

Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

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Greetings from your new President

Together lets make this an exciting year for our society! It will take some effort on the part of all of us. We began to put this in practice at our July meeting when we decided that each member will be responsible for a program this year. It was very gratifying to have people volunteer. Hopefully these sessions will be helpful in your search and an inspiration to you to keep looking for your elusive family members.

It will be difficult to fill the shoes of Richard. He was a terrific leader. We will still look to him for guidance and direction.

Currently I am accessioning artifacts and papers given to the Elkhorn Valley Historical Society from the Karl Stefan estate. This has proven to be very interesting. With changes occurring at the Karl Stefan Airport perhaps people will become re-acquainted with this Czech immigrant who came to America at two years of age. I am so surprised to find out so many people have no idea how the airport received its name. I hope to acquaint all of you with this very important Czech who made a difference in Norfolk and Nebraska. I guarantee you will become fascinated with this gentleman.

You can make a difference in our society! I welcome any ideas you might have to make our meetings more helpful to our membership. Make a resolution right this minute to join us each month. Your presence can make a difference.

Betty Bohac

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People are what they are because they have come out of what was.

Carl Sandburg

MEETING NOTES July 20, 2010

The regular meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was called to order by President Richard Streng with 12 members and 1 guest present. The June minutes were read and corrected. The Treasurer's report was read. A letter from the Nebraska State Genealogical Society was read and included a check for \$527.79 which is our share (25%) of the conference profits.

Nancy reported she is working on the funeral home records which begin in 1887. She described the information included in the records and would appreciate any help as it is quite difficult to decipher the handwriting, especially with her vision problems.

Election of officers was the main item of business for the July meeting. The members present discussed the ballots received in the mail and the wishes of those present. Nominated from the floor were President – Betty Bohac, Secretary – Frances Beck. Phyllis McCain announced she would be unavailable for secretary. Bernice Walters had previously been nominated for Treasurer. There were no nominations for Vice President. The slate was elected. With no vice-president in charge of programming, a sign-up sheet was passed around asking members to volunteer to do a monthly program.

The August meeting will be a history and tour of Best cemetery given by Cleo Deuel and Marge Fuhrmann and members of the Best Cemetery board. Members will meet at Johnson park at 6:30 for a brown bag picnic and car pool to the cemetery.

With no library facilities or storage for them, the members discussed the newsletters the society exchanges with other genealogical societies, including what to keep and which should be dropped. It was decided to send a letter to each one including information and a reduced fee if they would like to keep receiving ours.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted by Susan Askew, Secretary

MEETING NOTES, August 17, 2010

The August meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held at Johnson Park with a brown bag picnic. Vice President Nancy Zaruba opened the meeting in the absence of the President. Eleven members and 2 guests were present.

The July minutes were read and the Treasurer's report was read and placed on file.

Letters have been sent to the societies we share newsletters with asking if they wished to continue receiving our newsletter. No responses have been received yet.

The members present discussed several queries that have been received and several volunteered to do the research.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the members traveled to tour the Best cemetery.
Respectfully submitted, Susan Askew, Secretary

QUERY: Research was done for Howard & Sandra Peterson of Las Vegas Nevada:
Howard Moore, Guy Moore, John Moore, Juliana Dettman Berner, Clara Berner,
Lily Berner, William Berner, & Laurita Peterson.



The 100th Anniversary of the Carnegie Library building will be celebrated on September 12th, at the JEO Consulting Group, (an architectural firm), 803 West Norfolk Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska. This building is the former home of the Norfolk Public Library 1910-1977 and the

Norfolk Arts Center 1978-1994.

The Norfolk Woman's Club had been planning a library for 10 years before opening a temporary one in 1906. They transferred ownership to the City of Norfolk in 1908 making it a free public facility. The city applied for funds from Andrew Carnegie Foundation in 1908, received a grant of \$10,000 with the stipulation that the city must provide ten percent of the amount annually to maintain the facility. Construction began in 1909, and was completed in September 1910. This building has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Genealogy Tip: An unusual happening in my research came along the other day. As I was entering the house number & street residence of one of my great uncles (that I found in his obit) into my genealogy program, the address seemed very familiar. My son and his family lived in that exact same house! (submitted by Karen Rogat)

This is just a note to let you know that Randolph is going to celebrate their 125 Q Centennial next summer (July 1,2,3 of 2011). I have been helping on the Centennial Book committee and we are currently doing pre-sale of the books. Cost is \$50 per book plus \$2.75 for tax if purchased before October 1, 2010. After October 1 cost will be \$75.00 plus tax. If you wish to have a book shipped to you --- cost is \$10.00 for shipping and handling. Checks can be made out to Randolph Q125 and mailed to the Randolph Public Library; PO Box 307; Randolph, NE 68771. (submitted by Susie Wattier)

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our Society's election of officers was held at our July meeting. The ballots received in the mail were opened and discussed. Not one mailed ballot had anyone that was willing to hold an office. There was some discussion about the future of our society with not much opinion from the members present. Nominations were sought from those in attendance. Betty Bohac agreed to take the office of the president and Frances Beck agreed to take the secretary's job. Bernice Walters will continue as treasurer. No one could be persuaded to take the vice-president's job so that position is vacant. Five members present each agreed to do the program for one meeting during the year. No one specifically wanted to answer queries or do research. Several members agreed to at least look at the queries when they come in and to try to occasionally submit something for the newsletter. There is currently no co-editor for the newsletter either. Nancy Zaruba will continue to publish the newsletter as best she can. Please help me out by submitting information about your genealogy, local history, brick walls, family stories, helpful tips you've tried, etc. It's best to submit things in digital format if possible but if typed, I can scan it into my computer and then read it. Handwritten articles should be sent to Frances Beck, PO Box 44, Stanton, NE 68779. She will type and email them to Nancy for the newsletter. Thanks for your support.

Best Cemetery is located at T 24 N, R 2 W Section 23. It is located 1/2 mile north of Hwy. 275 on 61st St., 1 mile west and 1/2 mile north. It is located on a hilltop and is quite visible with a new sign and flagpole.

This story was previously published in this newsletter in the November/December 2004 issue. It is reprinted here with several corrections and an update following.

History of "Best Cemetery" by Cleo Deuel

A brief history of the Best Cemetery, as told to me by my father Erwin Deuel and as I remember it during my life time which so far has been 87 years.

It was organized in 1891. There had been people buried there before that. My grandparents Frank and Cynthia Deuel lost 3 children before that and a 7 year old son in the 1890s. The story goes, I don't know the date, that a man traveling through the county on horseback stayed over night at someone's place and died during the night and I guess he must have been the first person to be buried there but I'm sure no one knows just where.

I think the name Best Cemetery came from the people owning the land at that time. There are quite of number of Bests buried there, some just recently.

Shortly after World War II my father and others purchased extra land on the east and south so there could be a road all the way around. The fence was moved and replaced and I think some grading done on the south side. There also was a tool shed and two outhouses in the south west corner. My grandpa Hunter and some other old fellows tore these buildings down as they were no longer needed like they were in the horse and buggy days. The tool shed had contained shovels, scythes and push lawn mowers, the reel type. For years no one bothered these things, then they started to come up missing. One sad thing happened when grandpa and the others were working on the buildings. One old fellow fell and was hurt. He later died from his injuries.

There had been cedar trees and pine trees planted about the cemetery. The cedars have been dying off. Bob Groninger and I planted a row of pines on the north and east side. All but a very few have survived.

Several years ago my late wife Lurene said we needed a sign with the name of the cemetery. We looked into and discarded the idea of a metal sign over the entry gate. We heard of a fellow who made white letters from cement and were mounted on a metal frame. We looked into it and it seemed to be what we needed. Several people donated to the cost. Dan Flanigan, my daughter's husband, built a frame and he and others poured a cement platform. I purchased a flag pole and flag. Bob Groninger and I installed it. We fly it during Memorial Day weekend and also during a funeral.

We have seven Civil War veterans, all Union vets, one Spanish American war veteran, two World War I, six World War II, and one Korean War veteran buried here.

We have an annual meeting in the Spring before Memorial Day. We have investments drawing interest and receive donations from time to time. We also have a cemetery board. It varies in number. I have been president for some time. Bob and Shirley Groninger take care of the finances and Bob also looks after the mowing. I have also been putting flags on Veteran's graves for Memorial Day weekend.

The half mile county road leading to the cemetery is now shared by two households and a bunch of trucks hauling clay from south of the cemetery.

I remember as a child we had annual meetings in the Born Schoolhouse on Decoration Day as it was known then. There was always a large crowd. If someone could make it up the hill to the cemetery without having to change gears from high they really bragged about their car. Al Ommerman usually ran the meeting, we sang songs and someone might give a talk. Also Clyde Best played the piano. At least one meeting I remember three Civil War soldiers were up on the stage. After World War II the meetings sort of petered out.

I was always a little surprised my grandpa Deuel was not one of the original board members, as he was one of the early school teachers in Madison County. They lived one half mile west of the north end of the cemetery. It is a section line but no road was ever opened. Also one half mile east of the cemetery a farm owned by Duane Sellin was homesteaded by Martin Brubaker. His wife was grandpa Deuel's sister.

There had been a lot of volunteer cedars growing in the fence around the cemetery. No one had taken the time to take them out. Someone came up to the cemetery and they were all gone. Ernest Sellin, Dwain's father and some of his grandsons had come up from their farm just east of the cemetery and had cut and removed them.

Cemetery Board, June 20, 1891: Robert McKibbon, John Ray, Joseph Foak, Alvin Low, John S. Craig, D. A. Ommerman, Marisee Best, David Best, Martin Brubaker.

Some of the Veterans buried here are: Francis Henderson 1861-1865, Joseph Light, Civil War 1861-1865, William Low, War of the Republic (Civil War), Robert McKibbon 1861-1865, John Wollert, 1861-1865, Charles Fitch, 1861-1865, John Flennken, 1861-1865, Valma Light, Cuba-Spanish American, William Moxley, WW I, Frank Best, WW I, John Wessel, WW II, John Ray, WW II, Harold Groninger, WW II, Reuben Best, WW II, Floyd "Bud" Ray, WW II, Bill Craig, WW II, Joann Craig, Legion Auxiliary, John "Jack" E. Best, peace time, and Leonard Houfek, Korean War.

I have a list of the original board members and also a list of the names of all of the veterans. There are thirty people buried at the Best Cemetery that are of my blood relations. There are at least one or two burials a year.

Best Cemetery Update August 2010 By Margie Fuhrmann

Until 2010 Cleo Deuel continued to be President of the Best Cemetery board but his eyesight had been failing for several years. Due to poor health, Bob Groninger wished to step down as treasurer. This Spring Jim Deuel became President and Leon Northouse (he is a descendant of the Ommerman's) became Treasurer and Faye (Deuel) Flanigan continues to be the Secretary of Best Cemetery Association. Also remaining on the board are Bob and Shirley Groninger, Joy Best Bauermeister, Kathy Craig Lewis and Ervin and Bonnie Tucker.

In 2007 Bob Groninger, Dan Flanigan and Cleo Deuel sawed off all of the lower branches of the cedar trees that were hanging low over the graves. They hauled out three loads of branches. Badgers had made numerous holes near the trees and by numerous graves.

In 2008 Dan used the tractor with a loader to fill the holes created by badgers in the cemetery. He then seeded the bare spots with grass seed.

In 2009 it was decided to do something about the messy, trashy northeast corner. Don Ohlrich brought his big equipment and loaded up the trash (trees, brush, discarded gravestone, plastic, glass and tin containers and excess dirt) and hauled it away.

On July 31 and August 1, 2010, Leon Northouse and Jim Deuel got the county surveyor to come up and resurvey the cemetery to verify the plats and lots. It was an extremely hot weekend but they got this very important job done. While the men were surveying and marking, Dan and Faye were mowing and Nancy Deuel brought out lunch. They used metal stakes with a metal plate welded to the top and then a white plastic numbered tag (cattle ear tag) was riveted to the plate. These stakes were put into the ground at the northeast corner of each lot at ground level to allow for easy mowing. These tags are quite visible and will facilitate locating lots. Other projects have included making a new ownership plat map to more easily locate a grave for interment and to be able to identify which spaces were unsold.

The mowing was previously paid for with interest from the cemetery investments but the interest has been too low to allow for paying for the mowing since 2009. The mowing recently has been done by Dan and Faye (Deuel) Flanigan and their children (Brad and Rena Hoelscher) and grandchildren (Patrick and Carrie Cook).

Taking over from her father, Faye makes sure the flags are put on the veteran's graves for Memorial Day and she also puts the big flag up at the entrance for Memorial Day and all funerals.

The descendants of the Deuels and Ommerman's as well as descendants of the Groninger's, Craigs, Tuckers and many others buried there, have taken a real interest in the cleanup and care of this beautiful, country cemetery. This is the last resting place of many of their ancestors and early settlers and veterans of the area. Future projects include a need for a new white fence on the west edge. Donations for mowing, upkeep and improvements are welcome and can be mailed to Leon Northouse, Treasurer, Best Cemetery Association, 1703 W. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701.

The Besst Story Part 1 **By Donna Gaye Besst Chellew**

Great great granddaughter of Adam Best, Great granddaughter of John Besst, Granddaughter of Leander Madison Besst, Daughter of Harry Besst, Descendant of this family

Adam Besst is listed in the 1850 census in Dubuque Co. Iowa. It is stated that real estate he owned is worth \$100.00. His birthplace is given as PA. His age is given as 53. That would mean he was born in 1797. His wife, Mary's, age is given as 49 and her birthplace as MD. That would mean that she was born in 1801. The older boys, Jackson, age 19, Solomon, age 16, and Isaac, age 25, were listed as born in Ohio. Jesse, age 8 and Edward, age 5, were listed as born in Iowa. Isaac Best is listed as a separate family with his wife, Catherine Besst, age 21, is listed as born in Tenn. and a child, John W. Besst, age one was listed as born in Iowa. John Besst is not found in the 1850 census, but is found in the 1854 Millville Township, Iowa State Census; 3 males 5 females. He was born in 1820 in Ohio.

John Besst was married to Mary Ann "Polly" Ricker, June 13, 1944 in Hamilton Co., Indiana. His brother Isaac Besst/Best was married to her sister, Phebe Catherine Ricker, July 29, 1846 in Hamilton Co. Indiana.

It seems that some of the Adam Besst family went to Fillmore County, Minnesota. There is a 'paper trail' official records of them

there. Perhaps all of them were there at one time, but Isaac Besst, John Besst, and Madison Besst came to Battle Creek, Nebraska in 1867. From the records, we can see this family trav-



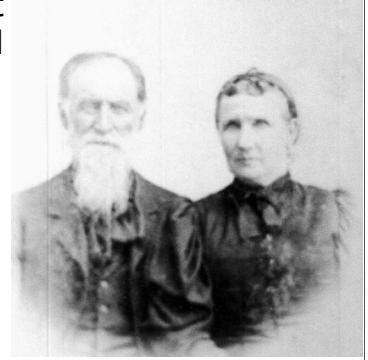
Mary Ann 'Polly' Ricker Besst

eled west.

My Uncle Clyde Besst wrote in my brother, Robert's bible the following information: "These Besst's came originally from Holland to Pennsylvania then [to Ohio] to Indiana; from Indiana to Northeast Iowa; from there to Sioux City, Iowa; from Sioux City to Norfolk, Nebraska by ox team. No railroads from Sioux City then." The Iowa Census and Marriage records verify the above quote.

John Besst was Methodist Episcopalian in religion. Clyde Besst also wrote in my brother, Robert's bible, "Grace before meals used by your great grandfather, John Besst, born in Pennsylvania 1820:

Gracious Lord
 Look on us in Mercy
 Pardon and forgive all our sins
 Bless a portion of theses Means to our use
 And us to thy service.
 We ask for the Great Redeemer's Sake.
 Amen."



John 'Uncle Johnnie' Besst & Mary Ann 'Polly' Ricker Besst

It seems likely that Leander Madison and Ida Belle were also Methodist Episcopalians, but that did change. The story is that Leander Madison Besst was very sick when Madison and Ida Belle Besst were traveling. They met a Christian Science Reader who healed him. They became members of Church of Christ, Scientist, after that. So my father, Harry Besst, was probably influenced that way to some extent.

Leander Madison Besst came to Nebraska with his father, John Besst, and his mother, Mary Ann "Polly" Ricker Besst, and brothers and sisters when he was 19 years old. John Besst homesteaded Section 24 starting August 1, 1868 and filed the final papers in 1875. In the final papers, David A. Ommerman, and Joseph A. Light swear that they have known John Besst for 7 years. It is stated that he is the head of a family consisting of a wife and 4 children. He states that he settled the land on the 20th of August 1868; he built a house 22 X 22 feet, shingle roof, board floors, 3 doors 8 windows the whole of lumber; he has plowed and cultivated 751 acres and made the following improvements: built a stable large enough to hold 40 head of stock, built a granary 16 x16 feet, dug a well, planted about 600 forest trees.

When Madison Best was 21 years old, he homesteaded Section 21, in 1869 on which he first built a frame house. Madison married Ida Belle Wolfe March 18, 1876 in Norfolk, Nebraska. Their children were born and raised on a farm near Battle Creek, Nebraska. They were the parents of five children, namely: Clyde, Roy, Harry, Mabel, and Reno.

Madison Best was apparently a hard worker and was community minded. My mother, Fannie Casselman Besst, said that either John Besst or Isaac Besst donated the land for the Besst Cemetery. Madison Besst was said to have been instrumental in building the Besst Schoolhouse. The schoolhouse was used as meeting place and also as a place to hold religious services. This was still the practice when my mother. Fannie Casselman Besst was a young girl. She remembered that when the minister couldn't get there on a Sunday, someone else took his place to the best of his ability. Many hymns were sung with or without accompaniment.

My great grandfather, John Besst, was said to be very religious. He was supposedly never to have used swear words. Madison Besst's worst swearing, it is said, consisted mainly of the expression, "Thunder and Lightning!" My dad, Harry Besst, never used profanity in

front of women or children. Swearing, drinking and smoking were frowned upon.

Madison Besst seems to have been highly regarded. According to the obituary in the Norfolk Daily news, He was community worker and active in the development of his area. He had the best interests of the community in mind. At the time this Besst family arrived, the nearest railroad point was Columbus, NE. The farmers of that time faced many problems. Blizzards, drought, hail, and grasshopper raids were some of problems they faced.

Ida Belle Besst was interviewed by the Norfolk Daily News since she was one of the last of the pioneers who first settled this area. Her father, Lewis C. Wolfe, a Civil War veteran homesteaded Section 11. She told in the interview of prairie fires. She was quoted, "The prairie fires were awful. They often came near to us and even after my marriage we were threatened by them. When my oldest child was a baby I had to carry him out on the plowed ground one day, where he would be safe, and then I hurried to fight a prairie fire which was approaching out home."

Continued in the next issue

WAYNE LEONARD WALTERS 1921 ---- 2010



Wayne was born December 17, 1921, to Herman C. and Lena (Dittman) Walters, on a farm north of Tilden, in the Mills Township, Pierce County, Nebraska. He was baptized April 2, 1922 in the Evangelical Friedens (Peace) Church in Tilden. His parents lived on this farm for many years after their marriage May 11, 1920 in Tilden. Wayne was not yet 3 years old so had little memory of when his little sister, Helen Louise, born June 12, 1923, fell into the stock water tank on this farm and drowned. On that tragic August 29, 1924, Helen was only 1 year, 2 months and 17 days old. According to a cousin, Herman told how he had been freezing ice cream out by the well and water tank, while Wayne and little Helen played in the yard. He then became occupied with something in the barn and when he returned, little Helen was floating in the water tank. Efforts to revive her failed. It was a great tragedy for all the family.

Wayne's best memory of his early childhood was being crowded in with furniture in a horse-drawn wagon, and the long bumpy ride, as his parents moved from Pierce County to a farm 2 ½ miles south and 4 miles west of Elgin. The Antelope County 1930 Census shows the Herman Walters family living in Cedar Township—the SE1/4 Section 21-T23N-R6W, and listed Herman C., Lena D., Wayne L., Mildred L., and Adeline F. All of Wayne's sisters were born on this Elgin farm, including Marian and Jo-Ann. By 1936 Herman was leasing a better farm 1½ miles south and a half mile west of Oakdale, the SW ¼ Section 14, Oakdale Township, which he bought in 1947.

At Elgin Wayne and his sisters attended the Horn District 12 country school on Sec. 22, only about three quarters of a mile from their farm. After completing the 8th grade Wayne attended the rural Starr High School through the 9th grade. This school was 2 miles farther east on SE ¼ Sec. 23, part of the Methodist Morningstar Church complex. The church itself sat on a hill east across the road, but it is no longer standing. However, at this writing, the little old wooden schoolhouse still stands, boarded up and slowly surrendering to time and the elements (road 836).

One day Herman brought home a small Shetland pony—in the back seat of his Model A Ford. Addy was the first to ride as she was shorter and lightweight—bareback of course, as all the family rode their horses without saddles. Wayne rode "Tony" up the hill to the grade school but he was really too tall for the pony. So they built a cart with steel wheels and Tony pulled Wayne and friend J. G. Totten to the Starr High School. Later the pony was sold and came to a terrible death when the barn

in which he was stabled caught fire and he could not escape.

Wayne was born in the "roaring twenties" but grew up in the "dirty thirties" – the Great Depression that changed many lives forever. A new way of life for many unemployed men was "riding the rails" from one soup kitchen or breadline to another, as those facilities sprang up all over the country. Railroad yards often became unwilling hosts to "hobo jungles" as the displaced banded together to share their wretchedness. Eagerly they listened to old timers for chance code marks leading to a free meal from some sympathetic housewife, or maybe a bit of "paid" work.

The Walters raised mainly corn and oats, and if the corn had not burned up in the dry dustbowl days, Wayne would go to the cornfields early in the morning and pick as much corn as he could, pile it up, and head off for school. As soon as school was out he hurried home and finished cornpicking. For this work his dad paid him one or two cents a bushel – it was a lot of work for a little money, but better than no money! He also trapped gophers, the scourge of the county, which paid 10 cents per skinned gopher with head left on as evidence.

They moved to the Oakdale farm in 1936, the SW ¼ of Sec. 14-T24N-R6W, Oakdale Township, and liked the place so well that Herman bought it in 1947. Herman retired from farming in the 1950s and he and Lena moved to 105 North Cottonwood Ave., in Norfolk, a house that Wayne built for them. Wayne attended the Oakdale High School but in the 10th grade became bored and was more interested in working for pay than studying. The Principal, Mr. Schimenick, tried to dissuade him by telling him that he would never amount to any more than just a "ditch digger" if he quit high school. Turned out that Wayne and his "digging" –his construction business – have brought him greater financial success and satisfaction, than some of his friends achieved with their college education.

Wayne had a knack for doing things his way and never hesitated to take on various and sometimes difficult jobs. One of the most interesting in the mid 1940s was driving the trucks loaded with newly manufactured bombs at the Mead Ordnance Plant at Mead, Nebraska. The plant had been developed to build bombs and explosives for World War II. Early in 1942 Wayne had been drafted but rejected due to his poor dental condition. After that problem was solved, he was inducted into military service September 28, 1944, processed at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and had basic training at Camp (Ft.) Hood, Texas. He was classed as an expert rifleman, Private 1st Class, U. S. Army, 33rd Division, 136th Infantry Regiment, Company G. Wayne could handle his rifle as well as any man, but enjoyed explaining "expert rifleman". Bad weather had prompted officers to hastily class all men as "qualified" marksmen. Impossible, the commander said – pick out 10% to be "qualified". Wayne was in that 10%.

After a short visit home for goodbyes to family and fiancé, Marylou Ferry, he boarded a train for the west coast (but not the Union Pacific of North Platte Canteen fame) . He shipped out on the U. S. Gen. Grant from San Francisco in January, 1945. Thirty days on the loaded transport was a bit tough as rations were short—2 meals a day – so Wayne volunteered for KP- kitchen duty and thus was able to get extra food, including apples which he sold to fellow soldiers.

The 100 ship convoy landed at Leyte, the Philippines and from there on to the northern front at Baguio. Food was still scarce so nighttime foraging in camp kitchens provided extras though Wayne's salvage was a gallon of peanut butter. Ordered to not leave their foxholes at night or risk being shot, Wayne and the soldier in the next foxhole utilized a string to each other's arm as an alert signal, but endured the death cries of a soldier shot as he disregarded orders. Later, a nod and wink to Wayne by the inspecting officer revealed that this artillery observer had been his foxhole friend. No officer insignias was the rule.

Wayne's memories and anecdotes of his military life included tragedy and also some humor. At Ba-

guio the order to take a mountain ridge at all costs convinced men they were bait, but slowly they advanced, at a cost of over 100 men lost out of his 130-man Division. Japanese retreated into permanent caves, some existing for decades after War's end. Not everyone shared the same "win the war spirit" in some battle areas as many times soldiers had to leave the front lines to bring up the needed supplies, when some black troops refused to drive trucks to the front.

On Luzon Wayne walked from the front lines, passing over dead bodies, to reach base camp and transportation to a hospital, where he was treated for malaria, later pneumonia. With all his battle experiences he could have had a Purple Heart as they were being distributed freely in the Manila Hospital, but he felt he had not endured the suffering to qualify. With a Purple Heart he probably would have been discharged earlier.

The War ended just in time as Wayne's Division was scheduled to be one of the first to go ashore in the planned military invasion of Japan, where total casualties were estimated at 90%. Instead, after the War ended in August his Division entered Japan as an Army of Occupation. At Kyoto—the city of religious temples which were spared bombing by express orders—soldiers found the temples filled with weapons and bombs. Traveling around the countryside on trains American soldiers were ignored by peasant farmers intent on their crops. So quickly it was a different world. His motor pool job had its 'perks' as driver for a Major in Tokyo. The Major visited his girlfriend for days at a time allowing Wayne free use of the "U. S. Military Government" Jeep to tour the countryside without question. Some top officers couldn't even get a Jeep. "Goldbrickers" was the term for such as the Major who came over after the War had ended, and led a charmed life. He even offered Wayne a job back in the States on his Ohio farm. New officers often received a reality check when first arriving and expecting Wayne and his assistant to haul their luggage and such. Upon being told to load their own stuff and sit in the back, they quickly took Wayne's rank and serial No, but Wayne's Commanding Officer was also battle scarred and those "greenhorn-goldbrickers" had no status, period.

The year in Japan went quickly and although Wayne kept in touch with family back home, he was ready to go home. Wayne was honorably discharged November 20, 1946 at Camp Beale, California, from the Army of the United States. While there he visited relatives in Oakland. Wayne's military history lists in addition to his Infantry training, assignment to the 3019th Ordnance Base Engineer Rebuilding Company. He received Combat Infantryman Badge, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and One Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He ignored the "recommendation for further military training".

There were adjustments back in civilian life but Wayne never lost sight of his desire to be his own boss so the construction industry was a natural road to take. He and MaryLou Ferry were married October 18, 1946 in Meadow Grove, NE. House building seemed to come naturally to him and he dug the basement for his family's first home by hand, on North Pine Street. He listened and learned from experienced contractors, and over the years developed Walters Homes into a well-known and respected business which operated in Norfolk for over 60 years. Today his two sons, Dan and Randy continue the Walters Homes tradition of good construction and service. It is estimated that Walters Homes has built more than 10% of the homes in Norfolk today totaling more than 600 homes.

Following the death of his first wife, MaryLou, he married Bernice Tinius Dewey. Wayne was respected by all who knew him; he loved his family and his work, and lived a full and satisfying life of 88 years. He died July 26, 2010, at Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk, surrounded by his loving family, and is laid to rest in the Hillcrest Cemetery in the Walters family plot.

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

Information and queries:

mcgs@telebeep.com

Membership and newsletter:

nzaruba@kdsi.net

Memberships are \$15 per year.**Research Requests:** \$10 and a family group sheet to:
MCGS, PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031**Meeting Information:** Subject to change

Call Nancy 402-379-4654 or Betty at 402-371-2097

Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/
or http://mcgs.nesgs.org**2010-2011 Officers**

President: Betty Bohac

Vice-President: none

Secretary: Frances Beck

Treasurer: Bernice Walters

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Zaruba

Website Address Please note the new address for one of our websites. The Nebraska State Genealogical Society moved their website to a new server which therefore changed the address. Our new address is now: **http://mcgs.nesgs.org** which stands for: mcgs is Madison County Genealogical Society and nesgs for Nebraska State Genealogical Society and its an organization not a commercial business which is why its .org not .com - this might make it easier to remember actually. (Note: there is NO www in front)

Membership Reminder

The date above your name on the mailing label shows when your memberships is expiring. Membership renewals will continue your membership for one year after your expiration date. Thank you for your renewal. Your donations to our society are greatly appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18-25, 2010 - 6th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise, hosted by Wholly Genes, Inc. - Voyage through the Caribbean www.whollygenes.com/

September 23-25 2010 The Montana State Genealogical Society's Conference, Lewistown Montana, September 23, 24, 25, 2010. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/mtmsgsg/ or blgsmarket@aol.com

October 1-2 2010 The Polish Genealogical Society of America's conference will be Friday and Saturday, 1-2 October 2010 at the Hilton Hotel, Oak Lawn, Illinois, 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

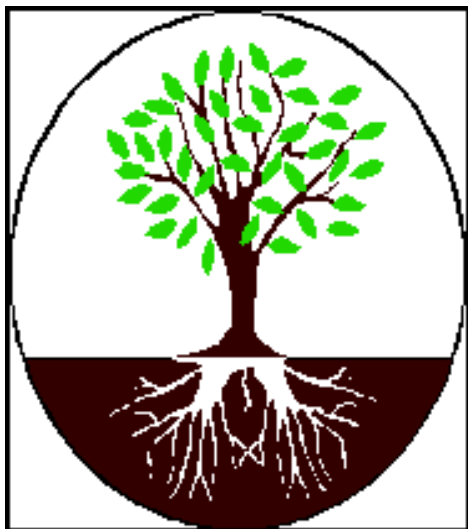
October 1-2 2010 The Minnesota Genealogical Society 2010 North Star Genealogy Conference in South St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact J. H. Fonkert, jfonkert@aol.com, or www.mnsgs.org.

November 29 - December 4, 2010 Ancestor Seekers Eighteenth Salt Lake City Research Trip Join us for a week of research at the Family History Library, with help from accredited genealogists. Call toll-free at 877-402-6846 or visit http://www.ancestorseekers.com/slcr/

Nebraska State Genealogical Society 2011 Annual Conference, Nebraska City, NE, first Friday and Saturday of May 2011, www.nesgs.org

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031



The date on your label is your membership renewal date. Please check it and renew to save postage/printing costs.

TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

MCGS Meeting Announcements

We will have our September meeting on Tuesday, September 21st at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express. The program will be presented by Jack Williams. Jack is a member of our Society who lives in California. He will be in Norfolk that week doing further research and he has agreed to tell us about his family history and roots in Madison County.

The October program will be presented by Sonya Burt on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Express at 7:30 p.m. Sonya is a member of the Madison County Genealogical Society and has volunteered to present the October program on a topic of her choice.

The November program will be presented by Jeanne Rix on November 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express.