular meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society met with 13 members present. The June minutes and treasurer's report were read.

Election of next year's officers was the first item of business. Richard reported 23 ballots had been returned by meeting time; Phyllis McCain and Iola Louthan counted the votes. The results showed 23 votes for the slate that had been submitted at the June meeting. Elected for 2009-2010 were: President - Richard Strenge, Vice President – Nancy Zaruba, Secretary – Susan Askew, Treasurer – Bernice Walters. Their term of office will begin in September.

Under Old Business, Nancy gave a report on the upcoming State Genealogical Conference which will be held in Norfolk April 23-25, 2010. Flyers sent by the State Society were distributed. The Museum will have a special open schedule during the conference.

Membership dues to the State Genealogical Society are due. The August meeting will be a tour of the Old Lutheran and Zion Bauermeister cemeteries preceded by a brown bag picnic at Johnson Park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Our program was "Writing a Mini-Autobiography", given by Nancy Zaruba. A worksheet was passed out and the members not only learned a little about themselves but the importance of family history.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Askew Secretary VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141

## July program by Nancy Zaruba

#### Writing a Mini-Autobiography

Haven't you ever wanted to know more information about any ancestor or relative? Well here's your chance to preserve a little of yourself for your descendants. Think of it as a snap-shot in time. Some of the information can be used to write your obituary. It will be more accurate if YOU document YOUR information, than you trying to write your grandfather's obituary or a grandchild trying to write yours. Plus, it will make any future stories or family history more personal just to have more information documented about you.

Today's date\_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Your Name\_\_\_\_
- 2. Your Residence \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Describe yourself \_\_\_\_ Height\_\_\_ Hair color\_\_\_ Eye color\_\_\_ Weight \_\_Glasses\_\_\_ Birth Marks/Scars\_\_ Other \_
- 4. Date of Birth\_\_\_ Place of Birth\_\_\_ Residence at time of birth\_\_\_\_ Baptized at \_\_\_\_
- 5. Parents names\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Maiden\_\_ Grandparents \_\_\_ Siblings names\_\_\_
- 6. Schools you attended\_\_\_\_ Graduated from High School at\_\_\_\_

Attended/graduated College \_\_\_ Other Education/schools\_\_\_\_

Awards/Activities during school years\_\_\_\_

- 7. Married on Married at
- 8. Married to\_\_\_\_
- First married residence\_\_\_\_\_

Other spouses\_\_\_\_\_

Divorces\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. Children/Grandchildren\_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Were you in the military\_\_\_\_\_ Branch\_\_\_\_\_

Military from \_\_\_\_\_\_to \_\_\_\_\_ Military awards\_\_\_\_\_

Locations served\_\_\_\_

11. Employed at/careers \_

- 12. Places I've lived in my life\_\_\_
- 13. Religion\_\_ Churches you've been a member of\_\_
- 14. Organizations you've been a member of \_\_\_\_
- 15. Inherited Diseases\_\_\_\_

Other major illnesses/medical \_\_\_\_

- 16. Inherited Traits \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Favorite activities, charities, pets, sports, hobbies, other \_\_\_\_
- 18. Vacations/Travels\_\_\_\_
- 19. Accomplishments \_\_\_
- 20 Disappointments/Regrets \_\_\_\_
- 21. Cemetery you want to be buried at \_\_\_ Plot bought \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Epitaph/Favorite saying\_\_\_\_
- 23. What do you want to be remembered for\_\_\_\_

24. Other information: favorite songs, favorite colors, favorite places

Put some thought into this. You can do most of it in less than half an hour. Make at least two copies. Put one with your will, put one in with your genealogy and make sure your "next of kin" or "personal representative" will know where to find one.

PAGE 04

#### Madison County Genealogical Society Meeting Minutes August 18, 2009

After a brown bag picnic at Johnson Park, the regular meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held on August 18, 2009 with 12 members and 2 guests present. The July minutes were read. The Treasurer's report was read and will be put on file.

Under Old Business, a report was given about the upcoming genealogical conference.

For New Business, Nancy reported on recent queries received. There have been several lately.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Our program this month was a cemetery field trip to the Old Christ Lutheran and Zion Bauermeister Cemeteries. Nancy gave a brief history of both and everyone present car pooled to visit them.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Askew Secretary

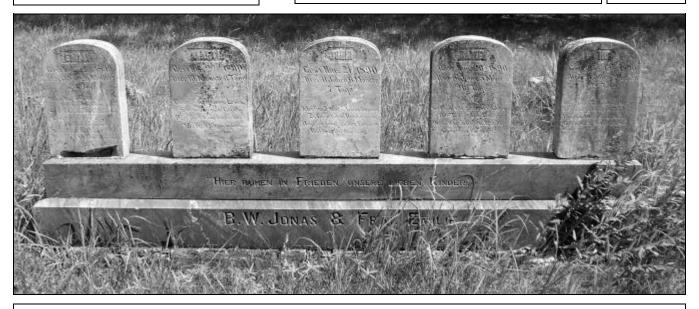
## August Field Trip Old Christ Lutheran and Zion Lutheran Cemeteries

These two cemeteries lie just over the line in Stanton County with access through a gate in Eastern Heights Subdivision. These two cemeteries started as one in 1871 as Zion Lutheran with Pastor J. C. Rupprecht. In 1872, the congregation built a parsonage with a room added to serve as church and school. In 1875, Pastor Rupprecht began preaching in Norfolk and by January 1, 1876 he had moved into Norfolk into a new parsonage. This caused a split with approximately one-third of the membership leaving the congregation and the others reorganizing into Christ Lutheran Church. The cemetery, "God's Acre" was split with about ten acres being retained by Christ Lutheran Church. Today, the North half is maintained by Christ Lutheran Church and the South half is maintained by Peace Reformed Church (Zion Lutheran). These cemeteries have had many names over the years including the "Mormon" cemetery and "Frogtown" or "Frog Hollow", Zion Bauermeister, and the East Lutheran cemetery. Both cemeteries have been vandalized over the years and the biggest monuments have been tipped over or destroyed. It would take a bobcat or loader to put these back up. There is also a lot of cactus and some poison ivy in both cemeteries. The fences and gates need to be replaced. In 1977 Reverend Edwin Iverson of Christ Lutheran Church compiled a history of the Old Lutheran Cemetery. This 50 page document includes the names of persons who had markers still remaining in 1977 and he measured and counted graves and determined which members of the congregation may be buried there as they died before the "New Lutheran" cemetery was started in 1901. He included deeds and founding history.

continued on next page

MADISON COUNTY REMEMBERS...

PAGE 05



VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141

This very interesting marker tells a sad story in the history of Norfolk. It is the marker for five children of B.W. Jonas and his wife Emilie (Broeker) Jonas. They all died from diphtheria within a week in 1890. They had one daughter that survived the epidemic and grew to adulthood. They had one more child after these five died, but little Lydia died at the age of 10 of typhoid fever and is buried next to her parents. Below are the news clippings.

**November 17, 1890:** Edith, the nine-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas died of diphtheria on Saturday, and the funeral occurred yesterday at the home of the parents on Fifth street, Rev. J.P. Mueller conducting the services. The interment took place at Christ Lutheran church cemetery, east of the city. The death of little Edith is a sad blow to her parents, who have the sympathy of the entire community in their great affliction.

**November 20, 1890:** Katie Elise Maria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas, died from diphtheria this morning at 8:30, aged six years, five months and twenty-three days. In the loss of their two children Mr. And Mrs. Jonas have been deeply afflicted, and their host of friends will sincerely condole with them in their great sorrow and loss.

**November 22, 1890:** Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas have been called upon to mourn the loss of two more children from that dread disease, diphtheria. Their oldest boy, John Levi Friedrich, aged eleven years, six months and eight days, died last evening at 6:30, and the youngest boy, their baby Martin Arthur Bernhard, aged ten months, died this morning at 4:30. One child, a little girl about three years old, has practically recovered from the disease, but the eldest daughter, Emma, is still very low and may not live through today. These two are all that are left of a family of six bright children. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas are almost heart-broken with grief at the terrible cloud of sorrow that has fallen upon their once happy home, and their case is certainly one that appeals strongly to the deepest sympathies of this community.

**November 24, 1890:** The eldest daughter, Emma, of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas, died on Saturday evening and was buried yesterday, making five out of their six children carried away by that dread scourge diphtheria. It seldom falls to human lot to be so terribly bereaved as have Mr. and Mrs. Jonas, and in their terrible trial they are sustained and comforted by the kindly sympathy of their host of friends.

continued on next page

#### Continued from previous page

**November 18, 1904:** Lydia Jonas Dead; Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas Died of Typhoid Fever. Lydia Amanda Johann Jonas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Jonas, died last evening at 6 o'clock, at the home of her parents on South Seventh street, after an illness of ten days with typhoid fever. The funeral will be held from the residence at 406 South Seventh street Sunday afternoon at 1:30 and from Christ Lutheran Church at 2 o'clock. The church service will be in both German and English.

The little girl was born in Norfolk on April 9, 1894, and was therefore 10 years, 7 months and 8 days of age at the time of her death. Besides her parents one sister survives to mourn her loss. Particular sympathy extends to the grief stricken family from the fact that during a diphtheria epidemic of several years ago they lost five children in a few days. The surviving sister was the only one left at that time and the little girl now dead was born since. It was just fourteen years ago yesterday, the day of Lydia's death, that the first of their children to die of diphtheria was buried. Four others followed in quick succession and they rest side by side in the cemetery east of the city where Lydia will also be buried. Mr. Jonas is clerk at the Norfolk post office, with the general delivery window in charge.

**September 18, 1922:** B. W. Jonas is dead; once postal worker, Came to Norfolk in 1881 and was popular with patrons of post office. B. W. Jonas, a resident of Norfolk since 1881, died at his home at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Mr. Jonas became quite popular in Norfolk while he was in the employ of the local post office for twelve years owning to his efficient service. Mr. Jonas was forced to give up his postal work because of failing eyesight. In late years he has conducted a grocery store on Norfolk avenue. Funeral services will be conducted at the home, 406 South Seventh street, at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and at 2:30 in Christ Lutheran Church.

Mr. Jonas was born in Stavenhagen, Mecklenburg, Germany, Feb. 11, 1851. In 1872 he came to the Untied States and on Feb. 13, 1876, he was married to Emilia Broecker at Corning, IA. He came to Norfolk in 1881. Eight children were born to Mr. And Mrs. Jonas. Seven have passed away, the surviving daughter being Mrs. F. W. Thompson. There also are three grand children. A brother lives at LaPorte, Ind.

**July 6, 1944:** Funeral services for Mrs. Emilia Jonas, 86, resident of Norfolk since 1881, who died Sunday night, were conducted Wednesday afternoon in the Home for Funerals an Christ Lutheran church by the Rev. Theo. Harms, pastor. Burial was made in the East Lutheran cemetery with the following serving as pallbearers; John and William Linsteadt, Clyde Whalen, William Leu, W. L. Thompson and Fred Miller.

Mrs. Jonas, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. John Broeker, was born September 13, 1857 at Manitowoc, Wis. She was baptized Jan. 2, 1859 by the Rev. C. Huebner, and confirmed April 2, 1871, at La Porte, Ind., by the Rev. George Kunckle.

She was married Sept. 13, 1876 to B. W. Jonas, and they came to Norfolk in 1881, which since had been her home. Mr. Jonas for many years worked in the post office, and later operated a grocery store.

Eight sons and daughters were born to Mr. And Mrs. Jonas, and five of them ranging in age from f10 months to 11 years, died within a week of diphtheria. Mr. Jonas died Sept. 16, 1922, and since then Mrs. Jonas has made her home with Mrs. F. W. Thompson, the only one of the eight sons and daughters still living. She had been bedfast the past year and a half.

Surviving are her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson; three grandchildren, including PFC Lawrence Thompson, who is serving overseas, five grandchildren, three sisters, Mrs. William Blucher, Sacramento, Calif.; Mrs. J. H. Marshall, Portland, Ore., and Mrs. P. J. Fuesler and one brother, Robert Broeker, both of Norfolk; She was preceded in death by her husband and seven children.

VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141

#### A LOOK BACK Compiled by Richard Strenge

#### Mrs. Adolph Platt Taken by Death at Home of Daughter

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon for Mrs. Adolph Platt, who died Wednesday evening at the farm home of her daughter, Mrs. Reinhold Hahn, near Madison. Mrs. Platt had been ill for 14 months with cancer prior to her death.

The services at the church will be held at 2:30 p.m. and will be preceded by services in the Hahn home at 2 o'clock. The services will be in charge of Rev. J. H. Witt of Norfolk and burial will be here.

Born in Rhinesburg, West Prussia, Germany, as Hulda Gerling, Mrs. Platt came to this country in 1901, settling in Madison county. She was married January 29 of that year to Adolph Platt and to the union were born five daughters and a son. She would have been 51 years old November 18 of this year had she lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Platt lived in Madison 18 years on the farm a mile west of town adjacent to the present site of Oak Island. At that time the place gained fame as a pleasure spot under the name of Platt Island and was under the management of the Platt family. Later the family moved to Norfolk, Emerson, Leigh and Omaha.

Mrs. Platt is survived by her five daughters, Mrs. Elsa Hahn of Madison; Mrs. Olga Hahn of Buhl, Idaho; Mrs. Hattie Jahde of Albion; Miss Emma Platt of Creighton and Miss Frieda Platt of Creighton; and her son, Otto Platt of Buhl, Idaho. Source: <u>Madison Star-Mail</u>, Thur. Aug. 25, 1938, page 1.

#### **Brother Dies**

Clifford Collins returned on Saturday after attending funeral services for brother, Elija, at Milesville, S. Dak., that day. Elija Collins was accidently killed last week when he slipped and fell under the wheels of a loaded gravel truck. He was born near Battle Creek and was well known in this vicinity. He was 57 years of age and leaves his widow, one son, Randall at home, one daughter, Mrs. Norma Singlton and one grandson beside other relatives. Source: <u>Meadow Grove News</u>, Thur. July 7, 1938, pg 1.

#### E. C. Collins Killed at Milesville, S. D.

#### Former Battle Creek man crushed by Gravel Truck-Relatives from here attend funeral

Elijah C. Collins, of Milesville, South Dakota, former Battle Creek man and a brother of Troy Collins, died in a Rapid City hospital Wednesday, June 29, of injuries received when a gravel truck back over his body. Funeral services were held last Friday at the Methodist church in Milesville, reports the <u>Philip (S. D.) Pioneer-Review.</u>

Mr. Collins was 58 years old, born at Baywood, Virginia September 13, 1879. He came to Battle Creek, Nebraska, in the spring of 1884 and on June 22, 1903, was married to Miss Lily Hawkins at Pierce. In the spring of 1906 Mr. Collins homesteaded near Milesville, which place has since been the family home.

Surviving Mr. Collins are his wife and two children. Mrs. Norman Singleton of Ottumwa and Randall Collins of Milesville. There are four brothers, Floyd J., Bancroft, Nebraska; Edward H., Malvern, Iowa; Troy C. of Battle Creek and Clifford C., Meadow Grove. All the brothers, together with W. C. Hawkins of Battle Creek, a brother-in-law, attended the funeral in Milesville.

Speaking of the deceased, the <u>Pioneer-Review</u> says: "The memory of Mr. Collins will be greatly cherished by the great host of friends who grew to know and respect him during his many years in this section. The untimely accident took from this community one of its best known and highly respected citizens." Source: <u>Battle Creek Enterprise</u>, Thur. July 7, 1938, page 1.

#### Bests Married in Sod Shanty 58 Years Ago

On July 6, 1880, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Best were married by an itinerant minister whose parsonage at the time was a sod shanty north of Battle Creek. For fifty-eight years they have lived happily together near and in Battle Creek, and the anniversary of that after-the-Fourth wedding was celebrated at the Best home one day last week when Mrs. Minerva Fitch of Norfolk and Mrs. Ariel Long of Ainsworth, sisters of Mrs. Best, were here to serve a dinner honoring the happy couple. Source: <u>Battle Creek Enterprise</u>, Thur. July 14, 1938, page 1.

#### Death Takes Two More; Mel Young, 68, Dies at Battle Creek Home. Mrs. Anna Christiansen Succumbs to Pneumonia.

Melvin O. Young, 68, resident of Madison county about fifty years, died at his home in Battle Creek Tuesday evening after a long illness.

Mr. Young occupied a farm south of Battle Creek for many years, retiring from the farm about two years ago to live in Battle Creek. He came to Nebraska from Grayson county, Virginia, where he was born in 1870.

Surviving are the widow, four sons and one daughter, Funeral services will be held in the Methodist Church, Battle Creek, time of which will be announced on arrival of a son from California and one from Washington, D. C. Burial will be made in Mt. Zion cemetery southwest of Battle Creek.

#### Mrs. Anna Christiansen

Mrs. Anna Meissner Christiansen, 62, former Battle Creek woman, died of pneumonia Thursday night at the home of a son, Arthur Kurpgeweit, in Norfolk. She was ill only a short time.

Funeral services will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Monday afternoon, it is announced. Mrs. Christiansen is survived by the son mentioned, one daughter, Mrs. Elmer Shipman of Fairfax, S. D., two brothers, two sisters and six grandchildren. Source: <u>Battle Creek Enterprise</u>, Thur. July 14, 1938, page 1.

#### Funeral of Mel Young Last Rites Given Saturday Afternoon --- Burial at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Resident Since 1888.

Funeral services for Melvin O. Young, whose death was announced last week, were held Saturday afternoon at the Methodist Church in Battle Creek and burial was made in Mt. Zion cemetery southwest of town.

Born in Virginia April 23, 1869, Mr. Young had reached the age of 68 years, 2 months and 9 days. He came to Madison county in 1888, and was married twelve years later. Mr. and Mrs. Young had occupied a farm south of Battle Creek over 35 years, retiring about three years ago to live in town. Mr. Young had been an invalid for several years.

Surviving are the widow, four sons and one daughter: Zacha Lee and French Alexander, Battle Creek; Robert G., Los Angeles; Edward T., Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Reba Reavis, Norfolk. Two brothers and one sister live in Virginia. There are three grandchildren. Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thur. July 21, 1938, page 1.

## Mrs. Dora F. Craig

Inman, Neb. Sept. 13---Special to The News: Funeral services were held here Thursday morning for Mrs. Dora F. Craig, who passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Gallagher, east of Inman, on Sept. 9, at the age of 73 years. The services were conducted at 10 a.m. by the Rev. R. Poe and the body taken to Battle Creek for further services and burial. Source: <u>The Norfolk Daily News</u>, Sat. Sept. 13, 1930, page 5.

#### **Battle Creek items**

Battle Creek, Neb. --- Special to the News: Fred Hofman, Norfolk, accompanied by his son, Herbert of Battle Creek Heights, visited his sister, Mrs. Mary Wagner, in Louisville, Neb. last week.

Mrs. Carl Tietjen and Mrs. Albert Praeuner spent Friday at the home of their sister, Mrs. Otto Schilling, in Enola.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Miller spent last week with their daughter Mrs. William Craig, and family in Orchard. Source: <u>The Norfolk Daily News</u>, Wed., Sept. 3, 1930, page 3.

#### Mrs. John Richardson

Battle Creek, Neb., Sept. 3 --- Special to The News: Funeral services for Mrs. John Richardson, who

VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141

MADISON COUNTY REMEMBERS...

PAGE 09

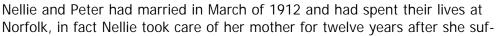
died Saturday afternoon in a Norfolk hospital, were held Tuesday forenoon in the Catholic Church here. The Rev. Thomas Walsh officiated, and burial was made in the Catholic cemetery by the side of her husband, who died years ago. Mrs. Richardson was 76 years old, and an old settler in North Deer Creek precinct. She is survived by a number of grown children. Source: <u>The Norfolk Daily News</u>, Wed., Sept. 3, 1930, page 2.

**Marriage:** Roy Wiley of Bucklin, Mo., and Anna G. Martin, of Nebraska City, both colored, were married in this city Friday, Judge Bates performing the ceremony. Source: <u>The Madison</u> <u>Mail</u>, Jan. 2, 1903, page 5.

# Nellie Underwood Oct. 17, 1874 --- Jan. 16, 1972 Submitted by Phyllis McCain

The May-June 2009 issue of the Madison County Genealogical Newsletter featured an article on the life of Mrs. Elizabeth Dunn who lived to be 101 and was Norfolk's oldest living citizen when she died on March 22, 1934. Mrs. Dunn made her home with her daughter, Nellie Underwood at 1026 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Nellie's name brought back a flood of memories to me. She was a friend of my grandmother, Dora McKibben, as both were members of the Helping Hand Bible class at the Methodist Church. Most women of that era did not drive, so we often picked up both of them and took them to there meetings.

Nellie, a widow since her husband Peter died in July of 1949, lived on a small farm at what was then the edge of town. Her home was located where Wendy's drive-in is now. Her acreage was bordered on the east by Highway 81 and on the north and west by the railroad that are still in use today, it formed a triangle. Nellie had a milk cow, some chickens and a garden. She was what we would now call self-sustaining. Her two story house faced Thirteenth Street, her porch was covered in green lush vines in the summer time. Lovely flowers boarded her porch and sidewalk.



fered a stroke and was bedridden. It was in the late 1940's and early 1950's when I knew Nellie. I being young thought her a very old lady, so I was surprised when I read of her death in 1972. My grandmother died in 1958 so I no longer had contact with Nellie personally, but my mother kept me informed of Nellie.

The things I remember most about Nellie were her lovely smile which she always wore, and her unwavering faith in God. Nellie sold her farm and moved to 903 Madison Avenue in Norfolk in 1952 or 53. When Nellie left her farm house that had been her home most of her life, she locked the door, said "Good bye house", walked away with the smile still on her face and didn't look back. Her faith allowed her to leave that material home behind and move on to the next part of her life.

The city directory showed that Nellie lived at her home until 1960 or 61. Her obituary says that she died January 16, 1972 at Bethany Home in Minden, Nebraska where she had been a resident for ten years. Nellie had no children, was survived by a niece. Nellie's smile, her kindness and her faith left a lasting impression on me as it probably did many others. I regret that I did not stay in contact with her. There is one last thing I can do for Nellie, I can visit her grave at the Best Cemetery and pay my respects. She is buried beside her husband and mother.



PAGE 10

# 2010 Nebraska State Genealogical Society Conference Holiday Inn Express, NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

Thursday evening April 22nd, Friday, April 23rd, Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> Come to town on Thursday evening and visit the Elkhorn Valley Museum which will be open until 9 pm with discounts for our conference attendees

# Our Featured Speaker: PAULA STUART-WARREN

Organizing your genealogical materials; Where are the records they told me to check?; The WPA Era: What is Created for genealogists; The Three Rs: Reading, "Riting", and Research in School Records; Finding Ancestral Places of Origin; Railroad Records and Railway History: Methods for Tracking

# **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**JEFF KAPPELER** with the Nebraska Humanities Council will present at our Friday evening Banquet - **Away & Across the Plains: Pioneer Trails through Nebraska** 

**RUSSELL LANG**, AUTHOR OF <u>Original Land Transfers of Nebraska</u>: How the West was Almost Given Away

**JUDY CARLSON** will present straight talk about cemeteries and "Witching for Graves" (With a demonstration)

WATCH THE NEBRASKA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE -WWW.NESGS.ORG for updates as they develop or contact the Conference Coordinator, Phyllis Masek at 402-991-6856 or pmasek@cox.net

# Queries received recently

Brian Christensen of Floyd's Knob, Indiana is researching **Inman** and **Hull** in the Norfolk area.

Khara Lockman is seeking information about her grandfather's birth family. He was adopted as a baby in 1930. His mother was **Reda Blumhoff Swanson** and gave birth to him while at the Norfolk State Hospital with TB. His birth name is **Harold Lloyd Swanson**.

Loretta Nixon is seeking information on **Zerah Gordon Hayden** and his wife **Nancy Jane Woy Hayden** from around Meadow Grove, ca 1908-1917.

Sit a bit to rest and ponder, what it's like to be six feet under. As you rise to leave, smile with glee, that you're not six feet under. Verse on a bench memorial in the Nysted cemetery near Dannebrog, Nebraska.

| VOLUME 31, ISSUE NO. 141 MADISC   |  | ON COUNTY REMEMBERS  | PAGE 11 |
|---|--|--|---------|
| Website Address Change  |  | CALENDAR OF EVENTS   |         |
| Please note the new address for one of<br>our websites. The Nebraska State Ge-<br>nealogical Society moved their website<br>to a new server which therefore<br>changed the address. Our new address<br>is now:<br>http://mcgs.nesgs.org   |  | <ul> <li>April 23-24, 2010, Nebraska State Genea-<br/>logical Society state conference, Norfolk,<br/>NE http://mcgs.nesgs.org</li> <li>April 30-May 1, 2010—National Genealogi-<br/>cal Society Annual Conference—Salt Lake<br/>City (Amtrak train/seminars to get there)</li> <li>April 10, 2010, Burlington, IA Public Li-<br/>brary George Morgan will be the 2010<br/>speaker http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us/<br/>genealogy/workshop.htm</li> </ul> |         |
| which stands for:<br>mcgs is Madison County Genealogical<br>Society and nesgs for Nebraska State<br>Genealogical Society and its an organi-<br>zation not a commercial business which<br>is why its .org not<br>.com - this might make it easier to re-<br>member actually.<br>(Note: there is NO www in front) |  | Chicago Genealogical Society special<br>programs and tours on the following Satur-<br>days<br>http://www.chicagogenealogy.org/calendar.html<br>Oct 3, 2009 Bus trip.<br>Nov 7, 2009 Newberry Library 1:30 pm<br>Dec 5, 2009 Newberry Library 1:30 pm<br>Feb 6, 2010 Newberry Library 1:30 pm<br>Mar 6, 2010 Newberry Library 1:30 pm<br>Apr 3, 2010 Newberry Library 1:30 pm<br>May 1, 2010 Newberry Library 1:30 pm                                     |         |
| Websites of interest  |  | Jun 5, 2010 Newberry Library 1:30 pm   |         |
| http://www.castlegarden.org/<br>Castle Garden was the port of entry before<br>Ellis Island for NY and indexes some arrivals<br>from 1830-1892<br>Online Military Records and Indexes:<br>http://www.militaryindexes.com/  |  | <b>Federation of Genealogical Societies</b> 2010<br>Annual Conference: <i>Rediscovering America's</i><br><i>First Frontier</i> at the Knoxville Convention Center<br>Knoxville, Tennessee, 18-21 August 2010   |         |
|   |  | Locating Railroad Employee Records:<br>http://www.genealogytoday.com/<br>guide/railroad-employees.html   |         |
| Highlights in this Issue:   |  |  |         |

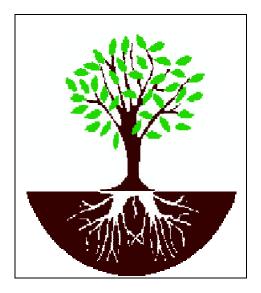
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#### Highlights in this Issue:

Page 1: President's Message, Meeting Announcements
Page 2: Presidents' Message cont. and July meeting notes
Page 3: July program: Writing a Mini-Autobiography
Page 4: August meeting notes and Field trip to Old Christ Lutheran/Zion Lutheran cemeteries
Page 5-6: Jonas family from Old Christ Lutheran cemetery
Page 7-8-9: A Look Back: newspaper gleanings from 1938, 1930 and 1903
Page 9: Nellie Underwood
Page 10: 2010 NESGS State Conference program announcement, Queries received
Page 10: MCGS Elections and Email about Best Cemetery
Page 11: Website address change, Websites of interest, Upcoming Events and Index

# MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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