

Madison County Remembers...

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Oktoberfest

The world's largest Volksfest (beer festival and travelling funfair) is held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. This folk festival, the Oktoberfest is an

important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since 1810. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations, modeled after the original Munich event. Large quantities of Oktoberfest Beer are consumed, and visitors may also enjoy a mixture of attractions, such as amusement rides, sidestalls and games, as well as a wide variety of traditional food such as *Hendl* (roast chicken), *Schweinebraten* (roast pork), *Schweinshaxe* (grilled ham hock), *Steckerlfisch* (grilled fish on a stick), *Würstl* (sausages) along with *Brezen* (pretzels), *Knödel* (potato or bread dumplings), *Käsespätzle* (cheese noodles), *Reiberdatschi* (potato pancakes), *Sauerkraut* or *Rotkohl/Blaukraut* (red cabbage) along with such Bavarian delicacies as *Obatzda* (a spicy cheese-butter spread) and *Weißwurst* (a white sausage).

The Oktoberfest celebration here in Norfolk was started about 4 years ago. Our German ancestors were not amused with the temperance campaigns leading to prohibition (1917 to 1933).

Back then temperance sentiment, sometimes eloquently delivered by women speakers who were still a novelty, excited most German born citizens who were adamantly opposed to the proposition. The old Congregational Church on Main Street held a public meeting of those in favor and against, and in reply, opposition spokesman Philip Blatt stressed in German that it was an infringement on 'personal liberty'. Mr. Blatt had lost practically everything in the large Niobrara flood, started anew in Norfolk and was a community supporter. He built his Blatt Bottling works, a small pop and beer factory, first on Madison Avenue, then North Seventh Street, which he later sold to Fred Schelly. Schelly's Norfolk Steam Bottling Works, in his new 2-story brick build-

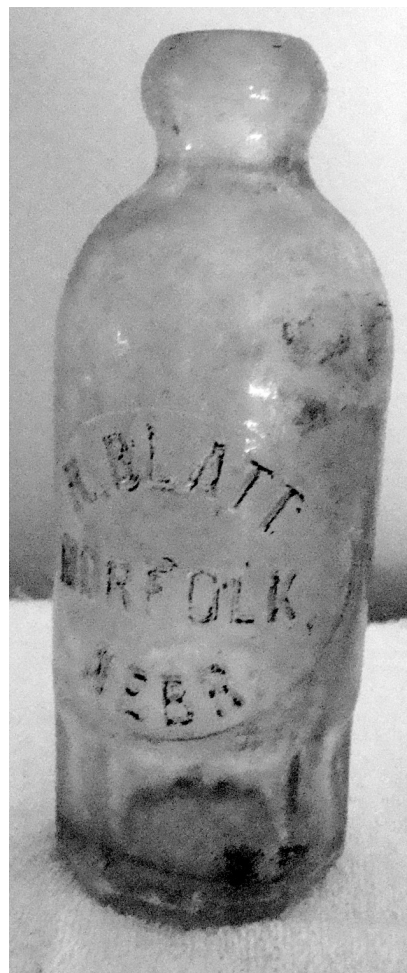
ing at 423 Norfolk Avenue, was the first to have a unique 'sample' room to take orders for products as the agent for the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association. Locally it was simply Schelly's Saloon. Heated debates 'for' and 'against' raged over the years, until prohibition took questionable hold in the North Fork village on May 1, 1917. It was almost unbelievable that for the first time in 46 years Norfolk was without a legal place for liquor.

Which leads our story back to 1871. The first liquor license in Norfolk was issued in 1871 to Ferdinand Wegener in his Norfolk House. The Norfolk House was a two story frame structure on the north side of Main Street, near the Second Street corner about where Warren Reimer's Law Office is now located. Office and bar were in the front part of the building, followed by dining room and kitchen, with sleeping rooms on the second floor. Ferdinand Wegener had arrived in Norfolk in 1870 and first opened a boarding house and saloon on the southwest corner of Braasch Avenue and First Street. A few years later this building was moved to the Main and Second Street corner, and with several additions became the Norfolk House Hotel. It soon operated exclusively as a hotel, and the saloon was discontinued. It was advertised as the first real hotel in Norfolk, with good accommodations and low rates; and was highly recommended by traveling public.

Community minded Herman Gerecke a few years later drafted a petition that the thriving village of Norfolk should be incorporated, and thereby allocating the liquor license for the local school funds. The first license by the village cost \$300. Over the years it increased so that by Prohibition time the village was collecting \$1,500 from each saloon in license and occupation tax. Another reason to oppose Prohibition!

But in 1871 saloons quickly filled the vacuum. It was the "Yankee Roost" to devoted Germans--Herman Gerecke's former furniture store on the south side of Main Street between First and Second Streets (about where Northeast Nebr. Area on Aging building is now)--quickly converted into a favorite saloon. Unfortunately, one winter night the manager much 'under the influence' due to his propensity for sampling, attempted to close the door on large chunks of wood in the old fashioned wood stove with his foot, which inexplicably became caught in such a manner that it was badly burned. Hopping about on crutches brought his career to a painful, sober and swift end. Al Bigelow, a husky Civil War veteran, next conducted that business, his extraordinary physique being quite an asset in handling rough characters in those early days, for which he earned considerable respect.

Henry Semmler's saloon east of Bigelow's became another favorite haunt of the German element. It then passed to Gustav Uecker, known as the "St. Louis Hall" due to importing wares from that city. Norfolk's first bowling alley was constructed there--a long narrow one built in the rear of the saloon--reaching to the alley. It was considered high class for that period and a German newspaper published in Norfolk (by Garn) praised the "St. Louis Hall", and wrote poetry in German of the 'Kegelbahn' (bowling alley).



The 'wet spot' according to Warneke moved west. C. F. A. Marquardt blazed the trail by constructing a one-story saloon facing Main Street on one of the two lots he bought on Fifth Street, in John Koenigstein's new development. It flourished despite being isolated from the main business section, later replaced by his 3-story brick building (the Elks Lodge).

The Pacific Hotel (on South Fifth Street & Norfolk Ave.), one of the finest this side of Omaha it was said, was built by John Koenigstein to replace his burned out pharmacy, the saloon and the entire block. Wheeler's original bar had a lighted ornamental chandelier. How or why it fell to the oil-soaked floor was never explained, but the resulting fire destroyed the entire building within 55 minutes, although energetic citizens managed to save considerable of the drugstore inventory. "Jim" Wheeler had drifted into the liquor business, and was now a typical 'high brow' saloonist and dressed the part, with low cut vests sporting a gold chained timepiece and sparkler on his shirtfront. A black slouch hat and high heeled boots, western style, completed his attire. The new updated Pacific Hotel saloon was to his taste, but his hobby really was fast horses--his greatest joy being at the reins of dashing thoroughbreds. Brusque of manner but good hearted, with his goatee and mustache, he was considered a replica of the Kentucky Colonel. However, after a few years he drifted back to his earlier western haunts, leaving memories but no forwarding address. The Pacific Hotel building now includes the Gobs and Gobs of Fun business and the Granada Salon and the apartments above.

As a whole, Norfolk's saloon men were good citizens and many of them contributed to the good business and social life of the community. As the liquor zone moved west, a saloon between Second and Third Streets was logical, and Carl Steinkraus, Jr., opened his place on the north side. It soon became the center of the railway construction gangs and a rough element of train crews. At times a howling mob took possession and the town felt gratitude when they left without any violence committed. Germans who had served in the old country sometimes vented their resentment in "public" about infringement of community affairs. Clashes to settle the matter resulted in the stabbing of one of the outspoken locals, who for several days hovered between life and death. Thankfully he survived, with no backlash on the saloon. This saloon was located about where the Harbor Bar is today.

Mr. P. O. Hirsch from Blair operated the Steinkraus Saloon, following the move to Pierce County by the elder Mr. Steinkraus having moved his general store out of the saloon to Plainview. Mr. Hirsch's tailoring business occupied the unused part of the saloon, and he became active in community social events and municipal politics. Uncle Tom's Cabin made its debut in the Widaman building, west of Steinkraus, owned by L. Schentzel. The hall above the saloon became the opera house. "Uncle Tom" lasted a whole week. Religious services were held there as well as dances, and later the G. A. R. post headquarters located there.

Another 'watering hole' of note-- a "silk stocking" type of saloonist was Jack Riley who was dressed "to the nines" and conducted a fine bar on the north side of Main between Third and Fourth Streets. In addition to liquors, he introduced high class gambling to the conservative little community. A sporting class soon developed with patrons willing to 'take a chance' on games and sports. They soon learned the nuances of 'shell games' from the professionals, who left town overnight.

The diversity of places selling more than just liquor opened another chapter in Norfolk's development as a frontier town. Norfolk Junction was not forgotten. The railroads were not in favor

of liquor in the Junction, fearing insufficient regulation and police protection. But the 'initiated' merely by asking for "the best stuff in the world", received something considerably stronger than just soda water. And that expression was quoted by the railroad boys all the way from Omaha to Long Pine.

Later, the Prohibition years developed a culture and activities unique to it as to no other part of town life. Many are the tales of that era that can be told about the hi-jinks of bootlegging, bathtub gin, and even car gas tanks that were not filled with gas but with 'bootleg'. Federal liquor sleuths were kept busy with surprise attacks on liquor dealers; innovatively buying spiked beer, home brew and whiskey, with newspaper accounts giving names of citizens arrested. Anonymous tips often brought sudden overnight departures of rural 'houses of interest' before local police arrived, which helped Norfolk's 'clean' reputation. It was tough for local bootleggers to make a living.

In 1871 never could the pioneers have imagined that their little settlement would one day be brewing its own beer, and the public eagerly celebrating an annual Oktoberfest.

Early Day Entertainment

Even before saloons came on the scene, pioneers made sure that life in the new settlement was not all work and no play. Women used every opportunity for a little fun or a simple diversion from daily realities of preparing food, making their clothing, cleaning, and raising the children. There was no end of quilting bees to catch up on news, and church socials, sometimes with a hint of romance, were regular events young and old looked forward to. Picnics were often combined with wild berry and plum picking. Every wedding was an excuse for all to celebrate--local talent provided music with fiddles and freely adapted favorite old tunes to whatever instrument was on hand. Dances often lasted late into the night, and in the frigid wintertime the ride home snuggled cozily under fur rugs and blankets didn't diminish the fun of a night out. Favorite card games were 'High Five' and 'Black Peter' for evenings when the entire family was not busy making household necessities like wooden shoes, brooms and working the sheep wool for spinning.

Warneke relates the importance of music, original and innovative, as part of the early day life.

The first brass band was organized in 1870s with considerable local talent, and became a mainstay of civic events; 4th of July celebrations were not complete without a parade and marching band. Some early bands included Fred Kuhn on the cornet, Sam Gardner as snare drummer; early band leader Prof. Gale (first teacher of vocal music in public schools), and John Chesney of the well known 'cowboy' band of Madison who took first prize at later G.A.R. reunions. Also making music was "Mac" Morris, clarinetist, who gave indoor concerts, W. C. Ahlman, an 'old timer' still active, and R. R. King, director of the firemen's band. Innovations with instruments and music was the order of the day. Wagons were specially outfitted with boards for musicians to sit on during the 4th July parades, and gaily decorated with our national colors. Funds were donated for uniforms and displays were encouraged, including business advertising in later years. The need to express 'patriotism' ruled the day, even if ear-shattering.

Herman Braasch, Sr. Pioneer Settler and founder of Norfolk

Herman Braasch, Sr. successfully led the wagon trains in 1866 from Jefferson County, Wisconsin to Madison County, Nebraska, and never looked back. Herman had a vision of the future and never doubted they would succeed in establishing a new and better life here.

Herman was born March 22, 1818, to Karl F. and Charlotte (Crahn) Braasch, in Prussia



(Pomerania). His first wife, Friederika Yaeger, was born August 15, 1803 in Prussia, and walked alongside the wagon train with their children; many of the others walked the entire distance.

The Wisconsin settlers lived in their wagons that summer of 1866 while building their log houses on lots drawn so that each settler had land as close to, or on the North Fork River. Ambitious to provide a better life for his family, Herman paid Mattias Carr \$200 for his claim on the river (near present King's Park in SE ¼ Sec. 24), which had a 16 by 16 foot rough log hut, and 15 acres seeded to wheat. He also dug the first real well in Madison County although the water in the creek was clear, as there were no plowed fields and no dust. Herman Braasch established his homestead in Section 22 and laid out the plat for the Original Town

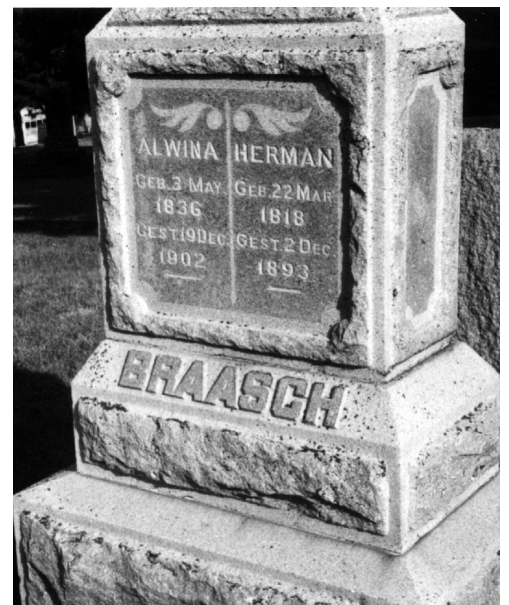
of Norfolk in 1869, with Braasch Avenue aptly named for himself. He later platted more additions to Norfolk, which still bear his name.

The small harvest of wheat from the 15 acres that first year they sold for \$2.25 a bushel. Their daily living was very simple but they had lots of cornmeal, vegetables and meat, including lots of mutton as that was very cheap. Farming was done mostly by hand, but industrious and hardworking, Herman and August Raasch brought an 8 H.P. threshing machine from Omaha the next year, which became a community affair for all the neighbors used it. The first threshing demonstration was held in a field just north of the present Granada block, and all celebrated the holiday with women baking cakes for the occasion. The threshing machine was loaned out as far as Union Creek, 16 miles.

Herman was a farmer, but was conscientious on civic duties. He was one of the first county commissioners, and served as judge in the fight over location of the county seat. He assisted in building the St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Georgia Avenue in 1867, the first of any denomination in this area, and was one of the first deacons. Earlier Church services had been held in homes of Herman Braasch, and Frederick Wagner. Pastor Heckendorf arrived that fall of 1866.

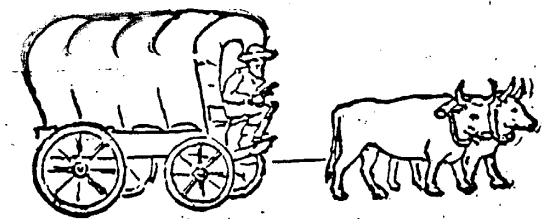
The pioneers endured many hardships of fires, floods and grasshoppers but also had fun and played games whenever they could. Once in a while a book or paper was available for those who could read. There was much visiting back and forth between families and friends. Despite some early concern over the Indians nearby, they were neighborly to all and shared what they had. Religion played a big part in their lives and the first "thanksgiving" service was held in July upon their arrival at their destination.

Herman's first wife, Friedericka Yaeger, died in childbirth on September 20, 1867, after only one year in her new home. This was the first death in the Wisconsin colony, and a great hardship for him and their nine children. He soon married Alvina M. Wille, born May 3, 1836, in Germany. Herman died December 2, 1893, ending a life full of accomplishments. Alvina died December 19, 1902 and Herman and Alvina are buried in the St. Paul's Cemetery in Norfolk, NE.



Herman Braasch Jr's Story of the Wagon Train Trip in 1866

Herman Braasch, Jr. was only 13 years old that summer of 1866, and filled with excitement and a sense of adventure as he and the other children picked out a few favorite toys to take along on the trek west out of Wisconsin. Young Herman well remembered and later told how they walked alongside the wagon train with their parents, herded the animals, gathered wood for fires and older boys hunted with the men. They played 'hide and seek' games in the grass so tall the



wagons were lost, and children who wandered too far out had a moment of panic in finding their own wagon again. Grownups knew there would be hardships but the children had no idea what to expect. Every day was a new adventure and they picked wild flowers for wreaths, and sang songs to break the monotony of only more grass and trees everywhere they looked. All were amused when August Lenz had to enlarge his two pig crates twice en-route because everyone was feeding the 'pets'. Herman watched from their covered wagon as his dad herded the livestock, planted potatoes north of West Point, and how the men cut down trees to build a bridge across the Humbug Creek. He could hardly believe it when they finally arrived in July of 1866, where the Elkhorn and North Fork Rivers meet south of present day Norfolk, their new homeland.

'Yes' and 'No' were the extent of Herman's English vocabulary, as he heard no English in Wisconsin and everyone spoke German. He did not attend school in the new settlement, so he did a lot of fishing. Everyone ate whatever food was available he said, and the daily work and fresh air made them strong and healthy, so there was very little sickness. Doctors were scarce, and often for a cold a dose of black pepper was the remedy!

He found the Indians very interesting, but did not play with those he guessed close to his age as he could not talk with them. Their skilled use of bows and arrows really impressed him, especially when they shot pennies off one another's fingers. But there was little for young boys to do—they hauled wood and fed cattle. Herman, Jr. said "I was twenty years old and had never spent a dollar, for the simple reason that I never had one!" He said people today have no idea how much the pioneers suffered for lack of money.

He later worked up near Plainview, and married Anna Hohne in West Point in 1878. They farmed in Pierce County for 25 years and raised their family. In 1905 they returned to Norfolk, to their home on Georgia Avenue, where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November of 1928, and his 76th birthday that December.

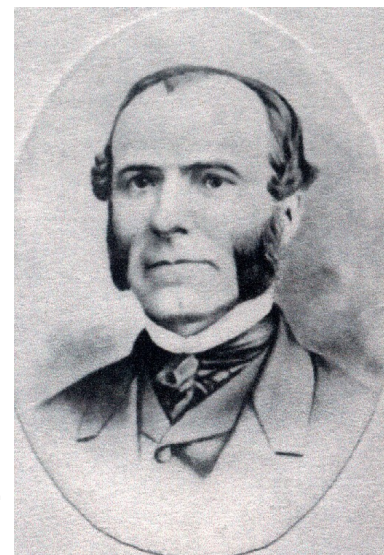
They enjoyed several of the Braasch family reunions as many of the descendants of all related families came to relive family history and create new memories. A Pioneer History of the Braasch Family was written in 1956 and was added to with a supplement in 1981.

Colonel Charles E. Mathewson and the Norfolk Roller Mill

Many Norfolk pioneers had served in the Civil War, including Col. Charles E. Mathewson (11th Connecticut Reg.) and Herman Gerecke (16th Wisconsin Infantry). They had worked together

several years for the government on the Winnebago Reservation. Herman Gerecke earlier had explored some of this area and decided to settle in Norfolk where he saw the need for his skills.

Before the Mathewson grist mill was completed in 1870, Herman Gerecke had in the spring of 1869 already built the first frame house in the Norfolk settlement for Col. Charles E. Mathewson. It was a spacious 2-story, with ample front porch, well situated on the southwest corner of First Street and Main (101 Norfolk Ave.) After Col. Mathewson's house was completed his wife arrived to take charge. The ten or more men who worked on the mill boarded there and were delighted with this new abode, for they had endured the crudest of sleeping facilities in a primitive soddy near the banks of the river, known as the 'Stovepipe' hotel—a generous description. In fact, Mathewson's home was the first and only decent 'boarding' place for numerous arrivals those first years, until Wegener's Norfolk House and other homes became available. But as with most frontier people sharing whatever was available was the norm.



The Roller Mills was the business opportunity Mathewson had envisioned, producing daily 150-200 sacks of flour, and 300+ bushels of grain when in full production with new machinery. The spindles didn't stop turning from 12 o'clock Sunday night until 12 o'clock Saturday night. The largest shipment of flour in one day was 24,000 lbs. The mill had their own brand they called Jersey Cream and it was known far and wide as a quality product and was produced until the mill closed in the 1970s.



Added to the convenience of a mill so close at hand was the employment it gave to the village which was much needed, as the Kinkaid Act of 1862 was the catalyst for caravans of immigrant wagons, lured by ads promising land at low prices and a better future. Operating at full speed night and day for maximum production was beneficial for the most part for all workers, but it takes only one misstep to bring disaster.

Such was the case for August Hitz as he attempted to step over a swiftly moving conveyor belt, fell and was entangled in the large pulley, and as a result was brought to his untimely death near midnight April 18, 1893. Local Drs. Salter and Tashjean examined every part of his mangled body but could offer no relief as the damage was simply too severe, in addition to internal hemorrhage. Mr. Hitz was conscious coming out of the anesthetic, and aware of his hopeless condition. Everyone was thankful that his suffering was relieved by his death shortly after midnight. August Hitz was born August 25, 1856 in Germany. He was survived by his wife, Matilda Leistikow Hitz, and 4 small children. They came to America with their baby son in 1884, and on

several years for the government on the Winnebago Reservation. Herman Gerecke earlier had explored some of this area and decided to settle in Norfolk where he saw the need for his skills.

to Norfolk where August had relatives. August was a carpenter by trade, and had safely stepped over the belt many times, which this time carried him to his death. The funeral was at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, with burial in the Church cemetery. Birchard, Bridges and Company (the new owners of the mill after Col. Mathewson left) extended sympathies, paid the expenses of the funeral, and indicated there was some accident insurance to benefit the family. No one could have foreseen such a tragic and sorrowful end to a good and productive life. (NDN 4/19/1893)

Norfolk's first 4th of July 1871--

Mathewson's Roller Mills had been grinding grain only a short time before the North Fork villagers decided they wanted to celebrate, and what could be a better reason than the 4th of July, 1871.

The number of families situated around the Mill was not great but they arranged for the Cuming County Rock Creek band to provide the music for a little dancing, and a few local citizens volunteered to speak about the country and the new settlement. And a good time was had by all, according to old timers' fond memories in later years. The cost for the whole program was only \$40. The setting for this celebration was ground at the north end of where the Mill later built its dam. Covered with trees it was the perfect spot, and was reached by a temporary footbridge made of crude, large wood sawhorses sunk in the water and covered with planks, crossing over the 40 ft. river. This ground was later washed away as the course of the river changed with the construction of the Mill and dam.

(This likely was some of the Johnson Park ground.) (Norfolk Daily News July 13, 1907)

Herman Gerecke

Herman Gerecke is one of the Wisconsin pioneers who contributed so much to the history and development of Norfolk into the productive center of northeast Nebraska it is today. His life story is one of persistence, hard work and never giving up in face of adversity. At 17 years of age he enlisted in the 16th Wisconsin Infantry, and shortly found himself in one of the most fierce and deadly battles of the Civil War—the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. Surviving a gunshot wound in his leg, he was discharged, but having recovered, he courageously re-enlisted in Iowa in 1863 and served until discharged in May of 1866.

He arrived in Norfolk in 1869 and saw the great need for help in the primitive settlement. Being a carpenter it was not just the mill construction he took on. After he built Col. Charles Mathewson's home, and other homes in the village, he helped with building schools and churches. Civic duties came easily to him as he saw the need; he initiated a petition to the County Board for Norfolk to be classed and granted rights of a village. He was elected Norfolk's first mayor when population reached 1000, serving three terms—1886, 1889 and 1890. Being a charter member and commander of the Mathewson Post of the G.A.R. brought him great pride and satisfaction. He served on school boards, and was Justice of the Peace for 14 years. His building advice was disregarded when the fire department bell tower was being built and it was discovered the tower was not strong enough to securely support the large bell. Then his advice was sought and his lumber and construction knowledge solved the problem, thus securing the bell.

His business interests and real estate investments were many and included the Norfolk Electric Light & Power Co. At a council meeting one night Rome Miller asked Mayor Gerecke what he would 'take' for the lot just east of the present Hotel Norfolk. Having no intention of selling the lot, and recalling that no Norfolk lot had ever sold for more than \$400, Mayor Gerecke replied "One Thousand Dollars". Mr. Miller promptly took him up on that offer and bought the lot for \$1000. and sold it a short time later for \$2,500, refuting Herman's notion that it was a foolish purchase.

Herman also invested in the Norfolk Brick & Tile Company and for many years was steward and carpenter at the Norfolk State Hospital, and he was instrumental in building or assisting with building almost every building owned by the State including those at the State Hospital.



As indicated in Warneke's Norfolk Press, Herman Gerecke who, like George Washington, has been "first" in many things, celebrated his 88th birthday on Sunday July 22, 1932, remarking that had it not been Sunday, there would have been no time to celebrate. Work came first--true to form.

Herman Gerecke, was born August 28, 1844 in Germany and Sarah E. Brickley was born in 1855. They were married July 22, 1871 in Waterloo, Nebraska, and had a family of seven children. Sarah died unexpectedly on Oct. 29, 1910 of heart disease. Herman later married Mrs. Grace Dedrick, a 22 year old widow with a small boy, Charles. Herman and Grace, though more than twice Grace's age, were happily married and they had one son, Herman, Jr. in 1916. Herman lived to be 91 years old, passing away on June 10, 1936. After his death, Grace and Herman, Jr. continued to live in Norfolk until World War II when they moved to California. Grace never remarried and Herman Jr. had a distinguished military career passing away in 2002.

GREETINGS from our MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

It was a busy summer for our genealogists, so we were pleased that most members were able to attend our August 15th meeting at the Norfolk Public Library for the purpose of learning about its digital newspaper archiving program. Reference Assistant Amy explained digital archiving of records, and gave us an excellent demonstration of how the library's digital program works for The Norfolk Daily News, which covers the years 1888 to 1955.

The procedures are quite similar to regular computer usage. The individual's Norfolk Public Library card is scanned for identification and access, followed by a printed ticket that indicates which computer is available to view the digital newspaper. Viewing is limited to one hour. If a copy of a particular article is needed it is highlighted and a print is easily made. A large number of computers are available providing Internet access, and this digital newspaper is another useful technology. A sincere thank you from the members of the Madison County Genealogical Society to reference assistant Amy for her pleasant and informative Library tour.

There was no September meeting and our next meeting will be October 17th, at the Elkhorn Valley Museum.

MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA MARRIAGE RECORDS Book One #1 - 1868 to 1888

Page (Note: spellings are as in the original records not as we know and use them today)

50. George Huerman, age 31; born Germany; son of Herman Huerman and Margaretta Licher. Emelie I. Fenske, age 20; born Wisconsin; dau. of Julie G. Kastner Fenske. Lisc. Issued: 20 June 1872 Married: 4 July 1872 Witnesses: Adam Pilger and William Siefert.
51. T. W. Farage, age 25; born England; son of Daniel Farage and Caroline Fenton. Alice M. Gilbert, age 16; born Indiana; dau. of Miles Gilbert and N.J. Severence. Lisc. issued: 11 May 1872 Married: 11 May 1872 at house of Elias Martin. Witnesses: Elias Martin and Samuel Gilbert.
52. John A. Wilson, age 35; born Ohio; son of William L. Wilson & Jane McCoy. Malisa Gardner, age 18; born Illinois; dau. of William Gardner & Ellen Ritchards. Lisc. iss: 30 April 1872 Md: 2 May 1872 in 1st Pres. church Madison. Wit: F. W. Barnes, Samuel J. Adair & Fredric Schwenk.
53. Frank W. Barnes, age 22; born New York; son of Henry M. Barnes and Sallie A. Barnes. Phebe Banch, age 20; born Illinois; dau. of Michael Banch and Jusbina Windem. Lisc. issued: 18 April 1872 Married: 16 July 1872 - 1st Pres. Church Madison. Witnesses: Peter J. Barnes, George A. Adair, and Otto Persens.
54. George Seckel of Battle Creek, Mad. Co., Nebraska. Barbara Schott of Madison County, Nebraska. Lisc. issued: 24 October 1872 Married: 26 October 1872 at John Lucht res. by Rev. J. C. Rupprecht. Witnesses: John Lucht and John Brewser.
55. Melvin S. Rickard, age 26; born Iowa; son of Solomon Rickard and Mary Ann Martindale. Emma M. Hoyt, age 22; born Iowa; dau. of William Hoyt. Lisc. issued: 28, April 1872 Married: 4 May 1872 at Ruben Hurd res. Witnesses: Henry Ward, Chandler Hurd and others.
56. William G. Montgomery, age 25; born Pennsylvania; son of William Montgomery and Susan Giere. Martha C. Williams, age 19; born Ohio; dau. of Richard Williams and Abigail Rutherford. Lisc. issued: 28 June 1872 Married: 16 July 1872 at res. of Richard Witnesses: Maggie Blankenship & Richard Williams.
57. John Delskwith and Alice Amelia Derry. Lisc. issued: 26 May 1872 Married: 27 May 1872 at Charles Derry res. Witnesses: Charles Hutchens and Cynthia Hutchens.
58. Fredrick Harris, age 22; born Illinois; son of David Harris and Emily J. Barnes. Anna Young, age 22; born Illinois; dau. of William N. Young and Matilda M. Smith. Lisc. issued: 14 Aug. 1872 Married: 18 Aug. 1872 Witnesses: David Young and Mary E. Young and others.
59. David A. Cramer, age 22; born Illinois; son of James Cramer and Liddie L. Law. Mary E. Best, age 16; born Minnesota; dau. of Isaac Best and Catharine Ricker. Lisc. issued: 28 Sept. 1872 Married: 30 Sept. 1872 Witnesses: J.W. Best and Catie Cramer and others.
60. William Koepsel, age 28; born Germany; son of John Koepsel and Carolin Welderbrand. Amelie Buntrock, age 18; born Germany; dau. of William Buntrock and Mary Bailey.

2015—2016 Officers

Phyllis McCain, Bobette Ferguson, Bernice Walters

Madison County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031

Our Society Website is at
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/

Our future meetings

October 17, 2015
 November 21, 2015
 (Meeting at the Elkhorn Valley
 Museum)
 December no meeting
 January Christmas party
 (Location to be determined)
Join us and bring a friend

Memberships are \$15 per year. Our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st annually and includes our newsletter. Joining anytime is welcome and your first year membership will be pro-rated to expire on August 31st. If you would like to join our society please send your payment to our mailing address, Please include your email address. Let us know if you prefer an email newsletter or a paper printed copy.

Meetings on 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January, at 10 a.m. at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE., in the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.

Queries, Society contact, Change of address, or Newsletter submissions can reach us by mail at our mailing address P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031, or by email at mcgs@telebeep.com. We are here to help you in your research for your ancestors in Madison county.

Lisc. issued: 29 Aug. 1872 Married: 6 Sept. 1872 by F. C. Rupprecht, Min.

61. C. F. Hoefs of Stanton County, Nebraska & Augusta N. Bornfleth of Stanton County.

Lisc. Issued: 30 Nov. 1872 Married: 27 Dec. 1872 at E. F. Hoefs res.

Witnesses: William Wireter and Gottlieb Brummond.

62. Henry Ertzner, age 23; born Germany; son of Henry Ertzner and Louisa Wichert of Stanton County, Nebraska. Louisa Lehman, age 21; born Wisconsin; dau. of Fredrich Lehman and Henrietta Melcher of Madison County, Nebraska. Lisc. issued: 29 Nov. 1872

Married: 15 Dec. 1872 St. Paul's Church, Norfolk.

63. Constantine Hughes, age 23; born Indiana; son of Constantine Hughes and Claracy Smith. Alice Kellogg, age 20; born Indiana; dau. of A. Kellogg and Rebecca Carter. Lisc. issued: 26 Nov. 1872 Married: 28 Nov. 1872 by Jacob Debriger, Min.

Witnesses: F.C. Osborne, J.S. Fowler and Martha Fowler.

64. Bernard Stolle of Madison Co., Nebraska & Anna Schoelenberg of Madison Co. Lisc. issued: 4 Nov. 1872 Married: 16 Nov. 1872 Witnesses: George Hausman and Emlie Hausman

65. August Kohn, age 25; born Germany; res. Pierce Co, Nebraska; son of Fredrick Kohn and Mary Ronka. Mary Rohl, age 27; born Germany; res. Pierce County, Nebraska; dau of Gottfried Rohl and Christina Naase. Lisc. issued: 12 Dec. 1872 Married: 26 Dec. 1872 at St. Paul's Church, Norfolk, Nebr. Witnesses: G. Rohrke and Ben Heckendorf.

To be continued in the next issue

Madison County Genealogical Society
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**Chronicling America Posts its 10 Mil-
lionth Historic Newspaper Page**

Chronicling America, an online searchable database of historic U.S. newspapers, has posted its 10 millionth page today. Way back in 2013, Chronicling America boasted 6 million pages available for access online. Obviously, the site is growing rapidly. The site makes digitized newspapers (of those published between 1836 and 1922) available through the National Digital Newspaper <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Contents:

Norfolk history, Oktoberfest, 1870s, saloons and temperance	pages 1-4
Early Day Entertainment	page 4
Herman Braasch, Sr.	pages 4-5
Herman Braasch, Jr's wagon train ride to Norfolk	page 6
Colonel Charles Mathewson and the Norfolk Roller Mill	pages 6-8
Norfolk's First 4th of July 1871	page 8
Herman Gerecke	pages 8-9
Madison Co. Gen. Soc. news	page 9
Madison County Marriage Records continued	pages 10-11
Society contact information	page 11
Websites—Contents	page 12

The popular PBS show, *Finding Your Roots* Season 3 hosted and produced by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., will resume in January 2016. Among the celebrities we can expect to see under the ancestral microscope early next year are Patricia Arquette, Lidia Bastianich, Richard Branson, Donna Brazile, Ty Burrell, LL Cool J, Mia Farrow, Bill Hader, Neil Patrick Harris, Dustin Hoffman, Jimmy Kimmel, Norman Lear, Maya Lin, Bill Maher, Julianna Margulies, John McCain, Julianne Moore, Azar Nafisi, Bill O'Reilly, Shondra Rhimes, Maya Rudolph, Gloria Steinem, Kara Walker, and Keenen Ivory Wayans.