

Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

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Old Time Letter

Following is the copy of a letter written Febr. 6, 1869 by the mother of J. O. Trine of Madison to her sister in the east. Mr. Trine recently gave the original letter to the Historical Society of Madison County.

The letter follows:

Craig Township, Nebraska
Feb. 6, 1869

Dear Sister:

I seat myself to address a few lines to you—perhaps you have been looking for a letter before this time but we have had a good many letters to write and we have tried to give each their turn.

We are all in reasonable health at present. Olin was quite sick this morning but he is better now. John and William and Alonzo (John's oldest boy) have gone to hunt deer today. Olin was to go along but he was not able. There are a few deer here and a great many wolves but they are so sly that it is hard to get sight of them. The boys have put out poison tow or three times and it was eaten but nothing killed. I guess it was not good.

We lived in the house with John's for about three weeks, and then I was laid up with a gathering on my back. I got William to move me and the children to John's preemption house which was a sod house about three miles from here.

As William was working for John he could not be with us more than once a week. We were there about four weeks during that time. They put up a house here about fifteen rods from John's in which we are now living. (This was a "dugout" not a frame house as one might suppose. It was 14 x 16 feet in size).

Hannah Jane had a turkey roast on Christmas. She had several of the neighbors (which live only seven or eight miles away)

and our family. We had a pleasant time. Hannah is a splendid cook.

John, Hannah, William and myself were invited to a wedding supper about two weeks ago about nine miles from here. They had a splendid supper—the greatest variety and quantity of sweet cakes that I have ever seen.

William and another man who is working for John hauled lumber from Columbus this winter to finish the house that John lives in. They had not time to put up more than one room last summer. They have put up an addition to one end and one side this winter. The size of the building is 26 by 32—two rooms below and two above, 16 ft. square and a porch along one side with a bed room on one end, and a pantry on the other. There is a cellar under one end.

Craig and Clark wants another house put up before time to commence planting the hedge as it will take all the hands they can get to put it in as there will be about thirty-six miles of fence.

Mary, I believe you wanted to know something about that hair medicine—well as for the dressing it was very good just for dressing, but the restorative I thought it a poor thing. It colored the hair just while using it and it made the hair so gummy I could hardly comb it.

You also wanted to know how far to our nearest town. Well Columbus is the nearest. It is thirty miles away and we have no physician nearer than that so you may think the people here had better not get sick.

Well I will quit writing and let William write a few lines. My love to you all. Tell May I would like to see her. Willie often talks about her. Mary I wish you were closer to us. I think if Jim would come out here and look

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President's Message

Greetings to our members,

I first should let you know that we have been asked to move our June meeting to another day. There is a conflict with the Comedy Festival being held here in Norfolk and the space we are using will be used on our regular 3rd Saturday of the month. So will have made the changes to hold our meeting just one week earlier on JUNE 8th. Please make sure you note this on your calendar so you can attend this meeting. **We will also be celebrating our 40th anniversary of the society at the meeting on JUNE 8th.**

We will be having our meeting at The Homestead located at 3614 Koenigstein Ave. Go west on Norfolk Ave to 37th Street and then north. It is located on the east side of the street. It is located across the street from the old Sunny Meadows school now a medical clinic.

When it comes to activities we all seem to be busy. With work, children, grandchildren, or even being a 'grandparent' to another child does take time. Remember that the time spent with them is important but also is the time you spend to regroup, recovery, and regenerate yourself. Our best is given to others only when we have been recharged ourselves. So take time to get away and relax, read a good book, or in my case spending time at a cemetery is rewarding. So take time for yourself and take time to come to our society gatherings. Your ideas, suggestions and presence are always welcomed. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Richard Strenge

Society notes

from Bobette Ferguson, Secretary

April 20, 2013 meeting

The monthly meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held at 10:00 a.m. on April 20, 2013 at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. There were 6 members and 2 guests present. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. There were no minutes available for the March meeting. The treasure's report was accepted and filed for audit. Richard reported that dues would be due to the State Society in May.

The Society's 40th anniversary was discussed. A newspaper article about the society was discussed. Phyllis will contact the newspaper about the article. The June meeting had to be moved because the room at the museum would not be available on June 15th. It was decided to have the meeting on June 8th. This will be the 40th anniversary celebration meeting. The location has not been decided on at this time.

Reviewed the society website and discussed changes. It was decided to go ahead with the changes if the cost is about \$100. Creating a Facebook page for the society was also discussed and will be looked into at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Program

Phyllis McCain gave an interesting report on the book "Bold Spirit" that told the treacherous and inspirational story of a mother and daughter's walk across American in 1896 to save the family farm. A mystery sponsor would pay \$10,000 to a woman who could accomplish the walk.

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around he could find a situation that would suit him.

No more at present.

Your affectionate sister,
R. J. Trine

Well Jim I just came home from hunting this evening. Very tired and not in very good humor as we neither saw deer nor tracks though there are plenty of them here too. We were out about Christmas and started up 5 or 6. We also saw 10 several times between here and Columbus.

There is also some elk east of this farm on Maple Creek. There are numbers of antelope here in the summer and plenty of other smaller games such as mink, otter, beaver, wolf and swift badger.

There is also a town of prairie dogs 4 or 5 miles from here. We came past it today. They have their houses all shut up and locked. We were at it shortly after we came out and they were lively as crickets—out by the dozens.

James Stewart and Will are in Kansas at Mattie's thought he said nothing about them only that he was there.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, September 20, 1934, page 2.

Grove News

Mr. and Mrs. James Novotny and family spent Sunday afternoon at John Novotny's.

Mr. and Mrs. John Novotny spent Friday evening at the James Novotny Jr. home.

Bill Vogt and Mr. Gibb were driving around the neighborhood buying cattle Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Gansco, Mrs. Cole's father is very ill at the Albert Cole home.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kuchar spent Thursday evening with their sons, Frank and Victor.

Fred Peterson is picking corn for Mr. Schultz this month. Mr. Hackler is picking corn for Grant Lovelace.

A big dance was given at the Filsinger home Saturday. A large crowd was present and every one enjoyed themselves.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Oct 22, 1925, page 8

J. Koudelka Taken By Death

James Koudelka Sr., 67, a long time Battle Creek businessman died at 10:20 Friday evening in the Tilden Hospital where he had been a patient about a week and a half. He had been in failing health several months.

Funeral services were conducted at 9:30 Monday morning at St. Patrick's Catholic church here. The rosary will be said Sunday evening at the Steffen Mortuary here.

Active pallbearers were George Sobotka, Rupert Arkfeld and John Walz, all of Battle Creek, Anton Kouba of Pierce, Dr. Max Magwire of Norfolk, and Emil Motyeka of Leigh.

Honorary pallbearers were John Zohner Sr., T. D. Preece, Ed Scott, Wm. Whalen, Joe Hughes and Chas. Zimmerman all of Battle Creek and Wm. Dittrick of Norfolk.

Mr. Koudelka, a native of Czechoslovakia, came to the United States as a boy.

He was married to Miss Anna Petranek on May 29, 1912 at Chicago, Ill

He came to Battle Creek in 1920 and opened a meat market which later was expanded into a market and grocery store. The business has been operated continuously since though Mr. Koudelka had been in semi-retirement recently. His son, James Jr., and his son-in-law, Edward Vacek, now operate the store.

Mr. Koudelka was widely known and friends attended the funeral from Norfolk, Pender, Beemer, West Point, Thurston, Dodge, Sioux City, Leigh, Stanton, Omaha, Tilden, Meadow Grove, Pierce, and Rockford and Cicero, Ill.

Mr. Koudelka is survived by his wife, three daughters, Mrs. Vacek of Battle Creek, Mrs. John Dittrick of Downey, Calif., and Mrs. Mario Poggioli of Rockford, Ill.; one son, James Jr., of Battle Creek and five grandchildren.

Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, June 28, 1956, page 1.

Interment at Norfolk for G. Helmberger

A short service at the Resseguie Funeral Home at 1:30 was followed by final rites at Trinity Lutheran Church as family and friends paid their last respects to George E. Helmberger Saturday afternoon, May 27. The Rev. W. J. Oetting was the officiating pastor.

Mr. Helmberger passed away at his farm home west of Enola on Wednesday in his sixty-first year after a prolonged illness. Interment was in the Garden of Prayer section of Prospect Hill cemetery at Norfolk.

Pallbearers for Mr. Helmberger were Carl Neitzke of McLean, Lloyd Acklie, Erwin Kucera, Howard Farage, Marcellus Werkmeister, and Mike Weidemen, the latter all of Madison

Surviving members of Mr. Helmberger's own family circle are his mother, Mrs. M. Lucy Helmberger of Perham, Minnesota, a sister, Mr. Walter Klein, also of Perham and five brothers, John lives at Perham, Frank at Gary, South Dakota, and Joe at Bonesteel, Adam at Ivanhoe, Minnesota, and Peter at Tracey.

Mrs. Helmberger survives her husband and a son, Harvey, of Creston, a daughter, Mrs. Elmer Gall of Norfolk, also remain along with two grandchildren belonging to Harvey.

George E. Helmberger was born at Petoskey in Michigan to Peter and Lucy Helmberger on June 12, 1888. Coming to Madison county with his parents at the age of eighteen, young George in 190-9 went to farm in Gregory county, South Dakota.

After his marriage to Miss Marie Claus on June 5, 1912, the Helmbergers continued to farm in Gregory county until 1926 and then moved to the farm west of Enola where Mr. Helmberger departed this life last Wednesday. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, June 1, 1950, page 1.

Mrs. John Pospisil of Pierce Dies

Funeral services for Mrs. John Pospisil, 89, of Pierce were held on June 14 at the Congregational church in Pierce with the Rev. M. N. Knudson officiating. Mrs. Pospisil passed away at her home in Pierce on June 11 after an illness of two weeks. Interment was in Prospect View Cemetery at Pierce.

Anna Pospisil was born in Czechoslovakia on April 1, 1861, and emigrated to the United States when she was 20 years of age to make her home with a brother at Crete, Nebr. On November 18, 1882, she was married to John Pospisil in Saline county, a young man who bore the same name but was not related to her family. In the spring of 1889 they moved to Pierce county where they settled on a farm east of Pierce. They lived on this farm for thirty years before they retired from farming to make their home in Pierce and have lived in Pierce since that time.

Surviving Mrs. Pospisil is her husband who is 94 years of age, one daughter, Mrs. Mary Silhacek of Pierce, and two sons, Frank of Yuba City, California, and Charles of Pierce, twenty grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by four brothers, Joseph Pospisil, Hallam, Nebr., Anton, Pospisil, Dorchester, John Pospisiol, Crete, Vincent of Madison and three sisters, Mrs. Vincent Frank, Creighton, Mrs. John Stedry, Norfolk, and Mrs. John Ambroz, Long Beach, California. She was preceded in death by one sister who passed away in Oklahoma last January.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, June 12, 1950, page 1.

Gather the family history and stories from your relatives while they are still alive. Write them down or record them, if possible, so others can read and hear them later.

**Early Settler Writes for News
of Old Friends Here
Came here when Madison was known as
Union Creek**

L. D. Sallade, Norristown, Pa., one of the first settlers in the vicinity of Madison, wrote the Star-Mail an interesting letter this week in which he reminisces over his early days in Madison.

Mr. Sallade is well known to many old settlers in this district and this letter will be of special interest to them.

The letter follows:

"I was day dreaming today (while trying to keep cool) of the time I spent in Nebraska before there was a town of Madison. It was then called Union Creek. I was about 18 years old when I answered a call from my brother to come to Nebraska. He and D. J. Heckman had claims close to Huyler's Crossing. Heckman when not on his claim was putting up windmills and pumping stations for Union Pacific from Omaha to Ogden. My brother had charge of Cooledge's hardware and tinsmiths shop. Short time after I was there I helped build the first building on Frank Barnes' claim, a school house—his idea was to start a town—then we built the church—we wanted an organ, to raise the money we had a dance, I being floor manager. At that time people living there were Huylers, Barnes, Bickleys, Platts, and Lon Tyrrell who I brought out from Columbus and located him. I understand he made a success of it branching out in the banking business.

I sold out and drifted to the buffalo range in Kansas. Then to Indianapolis and New York working at my trade (jeweler) coming to Norristown, Pa. 50 years ago I started in business, 11 years ago I retired. Built a bungalow and lots of time to think of the west. Last year I made arrangements to drive out but plans fell though. Will you send me a copy of your paper and let me know of any of the old timers living."

The first school house, mentioned in the letter, was erected at the north end of Main

street just north of the O. M. Wells garage.

Sallade had quite a reputation as a funster and entertainer and was the center of attraction wherever he went, states Mary Bickley Robinson, who remembers him well.

An invitation to attend the old schoolmates' picnic, to be held in the fall, will be sent Mr. Sallade, asking him to attend as honored guest.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, August 1, 1935, page 4.

Local News

Mrs. Will Anding of Missouri who is visiting at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Joe Reeves and Mr. Reeves spent Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Haskins of this city. Mrs. Anding was the former Miss Cecellia Elrod and taught school in the Haskins district early in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kretz and children of Deer Creek, Okla., and Oscar Whemhoff of Clay Center, Kansas, who have been visiting at the Dr. Chas. Hartner and Rudolph Moehnert homes returned to their homes Wednesday. Elmer Kretz remained at the Dr. Hartner home for a longer visit. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, August 1, 1935, page 4

Battle Creek News

Miss Claire Wade of Waterloo, Ia., left Thursday for Council Bluffs, Ia., after visiting at the T. D. Preece home. *Mr. and Mrs. Will Rooney of Chadron arrived Monday for a short visit with Mr. Rooney's mother, Mrs. Ann Rooney. *Mrs. J. P. Jensen returned to her home in Fremont Monday after spending a few weeks with her daughter, Mrs. J. C. McCarthy and family. *Mrs. Rose Dugan of Chadron has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Mary Clark and other Battle Creek relatives. *Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Preuner drove to Orchard last week for a short visit with Mrs. Preuner's parents Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lambert. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Oct. 22, 1925 page 8

Early Settler Writes Letter to Old Friend

Declines invitation to attend old schoolmates' picnic here.

In the August 1 edition to the Star-Mail a letter written by J. D. Sallade, one of Madison's first settlers, now living at Norristown, Pa., was published. Since then Mary Bickley Robinson, secretary of the Madison county historical society, has written a letter inviting him to attend the old schoolmates' picnic to be held in Madison sometime in September. Last week Mrs. Robinson received an answer from Sallade. The letter follows:

"I was very glad to hear from you. I would like very much to attend your society meeting as I am a member of the Montgomery County Historical society and a life member of the Valley Forge society, which meets at the Washington Memorial chapel in the Valley Forge Park. I also was on the building committee to build this chapel—where hundreds go to be married. The chimes of this chapel consist of bells from nearly every state in the Union. Thousands of people go there every spring to see the dog wood in bloom. Every president since Cleveland visited this shrine and was a life member of the society.

When I arrived in Columbus, Nebr., (in the early days), I could get to Union Creek only by taking a four mule team. I hauled lumber to build the first flour mill on the Elkhorn river. The first stop was Shell Creek where we stayed over night in a little shanty. The floor was covered with oats and we slept in a home-made bed. At Huyler crossing, next stop, I met my brother who was living in Tracy's house (almost opposite Huyler's), as his house was not finished.

Your father (William Bickley) and I made a trip with five yoke of oxen on our wagon, three yoke were his and two were ours. We went to Columbus where he bought a wagon, and that night we camped in a ravine on the

divide. At dusk, about twenty Indians rode by on the ridge. We had a rifle, a shot gun, and a revolver. He said, 'let me have the rifle, my nerves are steadier than yours.' We had a few scares but no trouble with the Indians. Once a week I would take a bag of flour to your place. Your mother would make it into bread for us as we grew very tired of flapjacks and bacon.

I regret that I cannot be present at your meeting in September but I appreciate your invitation.

Cordially yours,
J. D. Sallade."

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 5, 1935, page 3.

Allberry Services to be held Friday

R. E. Allberry, a native Madison countian, died here Wednesday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mabel Bateman, with whom he had made his home recently.

Mr. Allberry's parents were among the first settlers of Madison county, homesteading south of Norfolk. For many years he lived in Norfolk and then moved back to a farm near Warnerville.

He is survived by his widow, one son Fred, Warnerville; two daughters, Mrs. Bateman, Madison, and Mrs. Maude Risor, southwest of Norfolk; one brother, W. Allberry, near Omaha; one sister, Mrs. Jane Glass, California; seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock probably at the Warnerville church.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, August 15, 1935, page 4

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Linn and Mr. and Mrs. Rice of Norfolk of Norfolk drove to Villisco, Iowa to visit Mrs. Linn's daughter, Mrs. Ovitz, who has moved from Omaha to Villisca and is running a Variety store at that place. They like their new place very much. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Oct. 22, 1925, page 1.

**Henry M. Kidder, Early Day School
Teacher Here, Dead
Father Early Day Minister, Homesteaded
Near Norfolk**

Henry M. Kidder, 76, who died at Fremont on Aug. 31, was well known to early residents of Madison. His father was the first minister of the First Congregational church at Norfolk.

The family homesteaded near Norfolk in 1870 and as a youth Mr. Kidder drove a team of oxen on the family farm. When a young man he taught school during the winter and in the summer traveled about this section selling insurance, school supplies and organs.

Later, in 1886, he was admitted to the bar at Pierce and practiced there until he moved to Woodbine, Ia., to engage in the newspaper business. He later purchased the Scribner Rustler which he managed for 12 years. For the past several years he has been a prominent Fremont lawyer.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 13, 1934, page 1.

**Fast Thinking Averts
Serious Farm Injuries**

**Harry Dederman Kicks over lever as
tractor crushes him against Separator.**

Presence of mind Monday saved Harry Dederman, farmer northwest of Norfolk, from possible death or serious injury when he was caught between a separator and tractor of a threshing outfit on a farm of a neighbor.

The outfit was being set up for threshing. The tractor was being backed toward the separator when the later started moving down a short incline. Dederman was caught between the two machines. As he was being crushed he kicked over a lever on the slow moving tractor and started it in the opposite direction.

Dederman was in a Norfolk sanitarium recovering from severe chest and back injuries, but his condition was not regarded as dangerous. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, August 15, 1935, page 4.

Mrs. Fred Kaul

Mrs. Fred Kaul, a pioneer of Madison county, passed away at her home early last Tuesday morning. Mrs. Kaul had been ill for a long time and death came rather as a relief from suffering.

Funeral services were held both at the home and at Trinity Lutheran church, Rev. M. S. Mayer of Norfolk officiating. Interment was made at the Crown Hill Cemetery. A large number of friends and relatives accompanied the body to its last resting place.

Kate Maurer was born October 4th, 1858 at Reifelbach, Germany. She came with her parents, when two years old, to America, residing for eight years in Illinois. In 1868 the family moved to Green Garden precinct in this county. She was married to Fred H. Kaul at Madison, February 3, 1881. The deceased leaves to mourn her departure, her husband, and son Fred W. and daughter Clara, both of this city, two brothers, Jacob Maurer, Covina, California, and John Maurer, Madison, also a grandson, Valentine Kaul, besides a large circle of friends. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved family in their hour of loss. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 17, 1925, page 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Warris stopped over at the Wm. Basse home today while enroute to California. Mr. Warris lives at Laurel, Nebr. Mrs. Warris is a sister of Mrs. Basse. They make this trip ever fall and return in the spring by auto. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Oct. 22, 1925, page 1.

Marriage Licenses

Weaver Halliday, Stewart, Nebr.—Daisy Garnder of Stewart, Nebr. *Edward Forke of Lincoln, Nebr. —Christine Kvam of New. Grove *Wm. Douglas of Norfolk—Mary Brown of Norfolk *Edward Mann of Tilden—Doloras Johnson of Meadow Grove *Elmer Mueller of Norfolk—Pearl Wenke of Norfolk Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Oct. 22, 1925, page 1

Obituary of Mrs. Wm. Stork

Mrs. Wm. Stork, a pioneer of Madison county passed away at the residence of her daughter Mrs. Pearl Schade, Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 1st, after a lingering illness of nearly a year of paralysis and other complications. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. Schade of this city and interment made in the Crown Hill Cemetery. The Rev. F. G. Knauer of the Presbyterian church officiating.

Ermina Townley Lyon was born April 30th, 1855, at Elgin, Fayette County, Iowa, and died Sept. 1st, 1925, in Madison, at the age of 70 years, 5 months and 1 day.

She came to Nebraska with her parents in 1871 and was married to Wm. Stork, Jan. 1st, 1874. To this union were born eight children. Those who survive the mother are: Wm. Stork of Enola, Lola Thatch of Fairview, Geo. E. Stork of Meadow Grove, Pearl Schade of Madison, Hazel Johnson of Newman Grove and Frank L. Stork of Madison. There are also 11 surviving grandchildren and one great-grandchild, besides 4 brothers and 2 sisters. The husband and two sons preceded her in death some years ago.

Though never identified with any Christian church as a member, she was always affiliated with others in its work and found much joy in its services of worship. She found especial comfort in the Bible which was her companion to the end.

About a year ago she became bedfast, but all during her illness was patient and bore her suffering without a murmur. In her heart she was prepared to go and patiently awaited the hour of departure. It was also a great consolation that her children were able to be with her to the last hour when she gently fell asleep.

Fast as the rolling seasons bring

The hour of fate to those we love,
Each pearl that leaves the broken string
Is set in Friendship's crown above.

As narrower grows the earthly chain,
The circle widens in the sky.
These are our treasures that remain,
But those are stars that beam on high.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 10, 1925, page 1.

Infant Daughter Died Last Friday

Stella Ann, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hahn, died Friday a few hours after birth and was buried the same afternoon. Mrs. Hahn, before her marriage was Miss Helen Boysen. Mr. Hahn had been in Idaho working and was not here.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 19, 1935, page 4.

Celebrates Birthday

Mrs. Thomas Elliott celebrated her eighty-first birthday anniversary Thursday, Sept. 12. During the afternoon and evening she received many calls from her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends. Mrs. Elliott received many lovely gifts in honor of her birthday, among them a birthday cake from her great grandchildren which especially delighted her.

Source: Madison Star-Mail, Thursday, Sept. 19, 1935, page 4.



Murphy—Allen

Harold Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Murphy, southeast of Battle Creek, and Miss Helen Allen of St. Louis, Missouri, were married at Yankton, South Dakota, January 6. The couple will reside on one of the Murphy farms near Madison.

The engagement was announced when about eighty relatives and friends gathered at the Frank Murphy home on January 2 to celebrate Mr. Murphy's sixty-third birthday anniversary. A mock wedding was one of the features of the evening's entertainment and luncheon was served late in the evening.

Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, January 16, 1930, page 1.

**Schoolcraft Couple
Married 40 years ago**

Children and other relatives plan Happy Surprise—One Hundred Join in Big Celebration.

Down in Grayson county, Virginia, forty years ago, Allen R. ("Shine") Osborn, young homesteader from Madison county, Nebraska, and Miss Ellen Cox, one of the Grayson's fairest daughters, plighted their vows to live together for better or worse, to cherish, if not obey, tec. They founded a home south of Battle Creek, raised a family of which they are proud, contributed to the building of their community and become noted for their hospitality. And during all these long years, we have it from their immediate neighbors that no discordant element entered this happy home to mar its peace and quietude—no complaint from Shine when Ellen scorched the flapjacks, nor did there come harsh reproof from Ellen when Shine parked his muddy boots on the sofa cushion. So they lived happily, and, we may add, abundantly.

The fortieth anniversary of the happy event mentioned was remembered the other evening by about one hundred relatives and friends who invaded the house during the temporary absence of Mr. and Mrs. Osborn, spread a big feast and called the venerable old couple home to honor the table and enjoy the merry-marking which followed the assimilation and complete annihilation of everything stacked on the festal board. A mock wedding which one of the guests says can be described only as "a real knockout" added to the general hilarity which marked the celebration as one of the happiest events in the lives of the two loved pioneers who were honored.

Source: *Battle Creek Enterprise*, Thursday, Jan. 16, 1930, page 1.

Remember Memorial Day May 27th
Remember Flag Day June 14th

**Gone Up In Smoke
Another Millinery Stock Closed out by the Fire Fiend**

The fire fiend has again been at work in the city, the third call in the third week having been sounded Sunday night. He seems to have fastened is glaring eyes upon the dainty articles of millinery, and eagerly licked up with his destructive tongue two complete stocks in one week, the last being that of Mrs. Esther Barnett, in the old Marquardt building on Norfolk avenue between Second and Third streets.

Sunday night at about 10:30 as Ed Wagner was passing the store he noticed an unusually bright light within and on closer investigation discovered that the interior of the room was on fire. He turned in the alarm, but the material being light and inflammable, it was but a few minutes until the entire stock was destroyed and the room ruined inside. The fire department was quick in response, in fact they had learned of the fire and the West Side Hose company had their cart out and started for the scene before the whistle blew. When they reached the spot the entire front of the building was all in flames, but under their excellent and dexterous work the flames disappeared and it was not more than 15 minutes from the time the water was turned on until every spark was extinguished, and the frame buildings on either side of the store were uninjured, save a little blistered paint. Mrs. Barnett and her son had rooms above the store, but were spending the night at the Oxnard as they expected to leave on the early morning train to Omaha on a business trip. They had been in the store only a short time before their grips and all was apparently right when they left.

The stock was entirely destroyed, also the furnishings of the room upon which there was an insurance of \$450. The household goods upstairs, which were insured for \$50, continued on page 60

A History Of "Yellow Banks"

Page 4—No. 20 4 Pages
Battle Creek Enterprise
 Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Submitted by Lucille Drahota

With summer soon to be in full swing, Northeast Nebraskans by the hundreds are heading for area rivers, lakes and streams where they'll take a dip, cast a fishing line or just sit and listen to the beat of the rippling water.

For decades, Northeast Nebraskans have chosen to spend their summer leisure time either in or near the water. Such was the case in the late 1920's when a J.J. Blair and A.C. Williams of Meadow Grove, and W.L. Maus and J.E. Hullinger of Norfolk created Yellow Banks Park.

Located on 60 acres of land on the banks of the "beautiful" Elkhorn River west of Battle Creek, the park was a town within itself. It was home to a large dance pavilion complete with maple flooring and a kitchen, 50 cottages, a cafe, shops, concession stands, beauty shop, bath house, shoe shining parlor, light plant, ball park and an amphitheater that could seat 3,000 people. The park even had its own power plant.

Admission to the park for the grand opening ceremonies on June 3, 1928, was 10 cents per car and 10 cents per person. Not bad considering grand opening activities included a ball game and airplane rides given by Andy Rissor of Norfolk and Mrs. C. E. Tillotson of Battle Creek, who at the time was the only woman pilot in Nebraska. There also was swimming, dancing, tennis, croquet, horseshoes, merry-go-round rides and a picnic.

It's estimated that 15,000 people attended the day-long festivities. More than 300 tickets were sold to the dance alone.

Yellow Banks played host to such notable band masters as Lawrence

Welk, Raggy Ring, and his Printer's Devils (which was the official orchestra of radio station WJAG), and Barney Kremer and his orchestra, featuring Tony and the Snowplow from radio station WNAX in Yankton. Other local bands, such as Quentin Hunt and his six Rhythm Makers and the George Carter Orchestra, joined in the fun.

The park's ballpark was surrounded the what was billed as "the world's longest billboard," which measured three-fourths of a mile long, or 3,200 feet. In fact, the billboard itself was featured in "Ripley's Believe It or Not," and advertised towns and cities around Norfolk and as far away as Omaha.

Fourth of July celebrations at the park attracted thousands who came to ride the merry-go-round, roller skate, play croquet or attend the rodeo.

Supposedly, more than 10,000 Germans from the area attended a picnic there one year. And 200 cars full of natives of Virginia, coming from as far away as California, Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado and Iowa, also converged on the park in October 1928.

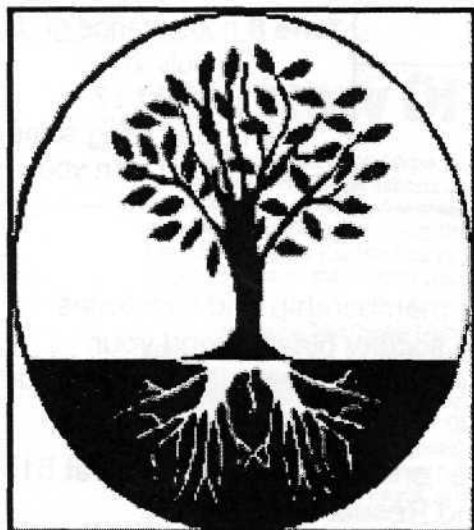
But the prosperity of the '20s led to the dustbowl of the '30s. What money Northeast Nebraskans had was needed to buy food and clothing, and could not be spent on entertainment or park upkeep.

In December 1937, John Warrick Sr. the park's owner at the time sold the bathhouse, engine house, five cabins, bandstand, and dance pavilion, plus miscellaneous items, such as stoves, row boats, 100 pair of roller skates, tables, counters and an engine. Eventually, the park closed.

The above article was scanned and submitted by Karen Reed. A Thank You to Karen for her contribution to this newsletter.

<p style="text-align: center;">2012—2013 Officers</p> <p>President: Richard Streng Vice-President: Phyllis McCain Secretary: Bobette Furguson Treasurer: Bernice Walters</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Our future meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 18 June 8 <u>note change of date</u> July 20 August 17 Join us and bring some one along with you.</p>
<p>Madison County Genealogical Society PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031</p>	
<p>MCGS established in June 1973</p> <p>Memberships are \$15 per year starting at the time of your membership and it includes our 12 page bi-monthly newsletter. It you would like to join our society please send your payment to our mailing address. Please let us know if you want your newsletter by mail or by e-mail.</p> <p>Meetings on 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January at 10 a.m. at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE., Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.</p> <p>Website at http://mcgs.nesgs.org or www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/</p> <p>Queries, Society contact, Change of address, or Newsletter submissions can reach us by mail at our mailing address or mcgs.nebraska@centurylink.net. We are here to help you in your research for your ancestors in Madison county and in the nearby counties.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Websites to check out</p> <p>http://www.nebraskaroots.com/ Some genealogical records you'll find on NebraskaRoots.com: Information on Nebraska 93 Counties, Birth, Death, Marriage, Cemeteries, Census, Town, County, Land Records, Gleanings, and Historical Photos. This is a fully word searchable website.</p> <p>Moody County Historical Society, 706 East Pipestone Avenue, P. O. Box 25, Flandreau, S.D. 57028-0025 Phone 605-997-3191, E-mail: mchsmus1@knology.net The website is www.moodycountymuseum.com The Voice of Historic Moody County, SD. Museum Hours: Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">G. J. Schilling Passes Away In Norfolk</p> <p>G. J. Schilling, 83, father of Mrs. Chas. Tillotson of Battle Creek, died at 5:20 a.m. Tuesday in a Norfolk hospital after an illness of about two weeks</p> <p>Mr. Schilling moved to Norfolk in 1950 after residing on a farm near Meadow Grove since moving to the Green Garden community from Germany with his parents in 1876. He was born in Germany , April 9, 1873.</p> <p>He was a charter member of St. Mathew's Lutheran church of Meadow Grove and he later was a member of Mt. Olive church at Norfolk.</p> <p>He was married to Miss Minnie Rudat, June 5, 1907, at Battle Creek.</p> <p>He is survived by his wife; one son Clarence, of Meadow Grove; four daughters, Miss Alice Schilling of San Diego, Calif., Miss Mildred Schilling and Mrs. Norman Hicks of Norfolk and Mrs. Tillotson of Battle Creek; and two grandchildren.</p> <p>One son, two brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.</p> <p>Source: <u>Battle Creek Enterprise</u>, Thursday, June 28, 1956, page 1.</p>	

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were badly damaged, and Mrs. Barnett was the loser of the larger portion of her wardrobe. The invoice of the stock and furnishings is claimed at \$800.

The building was owned by Geo. H. Bishop of New Haven, Conn., who purchased it of C. F. W. Marquardt only a short time since, but he refused transfer of the policy and it is not known whether or not it was insured. The property is considered worth \$1,200 and the damage will amount to more than \$300. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The fire companies of Norfolk certainly deserve great commendation in their excellent handling of fires, as they have exhibited promptness, skill and the best of judgement in all of the recent fires.

Source: The Norfolk Journal, Friday, July 14, 1899, page 1.