

NEWSLETTER

See copy

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 347 Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

Volume 7, Number 28

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Fourth Quarter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

As we all come home from the family reunions and sharing information with other genealogical member of the group, you realize how much you really don't know about the family.

While serving as President of the Madison County Genealogical Society for this term, the same message has come to me. Until I began checking the P.O. Box 347, Norfolk, Nebraska, I had no idea how many interesting publications that are available. Infact, I have not been able to read it all. Each month I carry the current ones to the meetings and few do take time to read what time allows. Do not hesitate to check what is available in the library cabinet at our meeting room, its a gold mine of information you will enjoy and find useful.

The Nebraska State Genealogical Society's publication NEBRASKA Ancestry is an example of what is waiting for you. If you'd like your own library to be extended this is an opportunity. Membership in the State Society is \$12, annual dues covers June thru May 1987. The four publications a year is a bonus. I'd like to say each of our members will be members of the State Society this next year. Mail check to NSGS P.O. Box 5608, Lincoln, NE 68505.

As we talk of library materials available, we do have a fine assortment of special publications and old books in our cabinet. However, there has not been any additions in the last year, so if anyone has a reference book they are finished with and would like to share, this is an excellent way to help your local group. Gifts and Donations to the Library are welcome.

This is the month we elect our new officers. Please keep in mind the new officers will be looking for new ideas and any suggestions for programs are always helpful.

I must thank Dee Sewell, V. Pres. and program chairman for fine programs all year. The records are in order thanks to Lottie Klein, Treas. and Elvira Geske, Sec. I appreciate you cooperation this year and am looking forward to assisting in any way I can as the new officers begin another term.

The PICNIC is scheduled for August 19th. Family and friends welcome.

Sincerely,

Jean Jackson Masters

OUR CONDOLENCES ARE EXTENDED to President Jean Masters and husband Dale upon the death of his father Glenn C. Masters; died Thursday June 19 at the Brown County Hospital in Ainsworth. Mr. Masters was born Febr. 9, 1896 in Cuming County, the son of Squire W. and Lulu P. (LaPorte) Masters. He married Rose Childs Jan. 23, 1918 in Ainsorth.

SEE PAGE 30 FOR FAMILY SURNAMES of Jean and Dale Masters.

Norfolk Public Library - WHAT'S NEW?

The new microfilm reader/printer has finally arrived. The old reader/printer only took negative pictures of microfilm, whereas the new machine will produce a positive copy. The charges for copies has been reduced from 20¢ to 15¢ per copy. This is a real plus for the researcher and the Library Foundation Board is to be given a sincere THANK YOU for this update in copy machines.

New Centennial Books have been purchased from Beemer, Carroll, Plainview, Randolph, and one has been ordered from Clarkson, but it has not been completed as yet.

The Foundation Board purchased a set of Madison County Newspaper microfilm and they arrived. These rolls of microfilm are of early Madison County Newspapers, a list of which were printed in the April Newsletter. They have not been indexed at the time of this typing, but will be available for viewing by inquiring at the Reference Desk. These microfilm are also available at the Nebraska State Historical Society Library. There may be a slight difference in the index list printed in the newsletter and what has been purchased...CHECK WITH THE REFERENCE LIBRARIAN!!!

NEW BOOKS...

PILGER HERITAGE - contains the history and genealogy of the descendants of John Peter Pilger lineage from early 1600's Germany. Compiled by Marsha Lockerby Pilger - 1986.

FORT ROBINSON ILLUSTRATED - Published by Nebraskaland Magazine - 1986.

On the reference shelves are five cardstock cover volumes containing listings of selected Nebraska newspapers...includes the town/county where published and the microfilm number to call for at the Nebraska State Historical Society. Each volume is alphabetically indexed by surname.

R929.3 (Norfolk Public Library call #)

Nebraska Newspaper Abstracts -	Volume I	1870 series.
" " "	Volume I	1880 series.
" " "	Volume I	1890 series.
" " "	Volume I	1900 series.
" " "	Volume II	1900 series.

Published by Nebraska State Genealogical Soc. 1983/84.

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"GHOST TOWNS OF EASTERN NEBRASKA"- Madison County

Blakely -- was primarily a post office, established 25 February 1880 and discontinued 21 January 1899. Situated on mostly level prairie, the first settlement in the vicinity was in 1871...there was also a blacksmith shop and that was about it.

Chloe ---- was a post office established 4 Marh 1882, discontinued 6 January 1886. Named for a school district by Scandinavian settlers.

Clarion--- was a post office established 4 April 1872, discontinued 23 October 1899. Possibly named for Clarion County, Pennsylvania, by a Mr. Riegler.

Dry Creek- was a post office established 28 March 1872, discontinued 20 November 1888. Named for an area creek, often dry.

Dunlap---- was a post office established 11 February 1888, discontinued 1889. Origin of the name is not known.

- Emerick----located in the western part of the county between Meadow Grove and Battle Creek. The post office was established on 24 May 1873, discontinued 31 December 1920. The schoolhouse was built here in 1874 and a store was opened in October 1880 by J.L. Grant, one of the first settlers there. Descendants of the first settlers still maintain the Emerick Cemetery. Former village named in honor of John Emerick, pioneer.
- Fairview---a former locality recorded in the Rank McNally Atlas of 1882.
- Gates-----was a post office established 24 May 1873; discontinued 12 October 1875. Origin of name not learned.
- Glenaro----was a post office established 21 December 1874; discontinued 7 August 1876. Origin of name not learned.
- Hale-----post office established 30 January 1888; discontinued 27 October 1897. Possibly named for a local settler.
- Hope-----former station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad named in honor of H.C. Hope, superintendent of telegraph. Located near Norfolk - established in 1894.
- Kalamazoo-post office established 23 June 1874; discontinued 24 August 1904. Named in honor of Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- Kent Siding - A station on the Chicago and Northwester Railroad in Valley Precint.
- Marrietta--post office established 18 November 1873; discontinued 20 May 1881. Origin of name not learned...first postmaster was Caleb Alberry.
- Munson----post office established 12 January 1880; name changed to Hiram 2 June 1887. Origin of the name not learned.
- Parry-----post office established 15 October 1872; discontinued 6 May 1873; first postmaster was Henry Franklin. Origin of the name not learned.
- Plum Grove-post office established 5 April 1872; discontinued 1 October 1873. Possibly named for its location near a wild plum thicket.
- Spring Valley-post office established 21 March 1872; discontinued 19 December 1873.
- Union Valley-post office established 3 July 1872; discontinued 15 February 1875. possibly named by a local settler who served in the Union Army during the Civil War.
- Warnerville-peak population 67 in 1910. Originally called Munson name changed to Hiram name changed again 11 June 1887. Post office discontinued 30 November 1917. This hamlet was on the Norfolk branch of the Union Pacific Railroad in the eastern part of the county. It was platted on 5 July 1887 by Hiram Warner on Section 13-23-1. It was a good grain and lumber trading center and boasted a hotel, public school, Presbyterian church ... a store and elevator operated by Hiram Warner.
- Warren-----post office established 26 December 1871; discontinued 18 August 1890. Origin of the name not learned. First postmaster was Eri Pulman.
- Yellow Banks-post office established 14 June 1877; discontinued 19 December 1879. Probably named for yellow clay banks along a stream near the post office.

(Sources: Dust to Dust by Lowell Greunke, Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names, Fitzpatrick's Nebraska Place-Names.)

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Taken from the 1916 "MILESTONE"

ALUMNI of Norfolk Senior High School, Norfolk, Nebraska.

Class of 1889.

Frederick Leavitt	Omaha, NE	Minister.
Lillian Gerecke-Hope	Chicago, IL	at home.
Ethel Reid	Lexington, KY	Teacher.
Ida Battee-Whitehead		
Edith Hays-Salter (deceased in 1916)		

Class of 1890.

Glenn Scofield	Philadelphia, PA	Contracting Engineer.
Lynn Scofield	Berkley, CA	Contracting Engineer.
Alice Johnson-Parker	Orange, CA	at home.

Class of 1891.

Clara McBride-Reynolds	Norfolk, NE	at home.
Byron Lloyd Cobb (deceased in 1916)		

Class of 1892.

Charles Hays	Denver, CO	Purchasing Agent, American Beet Sugar Co. Traveling Salesman.
Alfred Gerecke	Holdrege, NE	
Esther Nichol	Neligh, NE	
Jeannette Nelson	Lincoln, NE	Instructor.
Jane Bawden-Seymour	Lincoln, NE	at home.
Ruth Olney	Chattanooga, TN	at home.
Pearl Mackey	Minneapolis, MN	
John Barnes, Jr.	Casper, WY	Lawyer.
Fred F. Teal	Lincoln, NE	Doctor.
Edgar H. Gerecke	Rocky Ford, CO	Ass't. Mgr. Am. Sugar Beet Co.
Charles H. Chilson		

Class of 1893.

Faith Cobb-Eggelston	Minneapolis, MN	at home.
Emma Hagey	Cedar Rapids, IA	Public Librarian.
Ruth Matrau-Eller	Lincoln, NE	at home.
Lyda Pleasant-Gregory	Omaha, NE	at home.
Lucy Williams-Tinley	Council Bluffs, IA	at home.
Stella Chestnutwood-Hoyt	Kansas City, MO	at home.
Frances Johnson-Mathewson	Norfolk, NE	at home.
Florence Neilson-McGinnis	Warnerville, NE	at home.
Margaret Morow-Seabury	Bellingham, WA	at home.

Class of 1894.

Viola Jennings-Cameron	Omaha, NE	at home.
Valma Valentine-Light	Norfolk, NE	U.S. Postal Service.
Edward Wilkinson	Hardingrove, S.D.	Rancher.
Harriet Mather	Norfolk, NE	Principal Washington Schl.
Lyle Wilkinson-Cheney	Hardingrove, S.D.	Rancher.
Roy Read	New Orleans, LA	Supt. of Sugar Factory.
Helen Mathewson	Walthill, NE	at home.
Philip Stevens	Manila, P.I.	

Class of 1895.

Will Bovee	Los Angeles, CA	Real Estate.
Maude Ranson-Brandt		
Earnest Klippahm	Oxnard, CA	Analytical Chemist.
Mamie Matrau-McKim	Lincoln, NE	at home.
Marie Miller-Huebner (deceased in 1916)		
Hattie Alberry	Omaha, NE	Stenographer.

'Diamond Dick' Last of a Group of Frontiersmen

Richard J. Tanner was born in Taylorville, Illinois in 1869, and came to Nebraska in 1878. He soon became known as a fearless rider and crack shot. He was with the Buffalos Bill Wild West Show and other shows for a time and in the nineties had his own attraction - Diamond Dick's Wild West Shows.

Thousands saw him on the vaudeville stage or in one of half a dozen circuses, shooting pennies from the head or from between the fingers of his assistant as he fired from the back of a galloping horse. He was one of those characteristic westerners who discarded the revolver trigger and 'fanned' the weapon with his thumb on the hammer.

In his early twenties, 'Diamond Dick' rode 5,500 miles without a change of horses, starting in Lincoln, Nebraska and riding to New York City and back. He had said that to the best of his knowledge, that was the longest ride ever made without a change of horses.

'Diamond Dick' dropped the glamour of show business in 1906. It was then that he hung up his buckskins, cut off his long hair, shaved his goatee and put away his rifles and revolvers. He became just plain Richard J. Tanner, a student in the old Lincoln Medical College at Lincoln, Nebraska. He was graduated in 1909 and nailed up his shingle in Norfolk in 1910.

In 1925, on the insistence of the Norfolk American Legion Post, Dr. Tanner revealed to the public that he was 'Diamond Dick' in order to promote a rodeo sponsored by the Legion. (Norfolk Daily News August 26, 1925) He appeared daily as 'Diamond Dick' and his guns, many of which were presented to him by famous gunsmiths in recognition of his extraordinary abilities as a marksman, were at that time placed on display in a store window in downtown Norfolk.

'Diamond Dick' was given credit for the closest head-shot ever made by any marksman, that of shooting a penny from the top of a human head with a nine-pound repeating rifle. He performed this feat for many years and never had an accident. He gave shooting exhibitions throughout the United States and in Old Mexico. He was the hero of countless western 'thrillers' during his early days, he did not claim all the exciting adventures attributed to him. Only once in Norfolk did Dr. Tanner have occasion to use his guns and then they were not handy. He responded to the call of a grocer who was being robbed. Unarmed, Dr. Tanner gave chase but the fleeing robber out-distanced him. Somewhat chagrined, 'Diamond Dick' unromantically telephoned the police.

Dr. Richard J. Tanner practiced medicine on Norfolk Avenue. In the 1930's he advertised as being a reliable root and herb doctor...his flyer read:

"DOCTOR TANNER, specialist in chronic diseases. A reliable root and herb doctor compounds the major portion of his medicines from roots, gums, barks, leaves and berries --Nature's own production--God's gift to mankind. Many of the roots and herbs used by Dr. Tanner were known to the Indians and used by the Indians in making their medicines long before a white man ever crossed the Missouri river."

Richard J. Tanner married Ruth Goodmann in 1906, they had no children. He died in a Norfolk hospital of complications resulting from a broken hip on July 2, 1943. He was laid to rest at Propsect Hill Cemetery...a plain red granite headstone marks his grave, RICHARD TANNER 1869 - 1943, DIAMOND DICK is inscribed on one side.

Mrs. Tanner presented all of Dr. Tanner's guns, buckskins, etc. of his early days of 'Diamond Dick' to the Nebraska Historical Society Museum at Lincoln.

'DIAMOND DICK' was a nickname given to this noted character of the plains because of the many diamonds he wore as shirt studs, tie pins and in every other possible place. In June 1927 the National Editorial Convention was to be held in Norfolk in his honor. Dr. Tanner brought together seven of the last remaining plainsmen to take part in the parade. It was the first time these men had ever assembled in the same place although they had known each other for years. It was a joyful occasion for the aging frontiersmen, 'Doc' Carver, 'Pawnee Bill', 'Deadwood Dick', Capt. Lute North, Maj. Gordon W. Lillie, 'Idaho Bill', and of course 'Diamond Dick'.

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Items from the NORFOLK DAILY NEWS
Norfolk, Nebraska

Thursday, July 3, 1986

Two genealogy awards presented

Outstanding Genealogical Awards from the Nebraska State Genealogical Association have been presented to Elvira Geske, Norfolk, and Joyce Barlow, Osmond. The presentations took place during the Madison County Genealogical Society meeting May 20 at the First Baptist educational unit with Jean Masters, president, presiding.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM US ALL

Birth certificate fee to be increased

LINCOLN — The fee for obtaining a certified copy of a birth certificate in Nebraska will be \$6 instead of \$5 effective July 17. Legislative Bill 333, passed during the 89th legislative session, provides for the collection of an additional \$1 by the Bureau of Vital Statistics to establish and fund the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention program.

Certified copies of records involving deaths, marriages and marriage dissolutions will remain at \$5.

A certified copy of a record can be obtained by contacting the Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 95007, Lincoln 68509 or phone 471-2871. Copies are supplied while you wait if the request is made in person at the Department of Health in Lincoln.

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FAMILY SURNAMES - Masters, LaPorte, Moore, Thornton, Smithers, Childs, Steere, Waterman, Sheldon, Salisbury, Williams, Jackson, Taylor, Clark, Woodhull, Stockwell, Haskell, Dye.

Madison County Genealogical Society
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