

# Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

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## President's Message

A beautiful day in October is the perfect time for me to talk to you about looking for your family, the family you never really knew. Ask yourself the question "was it like this on this day when great grandma lived?" This should get you started to do some research in the trends of weather and lead you to how it affected great grandma's life. Genealogy can be simpler than this but if you're in a rut this may help you get on track again.

Now to get back down to earth. I've looked at our membership list. So many of you live so far away. It would be great to have a big reunion and get to know each other. Sounds pretty far out (the idea introduced in the first paragraph of my letter was too) but this could be done. I'd like to ask all of our members who live far away, get the newsletter, but can't get to meetings, to write us a letter. Introduce yourself and tell us about your research. In return the active members in our society would be asked to respond to you with a letter. I'm putting out this challenge to all of you!! Lets get to know each other. Get your letters in the mail today!!! We may be researching the same surnames.

I hope you have had the thrill of going thru the family trunk. It's not only exciting but it can give you an insight to your family's life. I have such a trunk in my basement. Each time I open the heavy lid, I find out another secret.

I'm sure you have put in many hours on your family research. The next step is staring you in the face—perhaps the most important one. "Presentation" is everything! I recently ordered a book that is an excellent "How To Book". The purpose of this book is solely to show you how to use the information you already have gathered to establish an interesting, if not dynamic, presentation. The website to order is - [genealogypresentations.com](http://genealogypresentations.com). The book is reasonable and has many ideas on how to do your "story".

You are a very important "person" in our Society. I look forward to your Participation. Please attend the meetings. We miss you!!!!

Betty Bohac

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Saving and Remembering the Past, Preserving the Memories for the Future

## September Meeting Notes

The regular meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held at Holiday Inn Express in Norfolk at 7:30 p.m. on September 21, 2010. There were 9 members and 1 guest, present.

The condition of the Lincoln Statue in Prospect Hill Cemetery was discussed and Betty Bohac will look into what would be required to repair and improve the looks of this statue. It is presently in bad shape and it was felt that, if possible, we should do something to restore it. Representatives of the cemetery will be contacted to find out more about what needs to be done and the potential cost of repairs. She will report in October. Jack Williams, our speaker for the evening, suggested that we contact the community college if they have a Graphic Arts Department as they might be willing to be partners with us in repairing the statue. Also, it was mentioned that at one time a Boy Scout wanted to take this on as an Eagle Scout project. Checking with the local VFW might also be helpful.

The October program, which was to be presented by Sonya Burt, will, instead be a presentation by Phyllis McCain on Wright Morris, the author of "The Home Place" which was chosen by the One Nebraska-One Book program on preserving the past. The November program will be a presentation by Jeannie Rix, there will be no meeting in December and the January meeting will be our Christmas party.

There being no current vice-president, Phyllis McCain has accepted the position for the present year. Our thanks are to be sent to the caretakers of the Best Cemetery for their help in our visit to the cemetery in August.

Bernice reported that she and Nancy Zaruba are working on the old funeral home book but it takes about 4 hours per page to read all the handwriting. Karen Reed and Marge Fuhrmann are taking care of replying to queries.

The Greater Omaha Genealogical Society is hosting a genealogy workshop in Omaha on Saturday, October 30.

Our guest, Jack Williams, whose mother lived in Spain, the Canary Islands and Cuba before coming to the United States, talked about his family, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, Dorothy Parker who was a seamstress in Madison. He has material, including artifacts, from his family members, the Williams and Bondurant families, and he has located information about them from 1860 to 1922. Some members of his family around here were Parkers and Chapmans. He mentioned the importance of websites, government and newspapers, including the FindAGrave.com website in which half the states participate. Postings on this website give the source of the material. He also noted the website, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/searchpages/>. A synopsis was sent to Nancy Zaruba for the newsletter. He pointed out that Civil War records may be requested from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. A form may be filled out online to get the records which cost approximately \$25 for a service record. Through this source, he located one of his family members, John Bondurant, who served in the Civil War and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Section 12, Tier F and has a Civil War gravestone and a DAR marker. Another family member, Bessie is buried in California about 50' from Fred Astaire.

After the presentation and the opportunity to look at his artifacts, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be October 19 at the Holiday Inn Express at 7:30 p.m.

Frances Beck  
Secretary

## October Meeting Notes

The regular meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held at Holiday Inn Express in Norfolk at 7:30 p.m. on October 19, 2010. There were 8 members and 1 guest, present. There was a discussion on whether something should be done with a small savings account, specifically whether it should be closed and the money deposited into the general account or if more money should be deposited to the account. This account was originally set up to pay bills when the checking account is low. It was agreed to leave the account as is for now.

A discussion was held about the low attendance at meetings. If we want to have good programs to encourage people to attend the meetings and draw in other people, we need to all work together to produce the good programs. Part of the problem is our meeting time as some people don't drive at night and part of the problem is that more than half of our membership lives out of state. It was suggested that we talk to people we know to find out what other groups are doing to encourage membership and attendance.

A copy of the Nebraska Ancestry magazine produced by the Nebraska State Genealogical Society was passed around and an article in it about our conference in May was read to the group. The next conference will be in Nebraska City.

The Greater Omaha Genealogical Society workshop is on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Betty Bohac and Frances Beck are making plans to attend.

Queries are being handled by Karen Reed and Marge Fuhrmann. They recently answered three but were unable to find any information for two others. One query by Jay P. Paul about an ancestor at the State Hospital was handled by Nancy Zaruba and resulted in a \$10.00 check for research.

If anyone has gifts, including gag gifts, to donate for our Christmas party, give them to Phyllis McCain. They should be brought to the meeting in November so she can wrap them and determine what she needs to buy. We also need to decide on where to have the party so we can eat as well as meet for a party. Betty Bohac will check out some places, for an early afternoon meeting and party.

There is no report on the condition of the Lincoln Statue in Prospect Hill Cemetery this month but Betty Bohac will report next month.

Our letter to groups receiving our newsletter produced a letter from Hooker County Genealogical Society in which they declined to receive the newsletter.

A book, "Genealogical Presentations" was shown to the group and an article about it, including cost (about \$14) and where to buy it, [www.genealogicalpresentations.com](http://www.genealogicalpresentations.com), will be placed in the newsletter. The book has some good new ideas, including a way to identify people in photographs by using small photographs of individuals in the picture placed on the same page with their names and other identifying information.

A suggestion to have a member of our group at the museum at stated hours to assist in genealogical research was brought up. There is a concern that a lot of genealogical material has been removed from the museum and either destroyed or given away. It was felt that if the museum does not want our genealogical material, it should be returned to us and Nancy Zaruba will store it. Betty Bohac will see if there is material at the museum to be given to Nancy Zaruba. Most material is out front to be available to visitors. She will look into the museum from a genealogical standpoint including what is still available there and what can be included on their website. We have a very good website but may want to advertise research resources. Meeting at the museum might be possible, at a cost, might encourage more attendance and new members but it is believed that the security system would not allow us to meet at night or to use the library wing. Also there would be less light for parking there at night but it might be possible to have Saturday afternoon meetings there. Betty Bohac will obtain more information and report at a future meeting.

The program was presented by Phyllis McCain on Wright Morris.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frances Beck, Secretary

## The Besst Story Part 2

### 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



Ida Belle Wolfe Besst and Leander Madison Besst



Ida Belle Besst, Harry, Mabel, Roy, Clyde, Leander Madison Besst (also on porch is little white rabbit.)



Clyde Best

Clyde Besst oldest son of Madison and Belle played the piano and the trumpet. My father, Harry, did chording on the piano. Madison and Belle must have valued these things to have provided lessons to their children. Clyde Besst is listed under Patron's Reference Directory

in the Combined Atlases of Madison County Nebraska – 1899-1918. He was a farmer and breeder of Hereford Cattle, Duroc Jersey Hogs, Buff Orpington Chickens, Hoses and Mules [on Section 21]. He was also listed as serving as School Moderator for fifteen years. Harry Besst, L. M. Besst, J. Besst and D. L. Best are also listed as owning land.

D. L. Best is also listed under the Patron's Directory of Madison as Proprietor of Hotel and Livery in the Combined Atlases of Madison County Nebraska – 1899-1918. Some where I read that he owned the



*J. M. Macy* PATRONS' REFERENCE DIRECTORY NEBRASKA  
 Roy Clyde Harry  
 Leander Mabel Reno & Belle Wolfe

Roy Besst, Clyde Besst, Harry Besst, Madison Besst. Mabel, Reno, Belle Wolfe Besst

first automobile in Battle Creek. Apparently, he had the nickname of "Tib". His first name was David and he was a first cousin to Madison Besst. He was the son of Isaac Best. At some point in time, some of the Besst family began to drop the second 's' in their name.

Fannie Casselman Besst, my mother, taught for five years in the country schools. I have her contract for District 81. I have two of her contracts for District 73. Clyde Besst signed two of them. She married Harry Besst on May 1, 1919. She no longer taught school after she was married. I believe Harry and Fannie Besst bought a farm in Valley precinct in 1919. They were the parents of four children, namely, Delmar, Jack, Donna Gaye, and Robert who attended school in various districts of this area..

My oldest brother, Delmar Besst, joined the Navy after he graduated from Albion High School, Boone Co. Nebraska in 1942. In March of 1945, our family left for California in a 1936 Chevrolet Town Car. We left Nebraska, but our memories of this area were good memories, and Nebraska is our home. We all talk about our individual trips to Nebraska, and our kids think we had a great life, and so do we.

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Louise Frank Besst, Roy Besst. Clyde Besst, Mabel Besst  
Madison Besst, Reno Besst, Ida Belle Besst abt 1905



Old Besst Schoolhouse – Mabel Besst is in the picture



Fannie Casselman – Last day of school picnic – other students were working in the fields



Fannie Casselman with class abt 1917

Yearbook Photo copied by Karen Reed



Norfolk 1914

**My Williams' of Norfolk, Nebraska  
By Jack Lloyd Williams, Chula Vista, California**

My family research started about seven years ago when my mother gave me a letter written by my father's second cousin, Dorothy Frances Parker. Dorothy described much about her family, the Parkers and Wooderson's, and, my dad's family, the Williams and Bondurant's. I will attempt to briefly give the reader a snap shot of Dorothy's and my family's Norfolk connection. The reader can assume that any mention of dates was also provided by Dorothy. I have also posted all of this information on <http://www.findagrave.com>.

William Marion Williams was my paternal great grandfather and he was born May 16, 1857, in Raymond Twp, Montgomery Co., IL. I believe his father was Allen B. Williams. The Ninth U.S. Census for an Allen B. Williams', shows the enumeration was in Montgomery Co., IL, the same county where it is known that William Marion Williams was born. And lists three children: William M., Mary A., and Joseph A. This Census does not show a mother for these children, yet the Tenth Census shows a

mother named Sirelda. If my theory is correct, then one would have to assume that Sirelda was a step mother. I have found other documents that indicate, that possibly the three children mentioned above may have had a mother named Sarah E., but this cannot be proved and additional research is still ongoing.

Not much is known about William Marion Williams prior to 1875, but what is known is that he migrated west to Missouri about that time. According to the Tenth U.S. Census, he was involved in farming and owned land in Bethany, Harrison Co., MO. William married Frances Ellen Bondurant, in Eagleville, Harrison Co., MO, on July 8, 1880. Frances was the only child of John Mathew Bondurant and Matilda A. Chambers. John was a Union Army veteran of the Civil War, serving in the 51<sup>st</sup> Missouri Infantry. He was a member of the G.A.R in Norfolk.

Frances was born on September 18, 1864, Pella, Marion Co., IA and died April 23, 1912, Norfolk.

William and Frances had three children born in Eagleville, Harrison Co., MO. They are:

- Clara Grace Williams, March 30, 1881
- John Barnett Williams, June 30, 1883
- Bessie Pink Williams, August 24, 1885

In 1886, the Williams moved to a land claim in Miniola, Holt Co., NE, where they remained until 1889, when they moved to Norfolk. While living in Miniola, William and Frances had another child, Homer Clyde Williams, b. September 5, 1887.

When the Williams family moved to Norfolk, they resided at the southwest corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Philip Avenue. William, had by this time found work as a carpenter.

After arriving in Norfolk, William and Frances had another child, a Baby Girl. Unfortunately, she died on the same day of her birth, August 18, 1889. Currently, no record can be found on her name, the cause of death, or where she is buried, but research continues

On October 10, 1890, William and Frances had their last child, Leo Lloyd Williams [my Grandfather]. The family was now living at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Pasewalk, across the street from John and Matilda Bondurant. Like William, John Mathew Bondurant was also a carpenter by trade.

In those days, diseases such as dysentery, cholera, and typhoid fever were rampant across the nation. John Burnett, the second child of William and Frances, had contracted typhoid fever but he recovered. While William and Frances' son John was recovering from typhoid fever and still weak, William contracted typhoid fever and eventually died from that disease. William died on Saturday, October 29, 1892 and was buried at the Prospect Hill Cemetery, Section 9, Lot 22.

Like many families at that time, the Williams family was poor. This is evidenced by the fact that his church had taken up a collection for family assistance. No record can be found of a headstone being purchased and according to funeral home records, his funeral bill, which was only sixteen dollars, was not paid until February 15, 1893, three and one half months after his death.

To support her children after the death of William, Frances took in washing and ironing. A year later, the family moved to south Norfolk where the railroad had brought in a lot of business. Here, Frances continued her washing business, this time for the railroad workers. During this period, she met Benjamin Preston Pippin, who worked for the railroad. He had come from Scottsville, Albemarle Co., VA.

Frances died April 23, 1912, one day after having surgery. She is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery, next to her first husband, William.

On July 8, 1920, B. P. married Olga F. Witters, a divorced woman whose maiden name was Boeck. She had been married to Fred L. Witters. Olga was born in Germany on June 11, 1878 and died in Norfolk, on August 9, 1948.

B. P. was a Mason and went to the top of the Masonic order. He died on April 6, 1943 of old age complications and was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Section 6, Plot 79, next to Olga.

#### **The Children Of William Marion Williams And Frances Ellen Bondurant-Williams**

William and Frances Williams had a total of six children. Their children listed here in birth order are:

**Clara Grace Williams.** Grace, as she was called, was born March 30, 1881, in Eagleville, Marion Twp, Harrison Co., MO. After the death of her father, Grace had to quit school and help her mother, who took up washing and ironing to support her children. Grace also ironed and delivered the clothes in a little wagon with her brother John after he came home from school. One year after her father's death, she went to live with her grandparents, John and Matilda Bondurant as Frances' house was too small. Grace started working at the Norfolk Flour Mill, six blocks north and 12 blocks east of where she lived. To get to work she walked up the railroad tracks until 1897 when her future husband, William Lester Parker, bought her a bicycle to ride to work. Lester worked across the street from the mill at the Norfolk Harding Creamery. Grace and Lester were married on December 24, 1898, in Stanton. Grace died May 20, 1960, in Norfolk and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Section 12, Lot 17, Tier F, next to her husband.

Clara and Lester had four children:

- Winifred DeAlta Parker (b. March 8, 1900 – Norfolk, d. February 1, 1954 - Norfolk, m. June 5, 1921 – Madison, to John Calvin Chapman)
- Dorothy Frances Parker (b. June 10, 1905 – Omaha, d. July 30 1983 – Omaha - never married)
- Cleo Preston Parker (b. August 28, 1909 – Norfolk, d. February 17, 1988 - Longmont, Boulder Co., CO, m. Harriet Grace Copeland on August 31, 1941 in Madison)
- Lester Junior Parker (b. September 28 1926 – Norfolk, d. September 27 2001 - Phoenix, AZ. m. Kikuko Hatta from Japan [marriage data unknown])

**John Burnett Williams.** He was born June 30, 1883 in Eagleville, Marion Twp, Harrison Co., MO. He married Rose Morvee, January 1, 1907. John died of a stroke in February 1960 in Corning, Steuben Co., NY. He was a switchman for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. He may have later married another woman, Hazel LNU.

**Bessie Pink Williams.** Bessie was born on August 24, 1885, in Eagleville, Marion Twp, Harrison Co., MO. On June 27, 1908, she married Edwin Forest Fisher. Edwin was born in Creston, Union Co., IA on August 12, 1879.

Shortly after their marriage, Bessie and Edwin moved to Ogden, Weber Co., UT. They didn't live there long as they moved to Ekalaka, Carter Co., MT, where they rented a farm. Again, moving around, they moved back to Nebraska to Valley Precinct in Madison Co. Between 1930 and 1941 Bessie and Edwin moved to Canoga Park, Los Angeles Co., California.

Bessie died in Los Angeles, CA, on May 18, 1941 of bronchial pneumonia with a secondary cause of death listed as gliomablontomia multiforma malignant (a brain tumor). Bessie was buried at Oakwood Memorial Park, Chatsworth, Los Angeles Co., CA, Section: C; Lot: 284; Grave: 1. Edwin died on Mar 14, 1949, Tujunga, Los Angeles Co., CA. He was buried on March 18 1949 at Oakwood Memorial Park, Section: B; Lot: 158.

Edwin was a Private in the U. S. Army during the Spanish American War, Company K, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nebraska Infantry.

Bessie and Edwin Fisher had two children:

- Lillian Fisher, 1917 in Iowa
- Robert Fisher, 1919 in Nebraska

**Homer Clyde Williams, Sr.** On September 5, 1887, Homer, Sr., was born in Miniola, Holt Co., NE. On June 19, 1909, he married Glennie Mae Shippee, and they had five children who were all born in Nebraska. They are:



- William B. Williams, about 1910
- Bennett P. Williams, about 1911
- Homer Clyde Williams, Jr., Jan 23, 1912
- Marian Frances Williams, Oct 29, 1913
- Lloyd Ellsworth Williams, Sep 10, 1917

Homer was a brakeman for the railroad and later became a Conductor on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Around 1922 in Norfolk, Homer went into the grocery business at 1229 S 1<sup>st</sup> Street and he lived next door at 1227 1<sup>st</sup> Street. In 1930, Homer and family were living in Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA, and he is listed as a foreman for a poultry business. On July 16, 1939, Homer died from heart trouble in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles Co., CA. He is buried at the Inglewood Memorial Park Cemetery, Inglewood, CA. His wife Glennie died Oct 8, 1976, in San Jacinto, San Bernardino Co., CA and is buried at Montecito Memorial Park, Colton, San Bernardino Co., CA.

**Baby Girl Williams.** She was born and died on August 18, 1889 in Norfolk, Nebraska. Currently no records have been found on Baby Girl.

**Leo Lloyd Williams.** (My Grandfather) Leo was born in Norfolk, on October 10, 1890. In November 2007, during my research in Madison Co., Nebraska; I got a "big" shock when I discovered that Leo had married Ottillia Anna Laur on October 10, 1911, in Norfolk. No one in the immediate family had known that Leo had been previously married. What is known about Ottillia is that she is the daughter of Henry John Laur and Katherine Dildi. Ottillia was born on November 27, 1890 in Howells, Colfax Co., NE. Ottillia filed for divorce from Leo on November 14, 1917, in Madison Co., as they had been separated for more than two years. The divorce was not contested and the divorce was granted on April 16, 1918. She died on August 8, 1965 in Buffalo, Johnson Co., WY, and is buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery, Buffalo, WY.

On June 22, 1916, Leo joined the U. S. Navy, and was sent to the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station in Denver, CO. I have a copy of Leo's military service record.

On June 23, 1916, he arrived at the Receiving Ship at Puget Sound, Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Washington. He was designated as a Coal Passer (CP); an extremely dirty and unhealthy job.

What is also known is that Leo was stationed onboard the *USS Pueblo* (ACR-7). I have many postcards and pictures of Leo in uniform and aboard the ship that would confirm this. Harold (his oldest son and my Dad) has mentioned that Leo was injured during World War I. On May 14, 1917 the Destroyer *USS Stewart* (DD-13) was patrolling the harbor entrance outside Colon, Panama, when she hears of news that the *USS Pueblo* has been in a fight with a German surface raider. *Pueblo* has 7 holes in her side and the Number 1 and 3 stacks are shot up. During the fight the *Pueblo* sinks the German raider and took 128 German prisoners and 2 aeroplanes. This took place off Magdalena Bay on the West Coast of Baja Mexico. This is where the family assumes Leo was injured. *Pueblo* later transferred to the 3rd Naval District, Philadelphia, PA.

Leo was discharged from the U. S. Navy on July 21, 1919, at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, PA, being unfit for duty due to a medical condition called Nephrolithiasis (Kidney Stones). How he ended up in New Jersey is unknown, possibly on *USS Pueblo* since the ship had been in Hoboken many times.

Leo married Ethel Agnes Van Gelder on July 6, 1919, and they lived in Paterson, Passaic Co., NJ. Ethel was the daughter of Levi Hopper Van Gelder, and Agnes Fonda. She was born in 1897, in New Jersey and died in 1947, in Lincoln Park, Passaic Co., NJ.

Leo and Ethel had three children. All were born in Paterson, Passaic Co., New Jersey. They are:

- Harold Lloyd Williams, January 22, 1922
- George Walton Williams, June 1924

- Edward Robert Williams, September 6, 1927

On June 29, 1936, in Lincoln Park, N.J., Leo died from a heart attack. According to Harold Lloyd Williams, he believes his father Leo was cremated. Harold also told me the Leo died while trying to start a tractor with a hand crank.

Ethel Agnes Van Gelder-Williams lived until 1947, when she died at Lincoln Park, Passaic Co., New Jersey. She is buried in the family plot of Levi Van Gelder in the Mahwah Cemetery of Ramapo Reformed Church, Mahwah, NJ.

### **The Children Of Leo Lloyd Williams And Ethel Agnes Van Gelder-Williams**

**Harold Lloyd Williams.** He was born on January 22, 1922, at Paterson, Passaic Co., NJ. He graduated from Booton High School in 1939.

Like most men of that time, Harold saw his duty and to do his part for the war effort and the nation, he joined the Navy on June 23, 1942, in New York City. Harold became an Aviation Ordnance man working on the flight deck of aircraft carriers. In 1943 he was sent to Pensacola, Escambia Co., Florida, and there he met and married Almedia Marie Hatcher. They were married on September 10, 1943. Almedia was born on March 12, 1926 to Herbert McCann Hatcher and Eunice Leona Fernandez. Harold returned to sea duty aboard the USS Lexington, CV-16, and remained on board until 1946.

Almedia stayed behind in Pensacola, and on July 22, 1944, their first son, Robert Thomas Williams was born. He was later assigned in Norfolk, Virginia. On May 24, 1948 their second son, Jack Lloyd Williams was born in Norfolk. On January 10, 1968, Harold Lloyd Williams retired from the Navy as an Aviation Maintenance Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9). His military conflicts included: World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam.

In 1968, he joined the staff of Pacific Southwest Airlines as the aircraft records clerk and remained with the company until his retirement on December 31, 1984.

**George Walton Williams.** George was born about June 1924. Little is known about George's life history. He joined the Army during World War II, but due to vision problems, he remained out of combat. Harold caught up with him in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where George was working for the U. S. Army military exchange store.

It is believed George died about 1991 at a Veterans Hospital in New York State but there are no records available to prove that.

**Edward Robert Williams.** Edward was born on September 6, 1927. Between February 6, 1944 and March 1, 1945, he worked for the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad, Hoboken, NJ, as a Freight Checker and Billing Clerk. On March 12, 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in New York City. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Navy on January 12 1953 at the Recruiting Station, Boston, MA. Total military service was 07 years, 09 months, and 20 Days.

Edward died on October 24, 1981 in Groveland, Tuolumne Co., CA, from an acute urinary tract infection. He was cremated and his ashes were scattered over Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, Tuolumne River Basin, Tuolumne Co., CA.

Edward was married to the former Marion Bailey.

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This was the September 2010 program at our Society Meeting. The October program was presented by Phyllis McCain and a synopsis and notes will be printed in the January issue of this newsletter. Wright Morris, an author and photographer who had roots in the Norfolk area and was related to Phyllis, wrote the book "The Home Place". Phyllis shared memories of Wright Morris and also talked about many of the pictures in the books Mr. Morris authored, pointing out furniture, pictures and other items she remembers from her childhood. The next meeting of the society will be November 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express and will feature a program presented by Jeanne Rix.

**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, Library only rate \$8.00.**Research Requests:** \$10 and a family group sheet to:

MCGS, PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

**Meeting Information:** Third Tuesday at 7:30

Call Betty at 402-371-2097

**2010-2011 Officers**

President: Betty Bohac

Vice-President: Phyllis McCain

Secretary: Frances Beck

Treasurer: Bernice Walters

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Zaruba

**Website:**www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/  
~nemcgs/**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. **Memberships** are \$15 per year, mailed to Madison County Genealogical Society, PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Nebraska State Genealogical Society 2011 Annual Conference, Nebraska City, NE, first Friday and Saturday of May 2011, [www.nesgs.org](http://www.nesgs.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/>

**Query continued from back page (24)**

I believe it was 1920 (as the youngest daughter Ida was an infant at the time), David was hit over the head with an iron singletree and the brain injuries that he sustained required him to be institutionalized at Norfolk State Hospital. It is unclear whether he was near home in Cherry County or working (as a carpenter) elsewhere when the fight began that led to this unfortunate result. One granddaughter believes that it may have occurred in Cordon, NE. If so, the likely newspaper would be the Sheridan County Journal Star, and I will have to search for that myself once I have more exact information as to the date and place of the accident. My great-aunt Dora moved to Omaha after the accident with her children, and had to put them in an orphanage in 1923. I am presuming that David died by 1927, as Dora moved from Omaha to Iowa with Frank Scalise that year, and by the 1930 census is listed as his wife. If you have any access to (a) records of his stay at the hospital, (b) his death records, or (c) his final place of burial, I would appreciate it. I have already looked at all online sources of data available - although I imagine that there may be archives of old newspapers of which I am unaware.

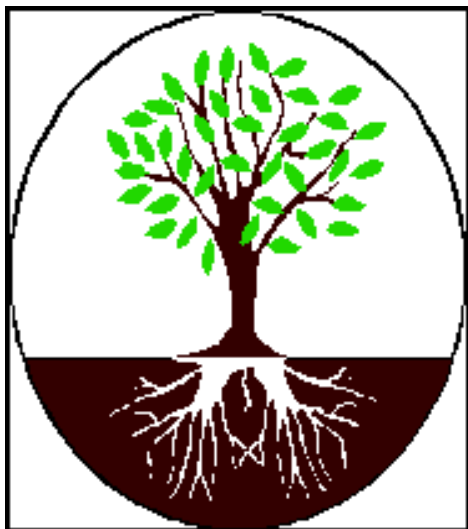
**Reply from Nancy Zaruba:**

My cemetery records show that David Fanarow from Cherry Co. died on June 8, 1947 and was buried on June 10, 1947 at the Norfolk State Hospital Cemetery in Section 2 Lot 103. All graves are unmarked unless the family later put up a marker. There is no marked for David Fanarow. Tomorrow I will call Home for Funerals and see if there is anymore info in the funeral home records. We cannot get ahold of any of the medical files.

**Followup:** The additional information in the records is: Cause of death: cardio vascular disease, age: about 72.

## 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**

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### **MCGS Meeting Announcements**

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

**There is no meeting in December and the January meeting will be the annual Christmas party. Details will be in the January/February Issue of the newsletter sent out the first week of January.**

**QUERY** A query from Jay Paul was received via email with a follow-up letter.

**Via Email:** I saw from online that Nancy Zaruba had been collecting information on Norfolk State Hospital, and had some information at hand. I was wondering if it would be possible that there would be any records of my great-uncle, David Fanarow, who was committed there about 1920 following traumatic brain injury when struck with a singletree (likely near his home in Cherry County, NE). I believe that he died about 1927, but am not sure. Sincerely, Jay Paul

**Via Regular Mail :** My great-aunt Dora Paul married David Fanarow in New York in 1909 and they moved to Omaha. According to his World War I draft registration, he was born December 1875 in Russia; at the time of his registration (and until 1920, in the US Census) he and the family was living at Balfe, in Cherry County, Nebraska (actually, Balfe was simply a historic post office at the time where settlers picked up their mail). (I must note that David's age and thus date of birth vary somewhat in different records; in his marriage certificate, one might presume him to have been born as late as 1883, as he lists himself as 26 in May 1909.)

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