

Madison County Remembers...

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HENRY F. FISCHER First Pioneer Child born in Madison County



William Fischer

William F. Fischer was another of Norfolk's earliest settlers from Wisconsin who couldn't get here fast enough for his wife, Wilhelmine (Wichman), expecting their first child. She had without complaint endured the confinement of the lurching wagon, though the weeks seemed to stretch endlessly into the horizon. At last, in July of 1866 their covered wagons crossed the Elkhorn River at the North Fork junction. William, Carl Wichman (Wilhelmine's father), and her brother Frank, quickly set up camp on a flat area north of the Elkhorn River in Madison County, on land where the Norfolk Junction railroad depot would later be built. Wichmans later filed homesteads there, but with winter fast approaching, the first necessity was for the men to prepare dugouts for their families.

It was time for William and Wilhelmine's first child, Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm, and he was born November 26, 1866, in the covered wagon in which his mother had learned to live. Henry was the first child born who lived, in the 1866 pioneer settlement north of the Elkhorn River. So it was a memorable event for family and friends to have baby Henry baptized December 1, 1866, by Pastor Heckendorf. Sponsors were Friedrich Wichman, Julius Wichert and Mrs. Louise Lenz.

William's dugout was replaced by a log cabin with a dirt roof, and before long a frame house was built to provide for the growing family. Sadly, early in 1871 father William died from pneumonia he developed after a day hunting prairie chickens. William was first laid to rest in the original Kidder Cemetery, which was located west of Highway 81 directly across from the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery. In September of 1962 he was reburied in a more suitable location, along with other Kidder graves, in Section 7 of the Prospect Hill Cemetery located north of Norfolk on 13th Street, (at the northwest corner of Maple Avenue and Highway 81).

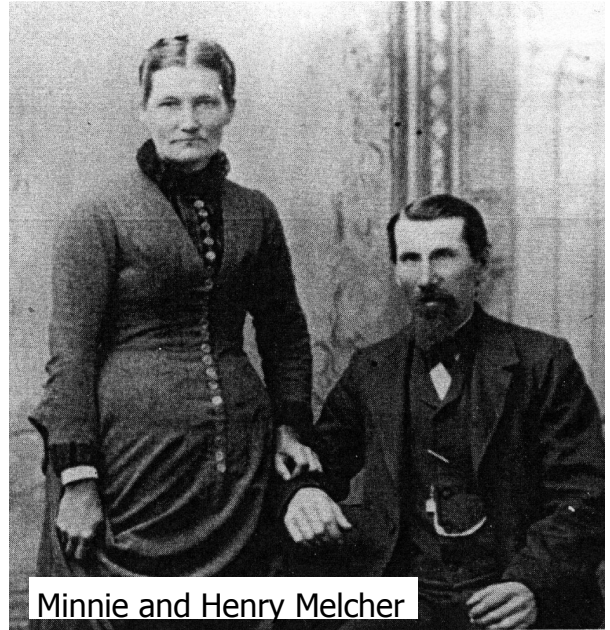
Henry enjoyed telling about his early pioneer life and how he had three homes—from dugout to log cabin, and finally the frame home. He and his two brothers, Louis and Ernest, attended the German school and learned to read and write but only in German. He picked up what he could of English but felt handicapped all his life, he said, by not being able to read or write in English. He recalls that "mother made all our clothing



Henry Fischer at age 85

by hand, even the men's heavy clothing. She also made candles out of tallow, but lots of times our only light was from a rag soaked in grease and burning in a saucer. We all worked hard and I remember planting corn by hand—a small box on the end of the planter held the kernels of corn and as we would put the stick down in a hill, a few kernels would drop. The field was first marked – so it would be straight and even.” Holidays, he said were not made much of, and they had simple gifts for the children, and “peppernuts” (German-Pfeffernusse) which he still likes as they are made better today.

After the death of his father, his mother married Henry Melcher on June 26, 1871. When Henry was about 17 years old they moved to Pierce County. They farmed a mile west of where Osmond, Nebraska is today...there was no town at that time. On November 17, 1890 Henry married Martha Pauline Korth, born October 22, 1874, the daughter of William and Wilhelmine (Paul) Korth, who had emigrated from Prussia (Pomerania). Henry and Martha farmed northeast of Pierce for many years, and raised their family of seven children but sadly, twin sons died as babies. Martha passed away March 8, 1916, and Henry then moved to Pierce, with his sons Ed and Robert operating the farm.



Minnie and Henry Melcher

September 24, 1923 Henry married Clara Elise Raasch, born September 1, 1883, daughter of John and Johanna (Braasch) Raasch, and they continued to live in Pierce where they kept a large garden, and Henry helped out on the farm which he thoroughly enjoyed. After Clara died September 18, 1948, Henry's two daughters, Minnie (Fischer) Eberhardt and Selma Fischer lived with him until he moved to the Goodrich Apartments, and then to the Lutheran Home in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. Henry passed away in Omaha, on November 7, 1961, at the age of 94 years, 11 months and 9 days. Henry Fischer and his first wife Martha (Korth) are buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery at Pierce, and his second wife Clara is buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Norfolk.

Henry's father, Wilhelm F. Fischer, was born October 5, 1835 in Prussia (Pomerania), and died in 1871, reburied in the Prospect Hill Cemetery as stated. His wife, Henry's mother, was Wilhelmine (Wichman) Melcher-Kahler, born October 5, 1845 in Prussia, and died May 20, 1928 in Osmond, Pierce County, Nebraska. The Henry Melcher gravestone 1847-1909 is in the Osmond Cemetery, and includes Minnie Melcher-Kahler 1845-1928.

Following Henry Melcher's death in 1909, 'Minnie' was listed as the wife of Henry Kahler on the 1920 census. Research indicates that Henry Kahler (Hans Jurgen Kahler) was born June 8, 1848 on the Fehmarn Island off the north coast of Germany, Baltic Sea area. He married Ernstena Stark on February 11, 1875 in Germany and they emigrated to America. They raised a large family, settling in the Osmond area. Ernstena (born Jan. 24, 1855) died October 23, 1912. Sometime after that Henry married 'Minnie' Fischer-Melcher. Henry died April 28, 1932 and both Ernstena and Henry Kahler are buried in the Eden Valley Cemetery, Pierce County, NE. This Fischer genealogy covers a broad area in northeast Nebraska, as does the Korth lineage,

and also the Kahler ancestry, all of which expand throughout the United States. Research continues in Pomerania records which indicate the origins of many Fischer lines. The Kahler family is included in the Osmond Centennial book 1890-1990.

Ferdinand Pasewalk Pioneer Homesteader and Developer in Norfolk



A large part of Norfolk owes its development and success to **Ferdinand Pasewalk** who was born February 4, 1823, to John and Friederike Pasewalk, in Hohenschoenau, Naugard District of Pomerania (Prussia). He married Friederike Louise Sell and they emigrated to America some time in 1847, with their nine-month old child, Wilhelmine, born August 31, 1846. Friederike Louise Sell was born January 24, 1822 in Pomerania, daughter of Johann and Friederike (Nash) Pasewalk. After landing in New York they continued on to Wisconsin, as did many other "old Lutheran" immigrants who desired religious freedom which was no longer possible in their Pomerania, and wanted to escape their hereditary serfdom to the nobles. America also offered a chance to acquire land. Many of those Germans from Pomerania settled in Wisconsin, as shown in much of the pioneer history.

Pasewalk research continues with interesting history...Pasewalk is a town situated in "Vorpommern" –eastern Pomerania a few miles west of the Oder River, (now the German-Polish border) and Stettin which was given to Poland at the end of World War II. Intriguing also is the family story that earlier Pasewalks had served with distinction in the army of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia 1740-1786, and were successful artisans and sword makers in the king's court. It's thought the town was named Pasewalk in their honor.

Ferdinand homesteaded at Ixonia, near Watertown, Wisconsin, where they raised their children in benevolent Christian religion and work ethics. By 1867 Nebraska was seen as greater opportunity with available cheaper land. So they joined in the second wave of wagon trains leaving Ixonia in 1867 to homestead in Nebraska. Pasewalks had three wagons pulled by horses and full of all their household goods, so many of the children had to walk most of the 600 + miles to the Norfolk settlement.

Pasewalk family history relates that Ferdinand was able to swap a team of horses or mules for 40 acres along the Elkhorn River. This provided them with lumber to build their first home--a one room log cabin with sod roof, with a second room added later. Here they lived for two years, and Ferdinand hauled the wheat from the 40 acres to Rock Creek near West Point or Columbus for milling, until the Norfolk Mill began operation.

In the draw for new homesteads Ferdinand was lucky. His tract covered a large area in the south part of the newly laid out town. His Pasewalk Additions reached from Park Avenue south to the Norfolk Junction, east to the North Fork River and west beyond the Northwestern Railroad. As the city was laid out into lots Ferdinand became one of the wealthiest men in Norfolk, leaving a magnificent estate for his heirs. But during his lifetime he shared his good fortune willingly with less affluent family, and others in need.

His sons formed the Pasewalk Corporation to continue their father's civic developments, and donated the Pasewalk 'Homestead Grove' of trees—a whole city block to be used as a city park. Renamed Central Park due to its central location between Fifth and Sixth Streets, its north

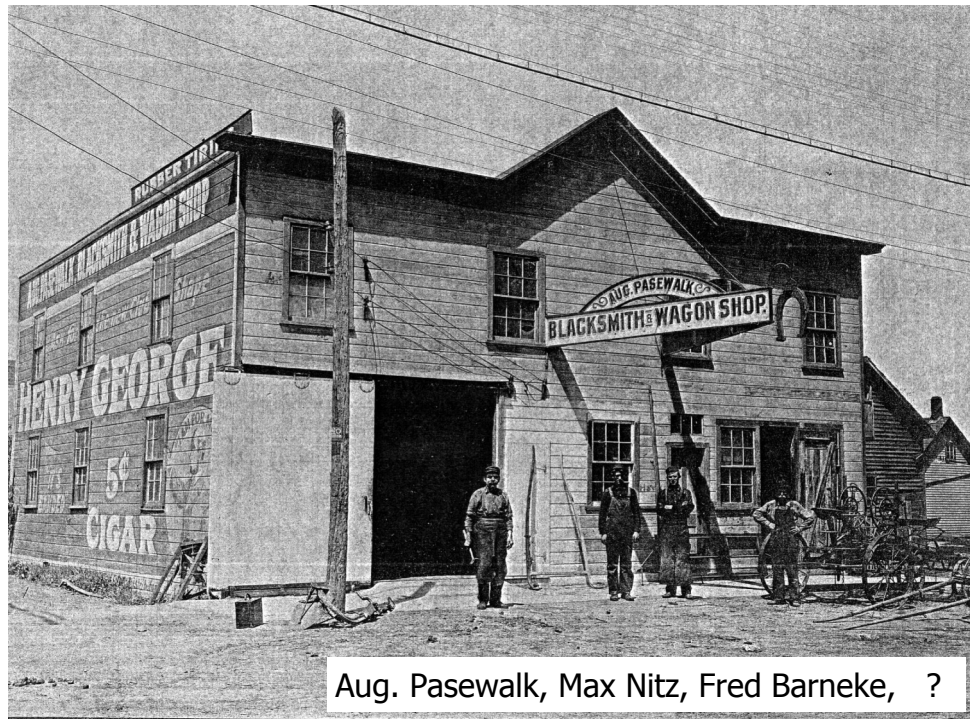


side fronts on Pasewalk Avenue, which was so named in honor of Ferdinand Pasewalk. Central Park was truly the "peoples' park" as Warneke said, being the scene for many years of 4th of July celebrations, band concerts on its bandstand, picnics and various free entertainments for Norfolks who used it almost daily. In 2002 its stature increased with the granite memorial to Veterans of World War II, which is visible from Pasewalk Avenue.

Ferdinand's home was located on South Fifth Street on his homestead. Ferdinand and his first wife, Louise, had nine children, but sadly she died December 24, 1867, during childbirth, only a few months after their arrival in Norfolk. Henry Frederick was the son born at that time. Her death was one of the first of the Wisconsin pioneers and she was laid to rest in the Kidder graveyard west of Highway 81 (now Campbell's Addition), across from St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery. In 1961 her remains were removed to the Prospect Hill Cemetery, but her name was placed on the Ferdinand Pasewalk gravestone in St. Paul's Cemetery in her memory.

Ferdinand married Henriette Schwertfeger on December 23, 1870, and they had three children. Henriette was born about 1847, in Prussia, daughter of John Schwertfeger and Emma Milken. She died May 15, 1924. For forty years pioneer settler Ferdinand lived in his house on his original First Addition on South Fifth Street, and died at 84 years on December 30, 1906. The gravestone in St. Paul's Cemetery carries the names and dates of Ferdinand and both of his wives.

The Pasewalks were active in civic and business affairs as Norfolk developed. Sons of Ferdinand—Herman and August became well known and successful in the blacksmithing and agricultural implement businesses. Herman first purchased the Louis Taylor implement business in the old McClary building. In 1883 he purchased that property at 108-110 Norfolk Avenue from John McClary, who in 1870 had started Norfolk's second general/hardware store there. In 1894 Herman tore down the old frame building, and constructed a fine brick building in which Herman then sold agricultural implements. In

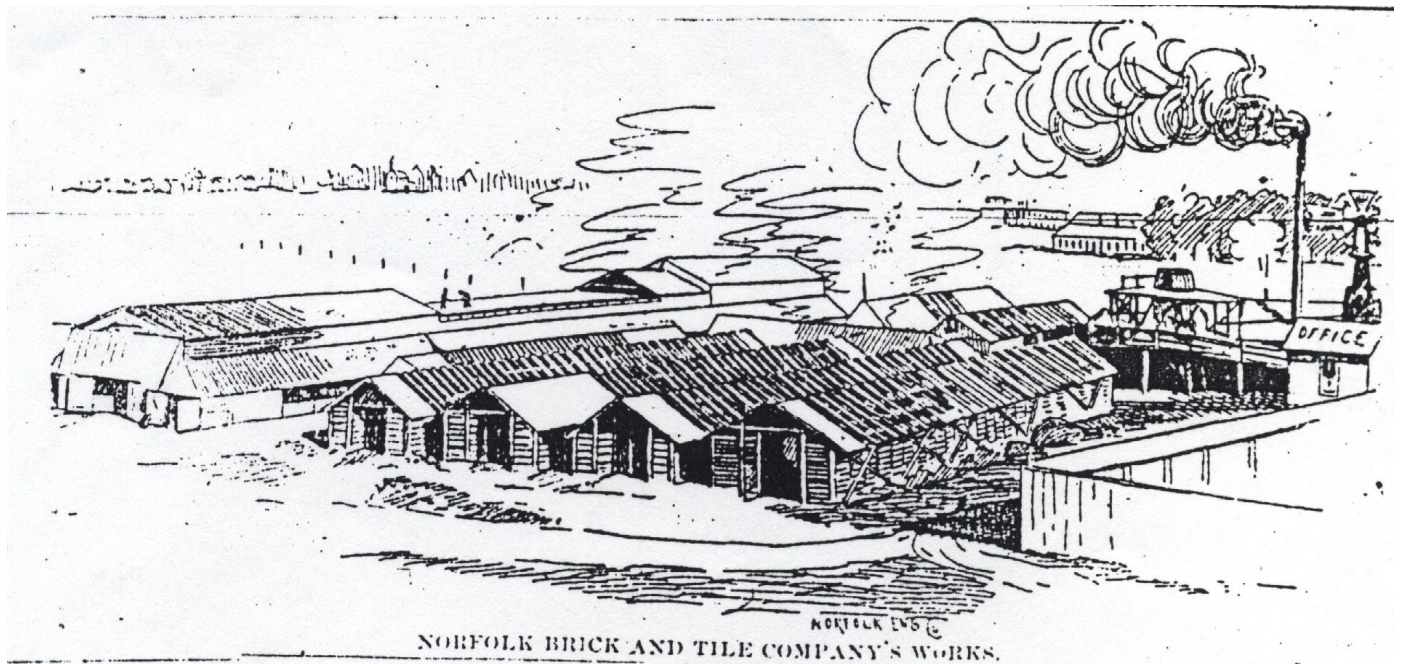


Aug. Pasewalk, Max Nitz, Fred Barneke, ?

the 1930s the building housed the Norfolk Bottling Company, and continued its life as a sign shop, then auto glass, and currently a 'second hand' business enjoys the prime location, which still bears the H. A. Pasewalk name at its peak.

His brother, August F., for many years operated a successful blacksmith and wagon shop on North 3rd Street, later replaced with a new modern style building, that over the years worked through the changes from horse and buggy to automobiles, then Kayl's Sheet Metal Works, 125 North Third Street. It was later updated and is currently occupied by an upholstery business.

Norfolk Brick and Tile Company



The "Hole in the Hill" in the northwest part of town may have had hobgoblins and such as daring youths of the 1870s feared, but actually the 'mystics' of the clay ended up as filler for inner building walls, according to Warneke's account. In May of 1880 John F. Flynn of Columbus arrived and began manufacturing brick from the excellent clay in that 'Hole'. A. P. Pilger joined him as partner in their Norfolk Brick and Tile Company which operated until about April, 1888.

On March 22, 1888, the Norfolk Brick and Tile Company was reorganized, and incorporated with \$60,000. Capital Stock. Dr. Ferdinand Verges was President, Herman Gerecke, Secretary-Treasurer, and General Manager. A. P. Pilger remained as a Board Member.

The plant covered about 4 ½ acres of ground near the corner of Prospect Avenue and the North Seventh-Queen City Blvd intersection. The clay was extra good quality, only three or four feet from the surface, and almost entirely free of limestone. It burned a uniform cherry color with a clear, metallic ring. The machinery came from the Gurney Company of Milwaukee. The plant had three kilns with a capacity of 700,000 brick, and a shed room that is said to have used over 250,000 feet of lumber to construct. It held 180,000 brick. The plant operated day and night, turning out 30,000 brick every 10 hours, for the burning of which 1,200 tons of coal were used every season. The plant was run by steam, and employed 25 people who received over \$10,000

annually in wages. Five horses and carts were used to transport materials.

Construction in Norfolk was very lively so most of this brick was used for Norfolk buildings, except the first two built, and the water works building. But ten carloads were sent to outside towns, and these were spared with reluctance, notwithstanding there was another brick yard in Norfolk. Each of the three kilns held 235,000 brick, there being fifteen arches to each kiln, and required about seventy tons of coal at a firing. There were ten sheds for drying, each one hundred feet in length, with a total capacity of 225,000 brick. The plant had the advantage of a side track of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad to deliver their coal, and they loaded the brick from the kiln right to the railroad cars.

Contractors praised Norfolk brick and said that there was no better brick made in the state than that of the Norfolk Brick and Tile Company. Some buildings constructed of this Norfolk brick that still exist today are the original Mathewson bank at 131 Norfolk Avenue--now empty; Asmus building at 232 Norfolk Avenue--now Healthy Paws, and the Eiseley Block at 200-202 Norfolk Avenue--now Winners' Circle store.

Continuous production of such a large quantity of brick gradually depleted the good clay, so it was necessary to close the plant in 1907. Dr. C. J. Verges, son of Dr. Ferdinand Verges, bought the brick yard property in 1910, tore down the old buildings and gradually transformed the brick pit wasteland into a landscaped sunken garden-- the Verges Park. It was used as a rest area for patients from his Verges Sanitarium which he had built south of the park on Prospect Avenue. A paved driveway from the rear of the Sanitarium curved down into the park which had flower gardens, trees, a gazebo and small pond. One of the Park features still fascinating to the public today is the large manmade cave dug into the hill at the west side of the property, used for children and adult entertainment, and in earlier years a few civic meetings, including the Lions Club. In recent years at Halloween it is haunted by ghosts and ghouls lurking in its dark corners, scaring the daylights out of visitors brave enough to venture in, and who shriek with delight at floating, but harmless, apparitions.

In 1959 Dr. C. J. Verges gave the Verges Park to the City of Norfolk "for the health and recreation of the city's youngsters."

SOME GENEALOGICAL HUMOR

A young couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the husband sarcastically asked, "Are they relatives of yours?" "Yes," his wife replied. "I married into the family."

Jeannette Koehn, was a long-standing member of the Madison County Genealogical Society. When she lived in Norfolk, she did a lot of research for our society and she did a lot of the newspaper clipping of obituaries and articles for our files. Jeannette's husband Gene was well-known in Norfolk for his work with WJAG radio and the Norfolk Daily News. In retirement they moved to Missouri and then to Kansas. Jeannette passed away on March 31, 2016 in Wichita, Kansas. She will be fondly remembered by us old-timers.

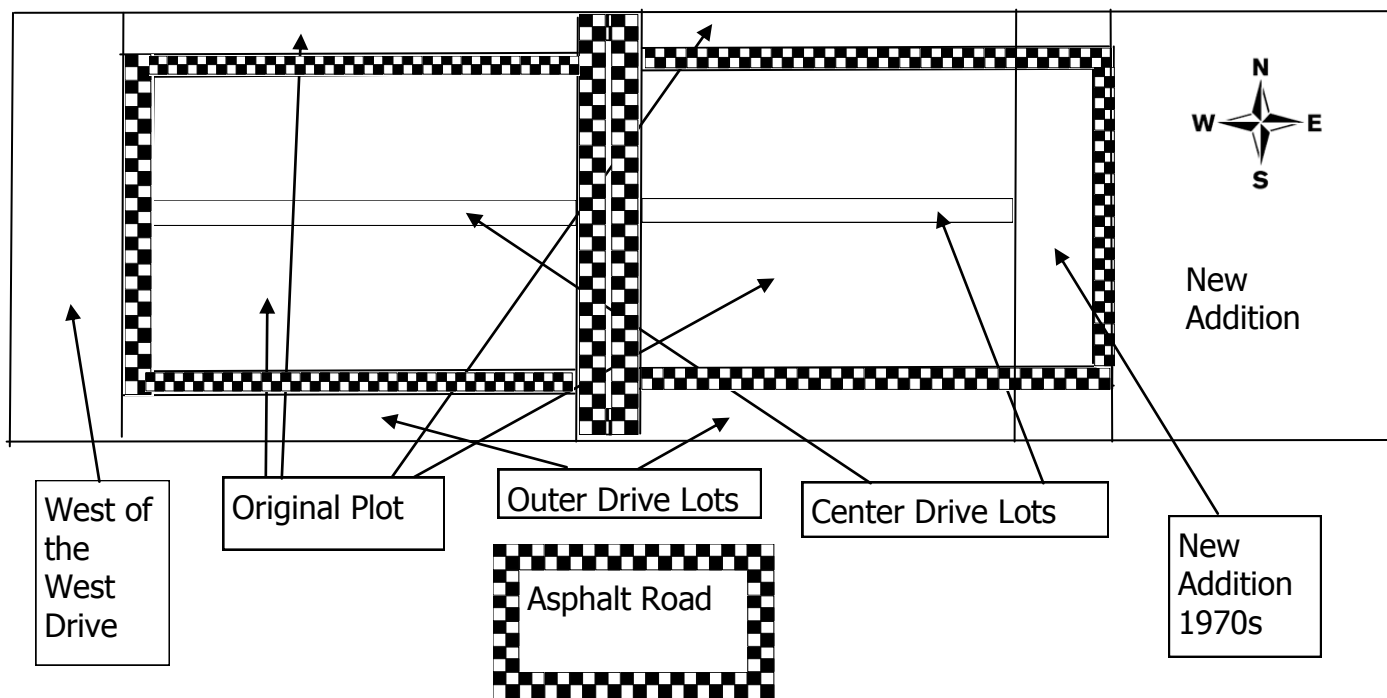


FROM NORFOLK'S PAST: In 1871 the schoolboard voted to build a new schoolhouse on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Norfolk Avenue. The brick came from the yard at 13th and Norfolk Avenue, and while its quality left much to be desired, it did serve students briefly, and also performed a rather unique, and perhaps educational function. It held Madison County's first murder trial. A 17 year old boy, Frank Cottle, was tried for killing a Mr. Fletcher. The grand jury that brought in the indictment held their deliberations in the temporary carpenter work shop of a church building, sitting about on the work benches. Herman Gerecke, C. P. Mathewson and J. S. McClary were on the jury that pronounced the young man guilty. Notwithstanding that, the evening of the day of the trial a dance was held in the schoolhouse, with the convicted man's sister attending.

Some years later a new and better school building was relocated from that Fifth Street corner to the north side of Norfolk Avenue. Later it became the Mittlestadt Booterie, still later the Putters Jewelry Store, 408 Norfolk Avenue.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Nebraska Cemetery Records

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk was founded by members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ixonia, Wisconsin in 1866. The information that follows is from the church cemetery records showing the location, lot number, name of the owner or person buried there (not always the same) and the year of burial. Also included is an occasional note or comment. Other information such as the size of the lot and the location of the grave on the lot and more notes are not shown but are available either from the Church or the Madison Co. Genealogical Society. The cemetery has Highway 81 on the west and Georgia Avenue on the south.



Note: The different parts of the cemetery are labeled as above and will show you which part of the cemetery a person is buried in. Individual lot numbers (a more detailed map) is available but is too complicated to print. Contact the Madison County Genealogical Society for more information at mccgs@telebeep.com or PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68701-1031.

There may be some errors but the records are as the church office has them shown.

PLOT	LOT	LAST_NAME	FIRST_NAME	DATE	COMMENTS
Orig Plot	109	?		No	infant child
Orig Plot	119	?	Lisette	1949	
Orig Plot	127	?		1937	child
Orig Plot	132	?		1928	child
Orig Plot	149	?		1920	baby
Orig Plot	23	?			no stone
Orig Plot	23	?			no stone
Orig Plot	3	?		?	infant grand-daughter
Orig Plot	56	?			twins -- no names
Orig Plot	56	?			
Orig Plot	67	?		No	child
Orig Plot	74	?		1890	child -- no name
Orig Plot	75	?		1927	infant -- no name
Orig Plot	76	?		1965	infant child -- no name
Orig Plot	8	?		?	infant
Outer Drive Lots	46	?			grand-daughter
Orig Plot	160	??		1974	Harold WAGNER's infant son; SCOTT
Orig Plot	158	ADAMS	Hesikia	1990	
Center Drive	L	AHLMAN	Dora	1971	
Center Drive	L	AHLMAN	John	1956	
Orig Plot	127	ASHER	Ray	1941	
West of West Drive		BAHN	Bertha	1957	
West of West Drive		BAHN	Henry	1976	
West of West Drive		BAHN	William	1914	
Orig Plot	39	BAHR	Lloyd	2006	
Orig Plot	39	BAHR	Angie (Mrs. Lloyd)	2008	
West of West Dr		BAHR	Irene	1929	two infants
West of West Drive		BAHR	Arthur	1911	
West of West Drive		BAHR	Ernest	1949	
West of West Drive		BAHR	Bertha	1953	
Orig Plot	41	BAIER	??	?	
Outer Drive Lots	26	BAIER	Lydia	?	
Outer Drive Lots	26	BAIER	Henriett	?	
Outer Drive Lots	26	BAIER	William	1947	
West of West Drive		BAJM	Mrs. Hen	1993	
Orig Plot	161	BAKER	Albert	1995	

PLOT	LOT	LAST_NAME	FIRST_NAME	DATE	COMMENTS
Orig Plot	161	BAKER	Laura	1995	
Orig Plot	116	BARTZ	Paul	1907	
Orig Plot	116	BARTZ	Hermine	1944	
Outer Drive Lots	9	BAUER	Georga	1934	
Outer Drive Lots	9	BAUER	Katherin	1937	
Orig Plot	142	BAUERMEIS- TER	Carl	1975	
Orig Plot	142	BAUERMEIS- TER	Elizabet	1961	
Outer Drive Lots	21	BEBENSEE	William	1988	
Outer Drive Lots	21	BEBENSEE	Else	1970	
Orig Plot	70	BECKER	Carl	1884	
Orig Plot	70	BECKER	Katherin	1928	
Orig Plot	70	BECKER	Minnie	1892	
New Addition	93	BEEMER	Elvera		
New Addition	93	BEEMER	Roy	1997	
Orig Plot	19	BEHMER	Clara	1996	
Orig Plot	19	BEHMER	Otto	1970	
Orig Plot	19	BEHMER	Raymond	1917	
Orig Plot	8	BERGMAN	August	1908	
Orig Plot	8	BERGMAN	Emilie	1936	
New Addition	37	BERNHARDT	Raymond	1965	
New Addition	37	BERNHARDT	Esther	1981	
New Addition	55	BERNHARDT	Dale	2001	
New Addition	55	BERNHARDT	Gladys (Mrs. Dale)	2000	
Orig Plot	34	BERNHARDT	Ella	No Date	
Orig Plot	34	BERNHARDT	John	No Date	
Orig Plot	127	BEST	Dorothy	1948	
Orig Plot	154	BEYENDORF	Caroline	1921	
Orig Plot	154	BEYENDORF	Carl, Sr	1942	
Outer Drive Lots	6	BEYENDORF	Matilda	1959	
Outer Drive Lots	6	BEYENDORF	Carl, Sr	1952	
Orig Plot	100	BIEHLE	John	1947	
Orig Plot	100	BIEHLE	Fred, Jr	1940	
Orig Plot	100	BIEHLE	Anna	1927	
Orig Plot	155	BIEHLE	Arlie	1922	
Orig Plot	33	BIETTPW	Caroline	1934	
New Addition	26	BLATTERT	Dale		
New Addition	26	BLATTERT	Rose	2007	
New Addition	26	BLATTERT	Albert	1988	
New Addition	26	BLATTERT	Vicki		
New Addition	27	BLATTERT	Jason	XXXXX	cremated in 1997.
Orig Plot	109	BLOOMQUIST	Marianne (Mrs. Loren)		
Orig Plot	109	BLOOMQUIST	Loren		

PLOT	LOT	LAST_NAME	FIRST_NAME	DATE	COMMENTS
Orig Plot	35	BOCHE	William	1907	
Orig Plot	35	BOCHE	Louise	1892	
Orig Plot	37	BOCHE	Louise	1898	
Orig Plot	37	BOCHE	Friedric	1917	
Orig Plot	67	BOCHE	Louise	1912	
Orig Plot	67	BOCHE	Frank	1914	
Orig Plot	144	BORCHARDT	Sophia	1922	
Orig Plot	108	BRAASCH	Arvilla	1981	
Orig Plot	108	BRAASCH	Erwin	1976	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	Mina	1899	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	August	1950	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	Michael	1900	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	Mary	1910	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	Louise	1936	
Orig Plot	113	BRAASCH	Lina	1917	
Orig Plot	141	BRAASCH	Ferdinan	1936	
Orig Plot	141	BRAASCH	Ernestin	1941	
Orig Plot	50	BRAASCH	Frederic	1867	
Orig Plot	50	BRAASCH	Herman	1893	
Orig Plot	50	BRAASCH	John	1894	
Orig Plot	50	BRAASCH	Alwina	1902	
Orig Plot	57	BRAASCH	Fred, Jr	1944	
Orig Plot	57	BRAASCH	Ernestin	1935	infant
Orig Plot	108	BRAHMER	David	1998	
Orig Plot	108	BRAHMER	Brandy	1977	Owens 4 burials (1987)
Orig Plot	119	BRAHMER	Sandra		Owens 4 burials (1987)
New Addition	80	BRAUER	Charline (Mrs. Richard)		
New Addition	80	BRAUER	Richard	?	
Orig Plot	96	BROWN	Lydia	1981	
Orig Plot	96	BROWN	Willard	1969	
Center Drive	K	BRUECKNER	Mary	1977	
Center Drive	K	BRUECKNER	Fred, Jr	1954	
Orig Plot	14	BUCKEN-DORF	Anges		
Orig Plot	33	BUETTOW	Herman	1937	
Orig Plot	33	BUETTOW	Vernon	1915	
Orig Plot	33	BUETTOW	Wilhemin	1906	
Orig Plot	33	BUETTOW	Edith	1920	
Orig Plot	33	BUETTOW	Johann	1891	
Outer Drive Lots	24	BUETTOW	Arnold	1932	infant child
Outer Drive Lots	24	BUETTOW	Clara	1952	
Outer Drive Lots	10	CARRICO	Milan	1928	
Orig Plot	23	CARSTENS	Marilyn		
Orig Plot	23	CARSTENS	Lydia	1986	
Orig Plot	23	CARSTENS	Albert,	1992	

Cemetery records for St. Paul's will be continued in future issues.

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

June 18
 July—No meeting
 August 20

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.

Greetings from the Madison County Genealogical Society

Our March 19th meeting was held in the Lueshen Bird Library. The importance of census in genealogy was discussed, particularly when names are not listed in the indexes. Examples were displayed showing research on the **Uecker** name. The original census index did not show that name, but a check of the actual census for the county anyway quickly revealed how much that name had been misspelled in the indexes- as **Necker** and **Mecker**- but it did appear correctly as Uecker on each census, just misspelled in the indexes. It would have been easy to conclude that Uecker was not on those censuses since it was not on the index. A thorough check of all names resembling the correct one often reveals the incorrect interpretation of a capital letter on the census page. Some errors are due to poor handwriting, unfamiliarity of census takers of the proper names they're recording or the language spoken and thus may be spelled phonetically.

For our April 16th meeting we carpoled to Neligh and toured the new museum located at 410 So. L Street. It's much larger with an open floor plan and wide aisles allowing more interesting displays of some extraordinary historic artifacts, including a wall of World War II veterans uniforms, and fascinating native American displays of clothes and tribal artifacts. The Pierson Wildlife Museum at 205 East 5th Street has a great collection of big game animals from around the world and is well worth a special trip to Neligh for that alone. Dr. Kenneth Pierson spent a lifetime acquiring and establishing this unique collection, and Neligh is justly proud to have it.

We welcome Kathleen Carlson of Richmond, Texas and Pamela Freudenburg of Lincoln as new members.

Our next meeting is May 21st at the Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center, 10 A.M. as usual, to consider summer activities. May is a busy month with Memorial Day and the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Norfolk's settlement will fill June and July.

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



TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

Your membership renewal date is on the address label.

Upcoming Events:

June 18—Free beginning genealogy classes at the Mormon Trails Center, Omaha.
genclass@aol.com

June 29 to July 4—Norfolk's 150th Celebration www.norfolkne150.com

July 15-17 St. Paul's Lutheran Church 150th Celebration <http://www.stpls.com/>

July 15-16, Land Records and Genealogy Symposium, Southeast Community College, Beatrice, NE <https://www.southeast.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=21184>

July 16: Discover Your Family FREE workshop, Eastern Neb. Genealogical Society, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont

Upcoming Genealogical Conferences see this website: <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/>

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REUNIONS: The Louis Behrens Reunion will be July 10th at Mahoney State Park, and the Broekemeier reunion will be July 30-31 at the Hoskins Community Center. For details on either one, call Betsy Broekemeier at 402-640-7679.