

YEAR 1986, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1

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We're starting a new year with a new series. Starlene Mitchell is writing the life story of her great grandfather George Harding to share with us. Starlene gained the information she is using in a rather unique way which she tells about in Shaking the Branches.

We've expanded Shaking the Branches in this issue to include success stories of three of our members. We hope this will encourage others in their pursuit of family history. We also hope to continue these individual accounts throughout the year with others contributing their experiences as an encouragement to new seekers of genealogical information.

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January is the time for dues paying. \$10.00 is the individual amount, \$12.00 for a family membership.

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COMING UP

Our January meeting will find us back at Rawlins Library on the third Tuesday of the month. January 21 will be a work session.

February is election month. All officers are up for replacement except Marlynrae Mathews on the Executive Board. This meeting will be held at Rawlins Library on February 17. Mark your calendars now!

NEW MEMBER

Ellen Carter--2812 Bushfield Drive, Pierre, SD 57501 224-1556

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Alice Smith--114 South Poplar, Pierre, SD 57501 224-2411

SMALL WORLD

by Richard Phillips

A 1981 family reunion reminded me of the old saying "Small World." During the introductions at the reunion, it was revealed that two Oregon school girls while comparing notes that spring had learned that they would be going to the same family reunion in South Dakota that summer. They discovered that they were fourth cousins, descendants of two original Webster, South Dakota homesteading families that had settled the area 100 years before. Before the reunion closed, it was learned that an uncle of one of the girls lived within 20 miles of a cousin of the mother of the other, the uncle having just moved to the area. Through a genealogical study of your family roots, you, too, may find the meaning of the old saying, "Small World."

SHAKING THE BRANCHES
with Genny Ziegler

Everyone knows that I have worked sporadically on research on my family tree, although I have never lost interest in it. I have been fortunate in locating information, and the results produced are more correctly credited to luck than to careful research. A couple of my family lines seem to produce nothing for me. This was true of the MINER line.

In the summer of 1984, I attended the family reunion of my mother's family, namely: WINTER, WEINGARTNER, PARKER, and affiliated families. This branch of the family had not had a reunion in over forty years. The reunion was at a ski lodge and resort at Galena, Illinois, located in Jo Daviess County, and overlooking the Mississippi River. Both of my parents had come from Jo Daviess County, although they did not meet until after they had both come to South Dakota.

My uncle, Orma WINTER, of Hanover, Illinois, the last living member of my mother's family, was kind enough to take us to visit the cemetery in Hanover. He showed us where to find all of the graves of the various members of the family buried there. We were able to photograph and record inscriptions and dates from the gravestones. Uncle Orma also supplied us with any information that he was able to recall about members of the family as well as sharing with us many old family photographs.

Other members of the family brought copies of family records to the reunion and shared the information with the members of the family that were interested in it. I distributed family worksheets to all those who were there. Not all have replied, but I have received much first hand information that I would not otherwise have been able to find.

We went to visit a dear old friend of the family, George SCHULLER of Stockton, Illinois. He took us to visit the ancestral home of George N. Townsend and his wife, Mary MINER, my great grandparents. This is of my father's family line. The home is in Rush Township, Jo Daviess County, Illinois. I had visited the home when I was a rather small child, and it was a thrilling experience for me to find it beautifully preserved and kept and occupied by a Townsend that now owns and operates the farm.

We then went to the Townsend Family Cemetery located on the farm. It was so satisfying to find it lovely, green, and well kept. We walked through the cemetery where again I was able to photograph and record information found on the gravestones. It was here that I found my clue on the missing MINER line. I found a child's grave marked, "Son of Asher and Lydia Miner." This was the first time that I knew the name given my great great grandmother.

Early in the spring of 1985, I was searching for some information. As is my usual practice, I checked the bibliography at the end of the

article. There I found listed a book by John Miner, DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS MINER. I went to the terminal and looked for a record of the book. It showed libraries in two locations that had the book, one in Wisconsin, the other in Florida.

I went to one of the girls in Inter-Library Loan and asked if she could borrow the book for me. The Wisconsin library would not lend it, but the library at Orlando, Florida was willing to send it to South Dakota.

Imagine my delight when I found in the book, Mary MINER married George N. TOWNSHEND!! From this book I found seven generations of the MINER family back to Thomas MINER, the first who came to America from England in 1629, as well as other information about the family.

In June, 1985, I was reading an issue of YANKEE MAGAZINE that carries a column on genealogical queries and family reunions. As I read down the list I found a MINER family reunion etc. I wrote for information and the reply confirmed that I was eligible to join the society.

How lucky can I be! If you have a line that you cannot find, don't give up. You may be just lucky enough to find the right clue as I did. I wonder how many clues that I have overlooked?

G.Z.

SHAKING THE BRANCHES, Part 2
with Joanne Fix

In 1981 I learned a new organization, THE SWEDISH GENEALOGIST, was being formed. I recognized the names of the organizers as individuals who were well-known in the field of Swedish research. Since half of my ancestry is Swedish, I thought the organization might have some helpful tips to use in searching so I sent in my membership fee and began receiving their quarterly magazine. The magazine had well-written articles on research. Each issue closed with ancestor tables sent in by members, which I always scanned for place names.

Swedish research, because of the patronymic system of naming, is impossible to do without a location to identify individuals. This means knowing the county or "lan" in Swedish and the parish or town in which an individual lived. It also helps to know the name of the farm on which an individual lived.

As I skimmed through the ancestral tables in a 1983 issue, I noticed one group lived in Kronobergs lan, the same county as my ancestors. I read more closely, finding the same towns as those my ancestors had lived in, and then the same farms and then -- the same names!

This was the first time that I had ever found someone who was successfully searching the same lines that I was. James Olson was the sub-

mitter's name and I wasted no time in sending a letter to him.

We descended from common ancestors, Jonas Larsson and Britta Petersdotter and Per Jonsson and Lisa Ericsson. Martha Stina and Anna Katrina, daughters of Jonas Larsson and Britta Petersdotter, had married brothers, Bengt and Gustaf Persson, sons of Per Jonsson and Lisa Ericsson. My line descended from Gustaf and Anna Katrina, Jim's from Bengt and Martha Stina. We found that was only the beginning of the inter-marrying.

We've shared information. Jim has identified the relationship of individuals referred to vaguely as 'cousins' by my family and I've found that I have more relatives in the United States, especially in Minnesota, than I ever knew I had. It's been worthwhile for both of us and all because of our membership in the same organization.

I strongly urge anyone seriously searching to seek out organizations of individuals with the same ethnic background. It brought me a new friend and a ton of information. It may do the same for you.

J.F.

SHAKING THE BRANCHES, Part 3

with Starlene Mitchell

Don't believe that a long shot never pays off. Sometimes it does! But luck won't happen unless the chance is taken, the effort made. In my case that long shot was preceded by other letters and queries beyond number but the end result was acquisition of my great grandfather George Harding's letters, family Bible, and many photographs. It came about in this manner.

After considerable research I received information that a relative of George HARDING by his second wife was, in 1950, living at a certain address in Denver. Who was she? Was she still there 28 years later? It was now 1978.

I sent a brief letter addressed to "Occupant" enclosing a SASE but with not much hope. The current tenant at the address passed my letter to an old neighbor who still lived next door. This old neighbor knew where my subject now lived, called her, and this contact put me in touch with my first cousin one generation removed. She was the granddaughter of my George Harding by his second wife.

We corresponded for a year before she died. Her husband had predeceased her. They had no children. She was more than happy to hand on to me all of these wonderful items from her grandfather (my great grandfather) which had been carefully kept by the Colorado family dating back through most of George Harding's lifetime.

S.M.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HARDING AND HIS FAMILY
(STARLENE MITCHELL'S GREAT AUNT GREAT GREAT GREAT AUNT)

What sort of men were these? It is always so easy to judge to speculate even to romanticize. But one thing is certain. Our ancestors were all original characters on the stage of history in their own time. It is important to understand them under the conditions of the period in which they lived. Let me tell you about my Hardings and share their story with you.

The first major event which shaped George's destiny was I suppose coming to America at the age of four years. He was born on January 4, 1820 at Kingston in Oxfordshire, England. But I'm getting ahead of myself. First some background on the family.

George's father was John Harding. John was a member of the middle working class. It is significant that John could sign his own name at the age of 10. At that time most of the people of the common laboring classes in England could not write. Generally children learned only what their parents could teach them. Schools were very few and normally available only to the fortunate. Compulsory education did not begin until 1870.

John signed his own name (his father Andrew marked with an X) on the indenture document apprenticing John to one James Jones a master chair maker. The term was for four years. During this time the document forbid John Harding the young apprentice to court matrimony play at cards or dice tables nor any other unlawful games whereof his said master may have any loss with his own goods. The document also forbid frequenting of taverns or playhouses and required that the apprentice not absent himself from his said master's service day or night. The deal was closed with the payment of five shillings to the master craftsman James Jones by John's father, Andrew Harding. John's own wage during the term of apprenticeship was as follows:

"Sufficinet lodging and allowing unto the said apprentice weekly and every week during the two first Years of the said Term the Sum of four shillings and sixpence and during the two last Years of the said Term the Sum of five shillings per week to find himself with cloths washing and tending and all other necessaries... .."

"IN WITNESS whereof the Parties above named to these Instructions interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the first day of December and in the forty ninth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the King by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND KING Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our LORD One Thousand Eight Hundred and eight."

Three pence was the fee for recording this weighty legal paper written in the classic English script.

John Harding's marriage is found in Bishop's Transcripts for the Parish of Aston Rowant, Oxon. (Oxfordshire) 1813-1871 (LDS microfilm 95204)

John Harding of this Parish, Bachelor, and Ann Holland of this Parish, Spinster, were married in this church by banns this 10th day of August 1818 by me John Holland Vicar.

After the statement "This marriage was solemnized between us" John and Ann both signed their names. (The Vicar John Holland held that office for many years. Could Ann have been married by her own father? An uncle? It is almost certain that Vicar Holland was a relative.)

A marriage could take place in either one of two ways prior to 1 July 1837. One method was to obtain a marriage license which few ordinary people did on account of the cost. The other method was by publication of the banns. If both persons resided in the same parish the parish clergyman was informed of their intention to marry. The banns was published on three succeeding Sundays by the clergyman announcing from the pulpit the names of the couple expecting to wed. During the three weeks waiting period, any person could come forward and state a reason why the marriage should not take place. Such an action was known as forbidding the banns. After the three to four weeks during which public notice had been given and if there was no forbidding the banns, the marriage was solemnized at any convenient time after the third Sunday.

John Harding followed his trade of manufacturing chairs, eventually furniture making in business with Ann's brother, James. He evidently had some other enterprises as well. In the Bishop's Transcripts he is listed as a laborer at Kingston in 1818 and 1823, as a shopkeeper at Kingston in 1827, 1829, 1831 and in 1833 as a seller of beer.

As the years went by, John and Ann became the parents of a large family, all born in Aston Rowant Parish.

John Harding, Jr., born January 8, 1817
Mary Ann Harding, born December 15, 1818
Alice (Alice) Harding, born May 30, 1821
Martha Elizabeth Harding, born February 13, 1823
Richard Harding, born August 25, 1825
Mariah J. Harding, born January 9, 1827
George Henry Harding, born January 4, 1829
Rose Hannah Harding, baptized July 3, 1831
Henry Holland Harding, born March 18, 1833

Only Alice and Richard did not leave Mother England. Alice died on September 19, 1829, 8 years old. Little Richard died on January 10, 1826, at not quite 5 months.

We can only ponder what strong influences motivated John Harding, a tradesman in mid-life to uproot his family and emigrate to America, the new "El Dorado," but undoubtedly he felt he could better his financial condition. We do know the nineteenth century was a time of great upheaval in English society. The industrial

movement was in full swing, there was great unemployment and much misery among the working people. Unemployment was a prime factor in the great exodus to America and the colonies. Most emigrants left for economic reasons.

John Harding, with eldest son, John Jr., embarked from London and arrived at the Port of New York aboard the packet ship Sovereign on May 21, 1833. There were 86 steerage passengers (including our two Hardings) and 10 first class gentlemen. John Sr. had no doubt postponed his voyage until the baby Henry was born in March of 1833. The difficult passage would take from 5 to 7 weeks. Ann and the children anxiously awaited word.

Soon after disembarking, John and son John proceeded directly to Cuyahoga County, Ohio and settled on a tract of 200 acres of heavy timbered land in Royalton Township located about 12 miles from the young thriving community of Cleveland. Perhaps others from John's shire in England preceded him to this locality. At any rate it appears that John Harding knew exactly what he was doing. According to a published biography, he built a log "domicile" 20 x 30 feet in size and sent for his family.

All indications are that this Harding family was not among the very poor. In 1834 it cost about 60 pounds British sterling to transport a family to America. The two John Hardings and later Ann with the other children made their voyages prior to passage by Parliament of the Poor Law Act of 1834. (As a result of that law many English families were encouraged and even financially assisted to emigrate. Expenses were paid by various emigration groups, usually of religious origin. Since it cost approximately 13 pounds per year to support a family that had no employment and if the family were to be unemployed for a number of years as was sometimes the case, then the parish realized a savings and eased the unemployment burden by helping the family get away.

When Ann Holland Harding finally received word all the way from Ohio across the sea after what must have seemed like a very long time, she packed up her brood and courageously set out on a stage wagon for the Port of London where she would sail on the ship Clarissa Andrews to join her husband and eldest son in a new and unfamiliar land. Mary Ann would be 15 before year's end, Martha Elizabeth was 10, Mariah (or Maria) was 6, George was 4, Rose Hannah was 2, and baby Henry under a year old and probably still at breast.

We know that these voyages across the stormy north Atlantic were sorely trying to body and soul in those days. People became deathly seasick. The food was bad. The water was putrid. There was little or no sanitation. Ventilation below deck

was poor. Conditions must have been appalling either in the heat of summer or the raw chill of winter. What a great help Mary Ann must have been to her mother during this time. But little Rose Hannah sickened and died. The passenger manifest signed by the ship's master records her burial at sea. Like most mothers of her time Ann Harding was no stranger to the death of a child. Her third and fifth born, Alice and Richard, already rested in the soil of England. But imagine her trauma under these circumstances!

On December 9, 1833, the Clarissa Andrews docked at the Port of New York. Ann Harding and the children stayed in New York over the winter and came on to Ohio the following spring 1834. With whom did she stay that bleak winter? How did she manage?

John built a log shop and worked at his trade, that of making chairs together with improvement of the land until his death on May 6, 1848, aged 56 years. Ann died May 24, 1835, aged 30, two years after coming to this country. An unconfirmed family story tells that John and Ann had one more child, stillborn, unnamed, and unrecorded.

Exhaustive research has disclosed no record of real property ownership in Ohio. John Harding senior must have been a tenant. A copy of his last will and testament and a few other probate papers were located in the old Cuyahoga County records. His just debts were honored, guardians were appointed for George Henry Harding and Henry Holland Harding until they became 21. His property was divided equally between his sons, and each of the girls was given a bequest of \$200. The casket cost \$2.50. Expenses of the last illness were \$18.00. John Harding Jr. was named executor.

Writer's note: In October of 1983 I visited the tiny old cemetery where these Ohio Harding ancestors rest. It is located just off York Road at the Pleasant Valley Road intersection in the Cleveland outskirts--the graves with their stained, weathered stones seeming to be placed at random under the most massive oak trees imaginable. The day was misty and overcast with brightly colored fallen leaves scattered like jewels on the lush, wet grass. The perimeter of the cemetery is enclosed by an ancient looking split rail fence. On the street side there is a strongly worded modern sign warning of prosecution for vandalism. The feeling of paradox was indescribable there in that dreamy island of time and generations past under the protecting oaks--directly next to a Texaco service station across the busy street from a mall adjacent to the back of a high school parking lot, and with a stop light blinking at the corner.

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-----to be continued-----

In the next newsletter we will follow the story of George Harding, his brothers and sisters and muse over the fates and fortunes, the trials and tribulations of their lives.

BOOK CORNER

There are some books once published that should be stamped "Caution, use with care. Questionable information." One is the recently published BUILDERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM by Sr. Claudia Duratschek. Sr. Claudia is to be commended for her attempt to write a complete history of the Catholic church in South Dakota, but her decision to include all the material on every church in chronological order with a general view of South Dakota at that time has turned it into an unwieldy reference book. An account of one church will be abruptly ended to take up another church, often located in an area far removed from the one previously written about. In weaving the church history into a general history, she sometimes writes at length about events that had no particular bearing upon the Church's development or have been well covered by other authors. In later chapters the narrative gets ahead of the time period that she has set for the chapter.

The author has used a great many sources. Seeking them out is made difficult by her decision not to include all of them in the bibliography. She attempts to credit all by the use of footnotes. Her frequent citations of her own previously published works rather than the primary sources add to the difficulty. Newspapers most frequently used are referred to by initials and will be found in the front of the book along with the initials for religious orders, archives, historical collections and some books.

Obvious errors occur that cause the reader to wonder how many other errors are in print. Rochford is consistently spelled 'Rockford.' St. Matthew's Indian Mission near Veblen is moved to Kingsbury County. Onaka is substituted for Onida in Sully County. The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad in Faulk County becomes the Minneapolis and St. Paul Railroad. These obvious errors are easily corrected but others in parish accounts, once in print, are likely to be used without being thoroughly checked for accuracy.

The town of Sisseton is especially badly treated. Names are misspelled, wrong information is given, and the reader is left with the impression that the St. Peter's Parish was an indolent, impermanent congregation, hardly a fair assessment of the businessmen and farmers who as a group built two churches, two schools, and two parish halls in their first sixty years of existence.

Names of priests surface again and again and made this reader wish that the author had listed the names, life stories, and assignments of the clergy in a separate section for reference and clarification. A similar arrangement of parish histories would have made this work a much more useful reference tool and perhaps have aided the author in finding the contradictions in her own statements.

BUILDERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM. The History of the Catholic Church in South Dakota by Sr. M. Claudia Duratschek is available at Rawlins Library. Call number 282.09

D93
SDC

Election of officers was the main business at the February meeting. The following people have agreed to serve as officers for the coming year:

President--Stan Oestreich Secretary--June Oestreich
 Vice President--Laura Glum Treasurer--Richard Phillips
 Executive Board--Alice Smith and Marlynrae Mathews

This is the last issue of the newsletter that you will receive unless you have paid your dues for the coming year. If your name does not appear on the list below, send your dues to Box 925, Pierre or bring them to the March meeting.

Ellen Carter	Alice Smith
Marlynrae Mathews	Stan Oestreich
June Oestreich	Anna Davenport
Laura Glum	Genny Ziegler
Joanne Fix	Linda Osberg
Steve Miller	Floramay Miller

COMING UP

March 18 is the date of our next meeting at Rawlins Library. Our tentative program will be on how South Dakota laws affect genealogical research. At our April 15 meeting, Fred Lillibridge will demonstrate his genealogy computer program. If you missed the February program at which Stan and June Oestreich presented the computer program they use for their genealogical records, this will be another opportunity for you to become aware of the latest way to keep genealogical information.

The 1986 National Genealogical Society Conference will be hosted by the Ohio Genealogical Society at its 25th annual convention on May 28 to the 31. Site of the conference will be the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. Full day seminars will be held for librarians, teachers, and beginners. General and regional topics will be covered. More information is available in the National Genealogical Society newsletter.

Two summer genealogical workshops will be held at Chadron, Nebraska State College. Basic Genealogy for those with little experience will be held June 18-19 followed by an Advanced Genealogy workshop, June 20-21. Cost is \$35 for one session or \$60 for both. Norman Moyes, professional genealogist from Salt Lake City, will conduct both. Contact Michael Coffee, Director, at the college for more information.

A VISIT TO THE NEW GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Having just returned from a week in Salt Lake City, I'd like to share my research experience in the new genealogical library of the Mormon church with you.

The new building is set within easy walking distance of many motels, restaurants, and public parking lots. The researcher will appreciate the nearness of the restaurants as there is only a snack room in the library with machines supplying food and drink. The same generous working hours are in effect with many holidays included. While I was there, the library was open on February 12, a Utah state holiday and the Federal holiday of President's Day or February 17.

Although there is an introductory film to the use of the library, I found that a chat with a reference person and a pamphlet describing the location of the materials were enough to orient me as everything is so clearly marked.

The first floor now holds the Church Archives. The second floor has the United States and Canada records. The first of two basements has the International Collection with Latin America and all of Europe except the British Isles which will be found in the second basement.

Each floor has the same arrangement with reference desks, stacks, readers, and microfilm storage in the same locations. Each floor has a separate room for copying where supplies and some reference materials can be purchased.

The biggest change is the disappearance of the card catalogs, all that information having been transferred to microfiche. Each floor has several copies of the microfiche as well as the International Genealogical Index, so that there is no need to go from one floor to the other to check on the availability of materials for various areas. Notebooks hold the numbers of the most frequently used general sources. Filby's books of published ship's lists have the call numbers of the original sources which are all available in the library.

Most of my time was devoted to searching ship's lists which is undoubtedly the most time-consuming, frustrating, and useless research there is, but I continued to hope that I might find the elusive ancestors on one of the lists that would have the little extra information I needed. I didn't find them at all. The pessimist says I wasted my time. The optimist says I eliminated a lot of possibilities. The rationalist presumes they are on the missing years. The humorist suggests they swam across.

So that my entire week of research wouldn't be a failure, I went to my trusty Swedes who I can count on to be where they are supposed to be and one of whom arrived late enough to be on the New York City index.

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PUBLICATIONS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

The Miami Valley Genealogical Society, a chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is reprinting three books by Lindsay M. Brien. They are Volume II and III of Montgomery County, Ohio Marriages and Volume IV, Quaker Records. Volume II has marriages A-L and Volume III has M-Z. Both are \$20.00. Volume IV is \$16.00. All three are available in one package for \$54.00. Order from:

Miami Valley Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1364
Dayton, OH 45401-1364

MARION COUNTY ILLINOIS LANDOWNER INDEX, 1892 is a newly published volume that will help replace the 1890 census for that area. Epitaphs from 14 cemeteries in the Omega and Meacham Township areas are included. The 120 page book is hardbound. Cost is \$26.00. Order from:

W. A. Kilmer
Star Route, Box 18
Clovis, NM 88101

The 1900 census index of Crawford County, Illinois is available for \$10.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Order from:

Crawford County Genealogical Society
803 N. Madison
Robinson, IL 62454

ALMSHOUSE REGISTER, SHELBY CO. IL 1870-1942 for \$8.00 postpaid and GUARDIAN RECORD BOOK A, SHELBY COUNTY, IL 1857-1869 for \$15.00 ppd can be ordered from:

Phyllis Hapner
1019 N. Long
Shelbyville, IL 62565

1855 SHELBY COUNTY CENSUS INDEX for \$5.00 ppd and 1860 SHELBY COUNTY CENSUS INDEX for \$4.50 ppd are available. Order from:

Judy Graven
915 W. Main
Shelbyville, IL 62565

MCINTOSH-MACKINTOSH FAMILIES: SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN AND CANADIAN LINEAGES which is Volume V of a series of books on the McIntosh genealogy can be purchased for \$20.00 plus \$1.00 for postage. The other 4 volumes are still available at \$17.50 each for the first two and \$20.00 for the others with \$1.00 postage required for each.

Order from:
Walter H. McIntosh
P.O. Box 214
Topsfield, MA 01983

GENEALOGICAL GUIDE TO GERMAN ANCESTORS FROM EAST GERMANY AND EASTERN EUROPE covers East Prussia with the governmental district of West Prussia, Pomerania, Silesia, the Grenzmark (border territory) Poznan-West Prussia, and the eastern part of Brandenburg province. Maps, directories, archives, and gazetteers are included. \$19.00 by personal or cashiers check includes shipping and handling. Order from:

Verlag Degener & Co.
P.O. Box 1340
D - 8530 Neustadt/Aisch
Germany West

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HARDING AND HIS FAMILY

By Starlene Mitchell

In the January newsletter, you learned about George Harding's parents, John Harding and Ann (Holland) and of their trip to America in 1833 from Kingston in the County of Oxford, England. The family settled in Royalton Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio where the children grew up. Let me reacquaint you with those of George's brothers and sisters who lived to reach this country and who played important roles throughout his life. The oldest was John Harding, Jr. born in 1817, followed by Mary Ann born in 1818, Martha born in 1823, Mariah born in 1827, then George who was born in 1829, and finally Henry born in 1833.

After her mother died in 1835, Mary Ann as the eldest girl, became the female hub of the household until her marriage to Chester Mace HURLBURT in 1838. One by one the others married--John Jr. to Julia HURLEURT in 1837, Mariah in 1843 at around the age of 16 to Albert P. BALDWIN, Martha Elizabeth in 1845 to Charles WEATHERHEAD. (Mary Ann's husband and John Jr.'s wife were brother and sister.)

After John Harding senior died in 1848, Henry, then between 15 and 16 years of age became a member of the household of his brother-in-law, Charles Weatherhead to whom he apprenticed himself for three years to learn the stone mason's trade. This resulted in a most major stroke of fortune for Henry and his descendants as will become clear later. Henry mastered the trade, worked one year as a journeyman for his brother-in-law, then became an equal partner with him. They jointly carried on the business until early in 1859 where we will leave Henry's story for the present.

Not much detail is known of George during his growing up years. He was 19 when his father died. In the 1850 federal census of Royalton Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, George appears as a single man, age 21, occupation thresher, with a property value of \$500. It was there on June 28, 1852 that he was married by a Justice of the Peace to Elizabeth HEATH, my great grandmother.

George and Elizabeth remained at Royalton at least until after their first child, Jason Henry Harding was born there on Christmas day, 1853. A year later they were in Columbiana County, Ohio, at Wellesville, on the Ohio River where George worked as a "brassfitter" or brass finisher in connection with the steamship river traffic. He also turned out the first casting for the first railroad west of Cleveland.

The first known photograph of George was taken at Wellesville. In a studio standing pose, he appears as a medium tall, well dressed young man, serious of countenance, square of jaw. His trousers had a crease, his shoes showed a polish. He wore a knee-length frock coat, open, with a watch chain peeking through. Thick

dark hair was parted on the side and combed back. Bushy but neatly barbered side burns extended down his cheeks to a point even with the corners of his mouth, leaving his chin and upper lip cleanly shaven.

It was from Wellesville that George wrote the first of his existing letters home to his sister, Mary Ann. (The postage was 3 cents.)

(The ink is faded. George appeared to scrawl hurriedly on some occasions and write with more care at other times. Here and there a word cannot be deciphered. His spelling was phonetic, inconsistent, and unpunctuated as was the style of most of the "blue-collar" people of that time. An effort has been made to copy as literally as possible.)

Wellesville

Dec 4th 1854

Mrs Mary Ann Hurlburt
Parma Cuyahoga Co
Ohio

Dear Sister and Brother and all the neases nefues

I guess I wont say anything much but I hop this will find you all well as it leaves us at present Jacon is cuting teeth he as got 10 and I have found one of my wisdom teeth just cut threw the skinn and can feaal 3 more Jacon as got this last 3 days that he can get up to a chair or enything and stand fine, you must not expect much in this leter for i have rote 2 today before this, times is dull hear the same as other plases I am still working in the shop I do not have work annuf to kep me agoin all the time but when I work I mak it count but it is hard to get money after it is urned I am offered a burth on the river this winter to fire on board a steam boat he told me if I would go he thought he could give me 40 dolars a month and found I dont know wether I will go or not yet I shall have some brass work to do every few weeks

I suppose that people around that part think that I have lost every cent but i dont I can rais as much money as when I coments if I get all that is owing me but I suppose I have spent 4 hundred dolars and hard times coming on in the comer, it makes things look very dry but i have made as much as I have spent so that is _____ Emly I am very pleased to se a leter from yo lovey Martha even better all pleas to rite us a few lines as oftan as you can and confound you old Chester if you dont right soon I will not kill another sheep for all your gall darned shears our best respects to you all and the rest of folks

Geo Harding

Elizabeth wrote a small postscript to the preceding letter. Her handwriting was small, feminine, and beautifully scripted. She was referring to several ink smears near the bottom of the page.

from Elizabeth

A Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all the baby has just rubed his hand all over it

George's next letter home was sad and poignant. He wrote as follows to his older brother:

Wellesville
Sept 18th 1855

Mr John Harding
Parma
Cuyahoga Co. Ohio

Dear Brother and Sister

I hope this may not find you with trobbles like mine, I laid my dear wife in the silant grave ware she can sleep silentaly with companions of the dead, She born a little daughter in to the world witch lived an our it was ___go thirsdday knight at 11 oclock She dide on Sunday morning 10 minnets before 5 oclock, She had the disentery but got then the billius feaver set in with the soar mouth and that was the death of her She was a grate suffer I hask hur when she was dyind if she was going to even she said no i am goin down down down to ell but I askes hur a gain after if she was goin to heven S said yes of corse she was the last words she spoke was, up to the skiys se held over for about a minute

you must excuse blunders and let Maryann se this I must conclude with my best love to you all

Geo Harding

After George lost Elizabeth (my great grandmother), the immediate problem of course was what to do with Jason, the little son not yet two years old (my grandfather).

A five-year gap occurs in our knowledge at this point, for next we find young Jason, age 6 in the 1860 federal census, living in Clinton, Iowa with his Uncle Henry Harding and family. According to the censuses, George is nowhere to be found in either Ohio or Iowa. His odyssey had begun!

Let us now bring brother Henry's story up to date. You will remember that Henry Harding had become a stone mason and had worked in partnership with his brother-in-law Charles Weatherhead (sister Martha's husband) in the Ohio home area until the 22nd of February 1859.

In 1854 Henry had married a gentle and compassionate English girl, Sarah Ann BUCKMASTER, the daughter of a Methodist preacher. As was true with many young married couples of that era, their eyes soon turned westward. After an interval at Rock Island, Illinois, they crossed the Mississippi River to the small town of Lyons, Iowa. Sarah liked this community so well that they decided to locate there. Henry found no difficulty in getting work at his trade and before long he was in the general contracting business, building some of the largest buildings in the town.

At that time the terminus of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was at Fulton, Illinois, across the Mississippi River from Lyons, Iowa. The railroad wished to extend westward and build a bridge across the river at that point but the land owners demanded such an exorbitant price for their land and opposed the project so

strenuously that the railroad dropped down the river about two miles and built their bridge, establishing the City of Clinton, Iowa. Clinton grew fast and soon out-ranked Lyons in population. Henry and Sarah moved to Clinton in 1860 and made it their home for the balance of their lives. Jason, George's son, remained in Henry's household until his late teens.

GOLD! SILVER! Valuable claims for the taking! Many were attracted by exciting talk of riches in the Rocky Mountains out west, George Harding among them. And why not? He was 31, unencumbered with wife or child, and the Colorado Gold Rush of 1859 was in full swing, capturing men's imaginations wherever they gathered. George's obituary tells that he came to Black Hawk, Colorado with the Black Hawk Mining and Milling Company and that he was one of a committee which chose the name of Black Hawk for the town which still exists today as a small Colorado municipality.

The years of 1858-1860 marked an influx of settlers, fortune hunters, and adventurers to what is now the State of Colorado. Colorado was still a part of Kansas Territory until September 1861. Gilpin County was in its prime and the mining camps of Black Hawk, Central City, and Nevada made up one continuous settlement at least two miles long (but very narrow) with their existence owed entirely to metal mining. No water supply or sanitary provisions existed. Water was peddled from house to house and sold for 50 cents a barrel. Few comforts existed but there was no shortage of excitement and activity.

Only one page survives of the following letter which George wrote in January of 1861. The envelope is addressed to his favorite brother-in-law, Chester Hurlburt back in Ohio, husband of sister Mary Ann. He answers a question from Emily Ann, his niece...

Mountain City, K.T.
19 Jan

Emly, you wanted to know how I get my washing done we wash once in 6 weeks on Sunday and go prospecting sometimes I have never been to Church since I got here the girl that came out with us is married the man or family that she came with tried to injure her character and she was going to shoot him but the revolver snapped and he ran and she after him with a fork and stabbed him in the back She was a fine girl

Some men have not washed their faces since last spring and have gray backs or body lice ample to draw them to the states the man that I told you about being hung was trying to steal another man's wife and he shot the husband I have not heard whether he is dead or not the miners whipped him _____ lashes with a good black whip tied to a tree shaved one side of his head and drove him and the woman both out of the mountains

we have got our tunnel done all but half a day's work we had a very dangerous day's work today by the ground caving but we have got it secure now we shall get out quartz this week the weather is fine a little cold but not so cold as it is there

--iii--

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WE WILL CONTINUE THE STORY OF GEORGE HARDING'S FAMILY AND OF GEORGE'S LIFE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TERRITORY.

GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY, continued

The Index was difficult to read but the name I was seeking stood out with the name of the ship and date of arrival. I rolled out the microfilm and there it was. On November 20, 1897 my grandmother, Kristina Sjoberg, 31 years old, and her 4 children, Anna, 8; Karl, 6; David, 4; and Arvid, 1; arrived in New York City, traveling from Odensjo, Sweden via Liverpool on the ship Lucania, to join her husband Karl Sjoberg in Sisseton, S.D. Of course, I already knew that but now I had printed verification of a family story. It was almost enough to make me go back to the rest of the ship's lists..almost.

JF

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The WYMONDAK MESSENGER, newsletter of the Tri-State Genealogical Society, is publishing the Belle Fourche City Directory for 1911. This is a rare volume printed 20 years after Belle Fourche's founding. At that time, there were no house numbers but streets are given.

FRONTIER DAYS, the Brookings Area Genealogical Society's newsletter for January, 1986, has the addresses of state archives that hold military records. Instructions for ordering military records from the National Archives are also included.

Alexander Mitchell Library of Aberdeen, South Dakota has joined with American Family Records Association to provide inter-library loan service of genealogical materials including microfilm copies of out-of-print books, bound periodicals, videotapes, audio tapes, and books. Materials are cataloged in the Online Computer Library Center. Lists of the materials, known as AFRA Collection, can be obtained from the library or from:

Kermit Karns, AFRA
311 E 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Use a #10 SASE when requesting information. Additions to the listings are published in the AFRA quarterly journal which is available in our collection at Rawlins Library.

Despite Joanne's lack of success with Ship's Lists, our next issue will carry an article about newly-released Ship's Lists now in the National Archives. These are for later years, indexed, and holding much information about the passengers.

PIERRE-FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PIERRE, S.D.
MARCH 1986

March, 1986

JSM



This is the time of year when many people's thoughts turn to gardening. Have you planted your genealogy society garden? Follow these directions.

First plant four rows of peas.

Preparation
Promptness

Presence
Perseverance

Then plant two rows of lettuce.

Let us be faithful to duty. Let us obey the rules.

Next plant two rows of squash.

Squash unjust criticism. Squash indifference.

Finish with four rows of turnips.

Turn up for meetings.
Turn up with a smile.

Turn up with new ideas.
Turn up with determination.

Watch your genealogy society garden flourish!

COMING UP

Linda Sommer, State Archivist, will be the speaker at our May meeting. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the State Library and will include a tour of the Archives. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on May 20. Use the south door of the library.

In June we will be updating five generation charts. The Society keeps a surname index to the charts for easy reference. If you have not turned in your charts, plan to do so at this meeting. We will have forms available for transferring the information. If you have already turned in your charts, this will be an opportunity for you to review the charts and make needed corrections or additions. Meeting date for June is June 17 and we will be at Rawlins Library.

I am the immigrant.

Since the dawn of creation my restless feet have beaten new paths across the earth. My children will be your children and your land will be my land. My blood and sweat will cement the foundation of America.

SHAKING THE BRANCHES

with Marlynrae Mathews

Just when you think you are at a dead end -- a new door opens and the adrenalin starts flowing through the veins again. After eight years of futile searching for information on the LINDE surname I picked up a copy of the BLACK HILLS NUGGETS, November 1985 issue, and in the query column, lo and behold!, there was the name of a lady in Canada searching the same LINDE surname. I was so excited, I read the query three times just to make sure it was the same line of the LINDE surname I was searching.

I wrote to her and found that her great great great grandfather and my great great grandfather -- Michael LINDE -- were the same person. She sent me a computerized booklet on the LINDE family from research she had done. It contained just two items (1857 and Crimea) that opened many new avenues of research for me.

We are still exchanging information. She is my third cousin once removed and fourth cousin to my children. Her name is Cheryl Sissons. It is so nice to meet new relatives and be able to share your ancestral lineage.

M.M.f

Marlynrae's experience proves that one should always read the query column in publications. Oscar Ochsner of Aberdeen, South Dakota used a different approach to gather the information he published in AN ANCESTRAL HISTORY OF THE OCHSNERS, a book which he has donated to our Society.

Oscar began work on the history after reading PIONEERS ON TWO CONTINENTS by Theodore C. Wenzlaff in which Wenzlaff focussed on the Ochsners who lived around Sutton, Nebraska. Oscar found that his great grandfather did not fit the page on which his name was shown. This led him to trace the line through letters, church records, telephone calls, cemetery markers, and personal interviews in seven states. He estimates that he drove 6,000 miles obtaining the interviews in 1976.

The Ochsner heritage is German Russian but Oscar has included the Swiss Ochsners, a branch of the family who came directly from Switzerland to the United States in 1849.

Like all genealogists, Oscar continues to work on his family research and hopes to publish books on other family lines in the future.

NEW MEMBER

Marilou Briggs--Rt. 3 Box 12, Pierre, SD 224-5760

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HAPPING AND HIS FAMILY

By Starlene Mitchell

We will pick up great grandfather George's story in 1860. His dear young wife Elizabeth (HEATH) had died in her second childbirth in 1855 at Wellesville, Ohio, leaving George with a young son, Jason, not yet two years old. George's younger brother, Henry, had married in 1854 and agreed to care for the child. By 1861 Henry with his wife Sarah Ann (BUCKMASTER) and their growing family including young Jason were comfortably situated in Clinton, Iowa where Henry had built a small house and was doing very well in his business of general contracting. The summer before, in 1860, George had traveled with a hardy group to the Rocky Mountain West.

George wrote from the mountains early in 1861...

"We buy our bread at the Bakery 30 cts a lofe 1½ lbs pie 30 cts beef
pork and beens venson mexican matan is our living beef 10 to 14 cts pur
lb. beens 12½ pur lb. pork 35 flower \$12 to 14 pur sack butter 65 to
75 fresh pork 50 mountain sheep and venson 10 cts pur lb. the mountain
sheep is a very prity animal antilope is nice meat when we was on the
road we ketchd a big mud turtill and boild him and had a grate dish we
had good times coming we would ride or wade a cros platt river on our
way and stay with thim all knight 2 of us at a time to get beter feed and
keep the indians from steling and one would gard the camp

the indians did not troble us at hall they would come and beg some was
naked and some was drsed in skinns when they move they take their tent
pools and ty them to the poneys sides and set a basket on the pools with
one end dragging then put the paposes in the basket and a squaw on the pony

this is saturday knight so all wel rite soon goodby for the present
crums all over the table and dishes not washed sawdust for feathers
that's all

George and his brother Henry must have engaged in many serious discussions and exchanges about their lives and futures. Of that there can be no doubt for in the next year, 1862, Henry traveled to the mountains and ran a quartz mill for a few months, then returned to Clinton and his family. Evidently he soon came to the conclusion that the mineral industry and the rough life of the high frontier was not for him. This was probably the smartest decision he ever made. He shortly went back to the "States," to Cleveland temporarily where he took a contract for the building of a city jail and a railroad roundhouse, then returned to Clinton and his family where he continued in the building and contracting business and achieved very substantial financial success.

Meanwhile, George provided for his meager needs by working in an ore milling operation and devoted all his time and strength and every cent he could spare to his so-called "valuable" claims on Red Elephant Mountain. The most promising of these was described as Central America Lode 20249, Donnievill, which was to shape his life. It was a time when thousands came, prospected or worked their mineral claims, made

their fortunes (in one way or another), or gave up in defeat. The chance of finding a rich vein of gold in the stubborn rock was a powerful motivating force. George labored independently on. Surely he was one of the true Colorado pioneers.

Let us turn back now, to briefly reflect on the family members left behind in Ohio. George's sister Mary Ann HURLBURT was 44 years old in 1862. She and Chester were the parents of ten girls, all living--Emily Ann, Lucy Maria, Martha Elizabeth, Henrietta Marilla, Eliza Jane, Annie Nancy Jane, Bertha Lillian, Virginia Betsey, Amelia, and Emma Louisa. Martha, 39 in 1862, and her husband Charles Thomas WEATHERHEAD, had a family of five--Charles Thomas, Henry H., Theodore H., Edward H., and Albert John. Unfortunately little research has been done and no information is found with regard to ~~Martha~~, the sister who married Albert BALDWIN.

George's older brother John Harding had buried his wife Julia (HURLBURT) in December of 1858. Their children were Charles H., Edward, Frederick, Eusebia, Reuben, John III, Ada, and Julia. Edward and Eusebia died young and, with their mother, are all buried near the immigrant Harding parents in the old York Road Cemetery in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. John Harding's other children remained with him.

John who had been to some extent called to Methodist ministry, married again in April of 1859 to a remarkable woman by the name of Jeanette BARLOW. She had been born in Dansburgh, Schenectady County, New York in 1825 and went to Xenia, Ohio when she was 30 years old. Jeanette was devoutly religious and was extremely well educated at Canajoharie Academy and Baldwin University. While yet in New York she had been a missionary and had been recruited for the lecturing and writing field with Susan B. Anthony. However, her life's public work developed along different lines with her marriage to John Harding. Another trail west beckoned to John for in July of that same year, 1859, they moved to Nemaha County in southeastern Nebraska where John engaged in farming. Jeanette Barlow Harding became a prolific local writer and teacher and did much to influence the religious, educational, and political growth of the community of London as the years went by. She mothered John's older children and bore two more who quickly faded into obscurity. Neither was shown in the 1900 census.

In the five years between 1862 and 1867 we can reasonably suppose that my ancestor George Harding stayed well in touch with brother Henry in Clinton, Iowa. How many trips back George made is unknown but one fact is certain--he was in Clinton long enough to do some courting and be married there on June 26, 1867 to his second wife, Deborah Jane TREACY. Deborah - or Debby as George called her - was a New York girl born in Bageualstown, County Carlow, Ireland. Her parents were James TREACY and Jane (BRADLEY). Deborah's relatives remained in Brooklyn. (They were very dapper gentlemen judging from pictures taken in front of their music store.) What brought Deborah to Iowa remains a mystery.

There is also some difficulty second-guessing where George spent the next few years. Our family understanding has always been that he was in "the mountains." Perhaps he "wintered" in Iowa. Many left the high country in winter and returned in the spring. George and Debby's first child, Richard Bradley Harding, was born in Clinton, Iowa in October of 1868. Emma Jane, their second and only other child was also born there in February of 1871. It is clear that both George and Deborah were in Clinton, Iowa on March 1st, 1870 when they both wrote in the same letter to George's sister Mary Ann Hurlburt in Ohio about the Henry Harding family's bout with scarlet fever. Deborah, who always signed as "sister," wrote--

Dear Mary Ann

We received your kind letter on yesterday You see we lose no time in answering it I hope you are all enjoying one of God greatest blessings good health Hear folks are having a severe time they are all out of danger except Charly we have our doubts about him

Many thanks for your good wishes about me I appreciate them very much every one has there ups & downs I suppose this is my time My boy enjoys good health at present I hope he will escape the Scarlet fever

I have no news to tell as I dont go any where to visit I look in the window at the sick folks

You must excuse this scribble as I am writing it with Richard on my knee give my love to all the girls & Aunt Sally & Martha & family keep a little for your self & better half

from your sister
D J Harding

Clinton

Dear cister

I received your letter yesterday and glad to hear from you I am sitting with Henry's folks with scarlot feavor Louise is better out of danger Charley has had a very hard time for 3 weeks & is not out of danger his neck & breast badley sweln I think he will make out to live and that is all Willey is beter his neck badly sweln but can eat like a little pig H and S as had a touch of it to but are better a hard time for 3 weeks nite and day and no one but my self to set up with them debby cooks some little thing but as kept a way on acount of the babby every one is as fraid as they would be of small pocks it is a bad disease this year about 2 more weeks will fetch them all rite again

we are usully wel hoping this may find you all well sory to heare the death of Mrs Lane Spenser famley are dwindling away I suppose Em thinks she as the finest boy in the united states how is that old made Martha sh never rites eny thing about hir travels you did not say eny thing about Lucy I was making brass for a steam boat yesturday made \$15 I do not expect to make very mutch hear the first year I hear it is very hard times in New ___ we got a letter from cis Maria the other ___ but it is no use to say eny thing about hir she is young and as rote to every body in one day I would like to get in to his aple pit that sh tells about It is most 6 in the morning

Geo Harding

George was evidently doing work for Mississippi River boats and expected to stay in Clinton since he spoke about not expecting to make much there the first year.

But it was not to bel

(to be continued)

RESEARCH TIPS

In Shaking the Branches this year we are sharing some of the ways in which Society members have gathered information. In this issue Marilyn Mathews has told of her success in following through on an inquiry by an individual searching the same surname. We have described Oscar Ochsner's seven state search for individuals bearing his surname. In an earlier issue, Genny Ziegler told us how she learned she was eligible to join the Miner family association.

As we receive information about family associations and their newsletters, we share that information with our members. Family association newsletters contain queries, histories, biographies, death and birth notices as well as current news about family activities.

The May-June issue of the GENEALOGICAL HELPER yearly lists the names of periodicals published by family associations. We regularly receive the Parke Family Association newsletter which is housed in our collection at Rawlins Library.

Recently we received the newsletter of the Van Voorhees Association whose mailing address is in care of Mrs. Robert Wick, 69 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick NJ 07463. Another recent arrival was the newsletter published by the Nesbitt-Nisbet Society. Mailing address for that group is in care of W. B. Kelsey, 1113 Amherst Rd., Panama City, FL 32405.

Typical of the information found in these newsletters is the History of Nesbitt's Inheritance, a land grant in Maryland, or this tidbit of history from the Van Voorhees newsletter:

"Until 1777 all the records of the Sleepy Hollow Church were kept in Dutch. In September of that year, a little child, Lovine Hauws, was baptised in English by the new minister, Rev. Stephen Van Voorhees. This raised a small Dutch tempest, and the new domine soon left that parish."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

MADAWASKAN HERITAGE, a history and genealogy of Acadian people who settled Madawaska on the St. John River between Maine and New Brunswick in 1842, is available from the author for a 60 day inspection. Cost of the 311 page volume is \$17.00. Order from Leo G. Cyr
5005 Randall Lane
Bethesda, MD 20816

1850 U.S. Federal Population Census of Monroe County, Pennsylvania has been printed and can be purchased for \$12.50 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. A brief history of Monroe County is included. Send to:
Bond Research
592 Baird Street
Akron, OH 44311

ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

The following items were recently added to our collection of research materials at Rawlins Library. Those marked with * are gifts from Joanne Fix and those with # are gifts from Linda Osberg.

DIRECTORIES

- 1983 Congressional Staff Directory
- Official Congressional Directories, 94th Congress
- Congressional Staff Directory Election Index, 1982
- U. S. Medical Directory, 1972 - 73
- National Health Directory, 1983
- International Television Almanac
- U.S. Achievement Academy National Awards
- The Official Museum Directory, United States and Canada
- Directory of American Scholars
- Who's Who in American Politics
- U.S. Department of State Diplomatic List
- 1964 Governor's Yearbook
- State Administrative Officials Classified by Function, 1983-84
- 1976 Catholic Almanac
- The Official Catholic Directory, 1977
- Who's Who in the Midwest, 1960
- Manual for the Legislature of New York, 1982-83
- The Municipal Yearbook
- 1980 S.D. State Commission of Engineering and Architectural Examiners
- 1961 Directory of State and Federal Officials in South Dakota
- Directory of South Dakota Libraries
- 1984-1985 S.D. Conservation District Supervisors Directory
- South Dakota Educational Directory, 1983-1984 *
- South Dakota Legislative Manual, 1975
- A Guide to Building Records in South Dakota, 1984 ed.
- Polk's Rapid City Directory, 1960
- Polk's Pierre Directory, 1964
- Historic Aberdeen #
- The Stater. Pierre Junior High School Yearbook, 1969-1970-1971 *
- The Gumbo. Pierre High School Yearbook, 1952, 1954, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1970 *
- Northern State College, Aberdeen, S.D. Alumni and Former Student Directory, 1965 *
- U. S. Geographical Codes
- Guide to Reprints by Ann Davis
- Newspapers Received in the Library of Congress
- Your Massachusetts Government by Donald Leviten #
- World Guide to Abbreviations, 3 volumes
- Minneapolis Star and Tribune Index

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

- Weber, E. M. --Cholesterol Collateral *
- Ochsner, Oscar --An Ancestral History of the Ochsners (Author's Gift)

NOI BIOGRAPHIES JT SHOTIAGA

- Reeder, Russell--Born at Reveille
- Keyton, Clara Z.--Tourist Camp Pioneering Experiences
- Hardin, John Wesley--The Life of John Wesley Hardin
- Edelstein, Tilden G.--Strange Enthusiasm, A Life of Thomas Wentworth Higginson
- Cox, Doak C.--Memorial to William Otterbein Clark
- The Life and Writings of the Reverend George Herbert
- Servies, James--A Bibliography of John Marshall
- Current Biography Magazine
- Biography Index

RELIGION

- Clark, Elmer--The Small Sects in America
- Robertson, Constance--Oneida Community
- Rosten, Leo, ed.--Religions in America
- Brinton, Howard Haines--Friends for 300 Years
- Garmer, Carl--The Farm Boy and the Angel (Latter Day Saints)
- The First American Catholic Missionary Congress *
- Golden Jubilee. History of the First Congregational Church, Pierre, S.D., 1950

MILITARY

- Register of Cadets and Former Cadets of the Militar Academy, 1968, 1971, 1974
- Soldiers of the Great War, 3 volumes (World War I)
- The Army Lineage Book, Volume II, The Infantry
- Proceedings of the National Encampments of United Spanish War Veterans

EUROPE

- Fodor's Eastern Europe, 1985 (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania)
- Fodor's Belgium and Luxembourg, 1985
- Fodor's Paris, 1981
- Fodor's France, 1982
- Fodor's Scandinavia, 1981 (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)
- Fodor's Holland, 1981
- Fodor's Portugal, 1974
- Woodham-Smith, Cecil--The Great Hunger (Ireland)
- Sylvester, Dorothy--The Rural Landscape of the Welsh Borderland

ETHNIC HISTORY AND IMMIGRATION

- Krug, Mark--The Melting of the Ethnic
- MacLean, Annie--Modern Immigration
- Jenks and Lauck--The Immigration Problem. A Study of American Immigration Conditions and Needs
- Holli and Jones, eds.--The Ethnic Frontier. Essays in the History of Group survival in Chicago and the Midwest



NEW SHIP'S LISTS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PORT	YEARS	INDEX
Galveston, Texas ¹	1896 - 1948	yes
San Francisco, California ⁿ	1893 - 1953	through 1934
Seattle, Washington ²	1890 - 1957	no
New York City, New York	through 1948	1944-1948 ³
Baltimore, Maryland	1909 - 1957	no
St. Albans, Vermont	1895 - 1954	yes

1. A few lists are available for 1893. None for 1894 or 1895.
2. Some smaller Washington ports are included in the lists. Canadian entries through Montana and Washington, beginning in July 1917, have been interfiled chronologically with the ship passenger arrivals. No Canadian entries have been interfiled from 1947 to 1954.
3. A Soundex for these years is being prepared.

For more details see the January-February 1986 issue of the National Genealogical Society Newsletter.

MORE PUBLICATIONS

The revised edition of FOUNDERS OF EARLY AMERICAN FAMILIES is now available. Historical information about 3,500 male heads of families who emigrated to the 13 original colonies plus a history of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America with eligibility requirements are included. The \$30.00 price includes shipping and handling.
 Order from:

W.R.H.S. Library
 10825 East Blvd.
 Cleveland, OH 44106

SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS 1817 - 1985 have been printed. Inscriptions from 71 cemeteries are included with Caledonia and Brushy Fork cemeteries from Jefferson County added to them. Cost of the book before June 1, 1986 is \$37.50. Order from:

Mrs. Wanda L. Morford
 P.O. Box 389201
 Cincinnati, OH 45238

May, 1986 JSM

BIENNE SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE
 SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE
 BIENNE SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE
 SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE

The 4th of July...Independence Day..."Celebrate America" Weekend...Rededication of Miss Liberty...what a celebration! What a time to reflect on the immigrant story and why they came. "The poor, the tired, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free"--those eloquent words go right to the heart of our genealogy interests. But lest we forget, all sorts of people came, for all sorts of reasons.

One of our members recently discovered a yellowed old newspaper clipping. It fell out of a book that had been stored away longer than any family member can remember. Why was this item saved? When was it printed? No one knows. You dream up the rest of the story.

QUITS ENGLAND FOR COUNTRY OF EQUALITY

Marquis of Queensbury Declares Only in America Have All Men the Same Chance

New York, Aug. 23--The Marquis of Queensbury arrived in New York from London Friday with the announcement that he expects to become an American citizen, provided he can find something to do here. First of all, he is going to look over the mining field, and if he finds conditions favorable he will bring over his two sons and let the boys grow up with the country.

The marquis declares that he left England behind him, without regret. For his title, he said, he cared nothing.

"For a thousand years," he said, "my family name has been honored until recently. I am of the Scotch peerage and the only marquis in the United Kingdom--the only one, mark you, who is without a seat in the House of Lords.

"The reason for this is better known at home than it is here. My father was a man who had the courage of his convictions. He was radically progressive, as I always have been, and it is for that reason that the family now is without its seat among the peers.

"The treatment I have received from what I call my native land makes me love a country in which every man has an equal chance to win his spurs, for I, mind you, I am not of the idle rich, and even though I were the possessor of an immense fortune I should try to do something more than fill a suit of court clothes and dandle about in indolence."

*** **

COMING UP

The Pierre Historical Society has undertaken a survey of the records of the Hughes County Courthouse. The work is being done in the basement of the courthouse in rooms that the Commissioners have set aside for the Historical Society to use.

Our group has been invited to meet there on July 15, our regular meeting night. We will have an opportunity to see the archival work that is being done by the Historical Society as well as become acquainted with the research materials that are stored in the basement. Those who attended the May meeting at which Linda Sommer, State Archivist, spoke were amazed at the many, many records of genealogical importance on the county level that she brought to our attention. This will be another chance for us to become aware of a valuable local resource. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Use the back door of the courthouse and take the elevator or the stairs to the basement. The Executive Board will meet beforehand at Rawlins Library.

The August 19 meeting will be at Rawlins Library. We are planning a work session. Obituary cards need to be sorted and we have microfilm that needs attention too. If you have a research problem, bring that along and we'll try to help you solve it. Don't worry about the heat during our summer meetings. Both of our meeting places for the next two months are cool, cool, cool!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

We have received Military Service Records, A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications from the National Archives and Record Administration, the official repository for records of military personnel who have been discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, Army and Navy.

The catalog is divided into four sections.

The first section explains compiled military service records of volunteer soldiers who fought for the United States from 1775 to 1902.

The second section describes records relating to service in the regular U.S Army and Navy.

The third section treats records of veterans' claims for bounty land or pensions.

The fourth section describes miscellaneous records that relate to military service.

Microfilm of these records may be purchased for \$20.00 a roll. Order forms in the back of the catalog may be reproduced and should be used to speed the processing of orders.

Although the catalog has been printed to aid in ordering microfilm for purchase, using it will assist researchers in learning the availability of military records of their ancestors. The catalog is to be used in the library only.

Records relating to the following groups of military personnel are at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri:

U.S. Army officers and enlisted personnel completely separated after 1956.. Fire destroyed the records of officers separated between 30 June 1917 and 1956 and enlisted men separated between 30 October 1912 and 1956.

U.S. Air Force officers and enlisted men completely separated after 1956. Fire destroyed earlier records.

U.S. Navy officers completely separated after 1902 and enlisted men completely separated after 1885.

U.S. Coast Guard officers completely separated after 1928 and enlisted personnel completely separated after 1914.

Requests for information about veterans should be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (MPR), 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132 using Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records which is available from the St. Louis Center or the Government Printing Office, Federal Information Centers, local Veterans Administration offices, veterans service organizations, or Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 20408.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HARDING AND HIS FAMILY

By Starlene Mitchell

In the last newsletter we left the story of my great grandfather George Harding in the spring of 1870 at Clinton, Iowa, where his brother Henry lived. George was earning a little through his skills as a brass finisher in connection with the steamboat traffic on the Mississippi.

George had married his second wife, Deborah (TREACY) and she had borne him a son, Richard. Notwithstanding the fact that George had mineral claims in Colorado, he wrote to his sister Mary Ann in Ohio indicating that he expected to remain in Clinton. George's son by his deceased first wife was Jason (my grandfather) who had been raised in the Henry Harding home at Clinton and was now 16 years old.

The time has come in this narrative to give a little attention to Jason. By so doing, we can arrive at a pretty good idea of the time frame in which George left Clinton forever, to return to the Rockies and his Red Elephant Mountain. Two facts are pertinent. One is that Deborah bore George another child in Clinton, a little girl named Emma Jane, in February of 1871. The other clue is that Jason would have been 18 years old that December of 1871 and his memoirs state that when he was "about" 18 years old he went to Colorado to join his father in mining. Shall we suppose that George Harding stayed in Clinton until his daughter Emma Jane was born? If that was indeed the case, and the traveling season to the mountains taken into account, George Harding left Deborah and the children very likely during the spring of 1871 and returned alone to Black Hawk in Gilpin County, Colorado. At any rate, relatively soon after George left Clinton, son Jason departed Uncle Henry's household and struck out for Colorado on his own by whatever means he could get there.

(My mother remembered that Jason often spoke of his journey as a youth to join his father in Colorado, and of camping by the Mississippi River on the way, living off the land, mostly on catfish, wild fruit, and "mudhens" which he trapped. The latter were wrapped in mud and cooked over a campfire.)

The years passed, as years do. We don't know when Deborah took the two little children and went back to her relatives in Brooklyn. But it can easily be seen that George and Debby's marriage was a lonely and unhappy one. They were worlds apart in so many different ways.

November 17, 1880. Deborah wrote from New York to Mary Ann in Ohio, mourning the death of Martha (George and Mary Ann's sister). Martha had passed away earlier that month.

"... I know George will feel it very much if he does not write he thinks a great deal of his sisters & brothers. I had a letter from George last week & the first money since last Xmas \$10 ... he speaks about coming to the states I also had a letter from Jason wife they are doing well I always new Jason would make a good husband he was a good stepson ..."

She also wrote of other troubles--

"... .. but I had Emma very sick last May and June, two days we watched for death. She had pneumonia, jaunders, also inflammation of the liver, from 23 May to 19 of June I never left her day or night only while I would eat and in July Richard shot himself in the left hand when all were well I was very sick with dysentery. My head troubles me very much my brother Richard got everything that we needed in our sickness a friend wrote to George when Emma was at the point of death but he did not acknowledge it you know he could do better than he does for his family Ten dollars in one year"

George moved from his lowly miner's cabin to nearby Lawson, Clear Creek County, Colorado in 1878. For easier reading the following letter to his sister Mary Ann is a transcript minus spelling and punctuation eccentricities--but the overtones of sadness and nostalgia are evident.

May 29th 1881

Lawson, Clear Creek County, Col.

Dear Sister & Brother & Family

It has been some time since I wrote you. I have nothing to write about only that I am amongst the living yet. I am troubled with catarrh. Most people are in the mountains. Hoping you all well. I mourn the loss of our dear sister Martha, but we must travel the same road after a little. It is like prospecting a new country we know nothing about, nor can't. I can't see into the next world any more than I can in the ground. I have not been to church for 10 years I think.

The weather here is very fine, a little shower most every afternoon. The grass will grow nice this year in the mountains. I have not been out from under ground many days this summer. It does not hardly seem as though it was spring yet. The summer and winter is pretty near the same underground. Time passes faster than any place.

Things are pretty dull here in the way of work, wages \$3 per day for miners but more men than work. I want to do something with my property if possible this summer. I am not able to develop sufficient or I could sell for a good sum. I have the property. I cannot explain to you what we have to do in this country to turn things into money. It takes lots of work to develop a mine to get it in shape to sell and one pair of hands can't do much.

I am blamed by you all, I am aware of that. I do not expect you will ever see me there again unless I make out of what I have here, as I could not think of living in that part of the world. I want to come and see you all again if I can but I can't say when, perhaps never.

I am living alone. It is seldom that anyone comes to see me as I am out of the way on my claims. I am anxious to see my wife and children but can't at present. I have been away a long time. I do not write to folks so I get no letters. Send me one and give me a history of all my old acquaintances when you have nothing else to do.

Chester, how does the world use you? I should like to come and mow with you and eat lettuce and onions and pigs heads. I am living on pancakes and ham, beans, and potatoes. They are 4 cts. a lb. My best love to you all, hoping we may meet again before death.

Give me some news.

from your brother

Geo Harding

July 18, 1881, Deborah in Brooklyn to Mary Ann in Ohio
(The Eddy she speaks of was Edward Harding Weatherhead, son of George's sister Martha.)

"... I had a letter from Eddy on 28 of June & thirty dollers, I need not say how acceptable it was as all George has sent me in one year & five months is twenty dollers I do not see how he expects me & the children to live I owe so much I do not know when I can pay it the doctor sent in his bill for Emma twice which is \$48 it is not a nice feeling to have sent in & no thing to pay with... I had a letter from George 16 May, none since he is at Lawson Clear Creek Colorado he was well my opinion is he spends all his money on drink & neglects his family I do not know of another man like him Hartly drinks but still he supports his family I have not heard from Sarah or Maria in a long time I owe Jason wife a letter she wrote me a very nice letter ..."

Jason Harding, George's son, had stayed in Colorado about two years, then made a trip back to Nemaha County in southeastern Nebraska to visit his Uncle John Harding and Aunt Jeanette. It was there that he met the John HODGKINSON family which had migrated from Wisconsin some years earlier. Jason soon fell in love with their pretty daughter, Mary Rebecca--Becky, my grandmother. They were married on Christmas Day, 1877, Jason's birthday. What a handsome couple they were! Nemaha County became their life-long home.

George's next letter to Mary Ann tells us a lot about his way of life and expresses a real outreach to family members far, far away. (A transcript)

June 19th 1881
Lawson, Clear Creek Co. Col.

"a plank road, that is a great enterprise for that place.

Dear Sister & Brother & Family:

Your great letter of news. It contained more news to me than a NY Herald. Mary Ann, you ought to have been an editor. I think you are pretty smart if you had have a chance that folks have now. I am ever so much obliged for the pictures. I think I have better looking relations than the average. I wish you would get aunt and uncles Sarah and Nellie's likeness and send to me as I have not got them now, also sister Martha's as I did not get her letter. Someone must have taken it out of the office. I wonder whether it was directed to Leadville. If so, there is some Hardings there. Thomas Harding took my letter out before, for one of his Hardings opened it and posted it with apology. Martha's hair is not so gray as I supposed. Is the small white lock Chester's? You did not say. You spoke of a piece of lace but you did not send it. You sent a piece of crepe or something of that kind.

I have not received any letter from Eddie. I had a letter from Jason and wife. They were well and getting plenty to eat and well satisfied. She is raising chickens. Jason has 30 pigs, 3 horses, some cows, and one girl can walk and talk. I think he has a nice wife. She writes me good letters so I think a good deal of her. She sent her picture to me.

This is a beautiful day. The weather very fine this spring. I did not know that Reuben was dead. I am sorry to hear of that. It does not seem possible for such a change to have taken place in the short time since I was there.

"Most of my old friends here of 1860 are dead. It does not take long for a generation to pass away. Mary Ann, you are not so old as I thought you were. I thought I was 56 years old but I have forgot. Tell me how old I am when you write. I will write to Eddie and Albert but I do not know where to address them. Tell them to send their number. I had forgotten about them owing me but as near as I can recollect, about \$75 dollars. I would not wish for them (to) hurt themselves, that if I had money I would lend them some more. I would say if they could send Aunt Debby \$15 or \$20 by the 4th of July it would accommodate me very much as I am afraid I can't raise the money. I hate to have the fourth pass and them have no money in a place like NY City. I am doing dead work at present so I can't get money. I am waiting to take a contract of running a drift or tunnel 7 hundred feet, I and another man has the promise of it for a company. There is a lawsuit about the property. I expect it closed every day.

So best love to you all for this time, hoping you all well. I am bothered with catarrh since 1 year last spring in my head. I do not think I ever will get over it.

From your well wished Brother
Geo. Harding

Chester, I wish I could see you, I would like to have you come here and see me but I do not expect that you will come.

I have some very fine flowers growing on the roof of my house. Perhaps I will send a bunch in this letter. My house is covered with dirt about 15 in. deep. It is nice and cool and warm in winter."

(The first paragraph of George's letter speaks about pictures. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful 8" x 10" original picture of George's three sisters. On the back is written the date, August 27, 1874, and the names, Mary Ann Harding Hurlburt, Maria Harding Baldwin, Martha Harding Weatherhead--large full-bodied placid looking women in long-sleeved full length best Sunday black taffeta, lace at cuffs and lace collars fastened with a brooch, earrings, long straight hair neatly parted in the middle and combed smoothly around the face into buns or coils at the back.)

In the year 1882 we have only two letters - both from George's wife Deborah in Brooklyn to his sister Mary Ann in Parma, Ohio.

March 20, 1882, in part--

"... .. this is to let you know the boys sent me thirty dollers also one hundred & five & one doller which makes \$136 dollers I sent you the note I payed some of my debts with it I am so thankfull to the boys for the money I have given up writing to George I know you will blame me but you dont feel the sting of having a husband and doing nothing towards their support the children write to him how I miss dear Martha consoling letters"

August 24, 1882, in part--

"... .. I had a letter from George this month with ten dollers in it, also an account of sister Maria's death George wanted to know what it would cost to take us out there so I let him know I wont say I am going until I have the money in my hand."

THE DOMESDAY BOOK, REFURBISHED

England this year is celebrating the refurbishing of the Domesday (pronounced Doomsday) Book, the oldest public record in Great Britain, considered by some to be England's greatest historical treasure. Its title comes from respect of a record that was solid enough to confront Doomsday.

Commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086, twenty years after his victory over the Anglo-Saxons at Hastings, the book, printed on parchment, is a survey of the country and its people. Thirty-four English counties are described in detail, landholder by landholder. Many of the 13,418 places thus described are still in existence with churches and mills found today in their original locations.

The Domesday Book actually consists of 2 books. The Great Domesday Book, 4 inches thick, holds accounts of 31 counties crammed on to 764 pages, 14 by 20 inches. The other book, known as Little Domesday, 7 inches thick, holds the records of 3 counties, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk on 902 smaller pages, 7½ inches by 11½ inches. The King's authority did not extend to Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, or Westmorland, nor was the survey held in London or Winchester.

Completed in 7 months and written in Latin, the information in the book consists of the following data: The name of the estate. Who held it at the time of King Edward the Confessor's death (1066). Who held it in 1086. How many hides (120 acre units) it was assessed at. How many plow teams belonged to the tenant-in-chief and how many to his subtenants. How many inhabitants there were. How much wood, meadow, and pasture. How many mills, fisheries, vineyards, beehives. How much had been added or taken away since 1066. What the entire estate was worth.

Most of the land had been taken from the Saxons and given to the Norman barons after their victory in 1066. These Norman barons were the tenants-in-chief. There were 1400 of them and they paid a land tax to William while leasing the land to subtenants, cotters (unfree cottagers), sokemen (free peasants), and villeins (villagers).

Since the Normans controlled the country, it is not surprising that the writers of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle complained that "So very narrowly did the King have it investigated that there was no single hide nor a yard of land, nor indeed (it is a shame to relate but it seemed no shame to do) one ox nor one cow nor one pig which was there left out, and not put down in his record." Their complaint is the genealogist's joy.

William was especially interested in this survey because there were rumors of an invasion from Denmark and Norway and he needed "Dane-geld" or tax money to buy off the invaders, who never did appear. He also used the information to settle land disputes as did succeeding kings.

The Normans collected the information in a surprisingly short time, probably because the local governments, with Anglo-Saxon efficiency, kept good records. The high sheriff in each county sent local officials to bring back the information, collected under oath.

The collected information was sent at once to Winchester where an individual known only as the Winchester Scribe put it all together after which all the tenants-in-chief came to Salisbury to swear allegiance to William and take an oath that the information was true. Penalties for perjury were high.

The survey revealed a population of 1.5 million people and a country that was 15% woodland, 25% pasture, and 35% arable with the rest being settlements or wastelands. Everything was written down from livestock to villagers, from occupations to nationalities.

Three abbreviated copies of the Book were made in the 12th and 13th centuries when it was frequently brought into court as evidence, but it was last presented in court in 1663. Since 1859 it has been kept in the Public Record Office (PRO) except for the two World Wars when it was removed to a place of safety. In the PRO visitors can trace their families to the 11th century. They can also obtain the handbook, *Tracing Your Ancestors*, in its third printing from the PRO.

The PRO decided to divide the Domesday Book into 5 parts and rebind it to make it easier to handle. While the Book was unbound, photographs of each page were taken which will be sold at \$2,000 a set. Computers at the University of California at Santa Barbara were used to produce a detailed index which will simplify use of the Book. A computer readable text was produced at the University of Hull in England. Detailed maps have been developed using the computer-based data.

In this year of celebration the PRO held a contest to see how many people could trace their families back to the Domesday Book. Two hundred fifty people did so successfully--and some went farther back than that.

Meanwhile the most ambitious project of all may be that of the BBC who are making a contemporary Domesday survey of the British Isles using data from the national archive and information collected by a million school children. One wonders if 900 years from now, people will be celebrating their efforts -- and genealogists will still be tracing their families.

Information used in writing this article was obtained from the July, 1986 issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* and various news releases.

RESEARCH HELPS

In previous issues, we have mentioned the church collections that are kept at the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The archives of the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota, the South Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church and the South Dakota Conference of the Church of Christ are all to be found at the Center. In addition to these archives, other collections that may be of interest to genealogists at the Center include the following:

- Minnehaha County Archives from 1871-1978
- Sioux Falls Army Air Base Collection 1942-1945
- South Dakota Medical Association 1883-1982
- Original prisoner case files of South Dakota State Penitentiary
- Reuben Goertz Collection of Germans from Russia
- Records of John Morrell Company 1911-1976
- V. H. Masters Collection which contains postcard views of South Dakota towns in the early 1900's.

The Center is located on the lower level of Mikkelson Library on the campus of Augustana College. A guide to the collections, THE ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS OF THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES, may be obtained by writing to the Archivist, Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Box 727, Sioux Falls, SD 57197.

The genealogical resources of the state library of Michigan is the focus of an article in the March/April 1986 issue of the National Genealogical Society newsletter. The Library of Michigan came into existence nine years before Michigan became a state. Many of its holdings are available on inter-library loan as the Library tries to keep two copies of everything, one of which is for circulation. Its extensive holdings are described in the article.

Those interested in German research should be sure to look over the brochure Floramay Miller has given the Society. It contains many sources to help in overseas searching including addresses, form letters, books, periodicals and organizations.

NEW MEMBER

Olena Gooding -- 305 North Buchanan, Pierre, SD 57501 224-5193

July, 1986 JS

BIENNIO BOVIN DIVISION NAROI
SO NOLA NY
ORIENTOLOGIC VOCIOLA
BIBLIOTECA BIENNIO
BIENNIO NY



Did you know that South Dakota had a militia and that the names, ages, and addresses of men eligible to serve can be found at your county court house?

Did you know that threshing machines were registered at your county court house?

Did you know that spouses of aliens had to take an oath of allegiance to the United States and in so doing supplied information about their birth, marriage, and personal appearance which can be found at your county court house?

Did you know that burial expenses of South Dakota Civil War veterans of the Union Army could be paid by the state and therefore, proof of military service can be found at your county court house?

Did you know that applications for employment with the WPA or for admission to the South Dakota State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis or for surgical and hospital care for crippled children, all containing family history, can be found at your county court house?

These are a few of the records we have found at the county level. We thought this to be a good enough reason to assist the Pierre Historical Society in their inventory of the Hughes County Courthouse. Work sessions have been set up for both afternoon and evening. Presently, we are sorting records from the defunct office of the County Superintendent of Schools. Teachers' reports listing names and ages of students are being arranged by years.

The ultimate goal of this inventory is to make the records available for research. The County Commissioners have set aside an area in the courthouse basement for that purpose.

We are trying to notify all members of the times of the work sessions. If you would like to help and are not sure of the work sessions, please call Harold Schuler, 224-5207. He has been setting up the sessions and will be happy to have your help.

COMING UP

Our September 16 meeting will be a work session at the courthouse from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. Use the back door and take the elevator or the stairs to the basement. The Executive Board will meet beforehand at Rawlins Library.

Our October 21 meeting will be a surprise, which is one way of saying we have not decided upon a topic. Be watching the Capital Journal for a meeting notice and a clue to our program.

Are you enjoying the genealogy column in the Capital Journal? Marilynrae Mathews is the author. Let her hear from you! Suggestions are welcome, too, for topics you would like to read about.

BOOK CORNER

A HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA CENTURY FARMS is the latest offering from the Taylor Publishing Company of Dallas, Texas, a firm wellknown for their work with county histories. The book follows the usual format of the county histories opening with an overview of South Dakota farming followed by individual Century Farm histories.

The Century Farm Recognition Program was started by the South Dakota Farm Bureau to honor farm families during the Bicentennial year. The program was so well received that it has been continued, now involving the State Department of Agriculture and having the farms recognized annually at the State Fair. To be recognized as a Century Farm, the farm must have remained in the same family for 100 years.

The overview of South Dakota farm history was written by Joanita Kant, Director of the Kampeska Heritage Museum in Watertown. Since Kant is in the Watertown area, many of the pictures used to illustrate the text and the majority of the quotes are from the northeastern part of the state, an area frequently overlooked in general accounts of South Dakota life. Kant does not neglect other areas of the state and has used reference materials that apply to all aspects of farm life. Basic Homestead laws have been clarified. Descriptions of farm life before World War I and during the depression years of the 1930's are especially vivid.

The individual farm histories are arranged alphabetically. Some are labeled with the name of the original landowner, some with the present owner and some, thoughtfully, with a combination of the names. There is no index to help solve this problem. The Century Farms are listed in the back of the book by county and present owners names which contributes to the research problem since some of the farms were transferred from one generation to another on the maternal side which means a change in surnames.

Information in the farm accounts varies depending upon the contributor. A few neglected to mention the county in which the farm is located but usually gave the legal land description. Others crammed four generations of family history into the limited space allotted them.

One photograph is allowed each contributor unless more space had been purchased. The photographs also vary, some being of the original farm or its first owner or the present-day farm or owner.

Genealogists will find the book a useful source both for the family histories and the general history of the settlement of various groups of people as South Dakota farmers. Readers unacquainted with farm life will find themselves admiring the sturdiness and courage of those who stayed to cope with the uncertainties of the weather, the loneliness, and the hard work that went into making a living on a farm in South Dakota.

A HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA CENTURY FARMS is available at Rawlins Library in the South Dakota Collection, call number 630.1 So8.

SHAKING THE BRANCHES

with Floramay Miller

In Search of the Orphan

My husband's family was very short, genealogically speaking. His grandfather, Frank Benjamin Miller, was an orphan who his parents were or what had happened to his brothers and sisters. As a young person, he had worked on farms and in lumber camps before coming to Giard, Iowa, marrying and settling down. To our knowledge the orphanage had burned down, destroying the records.

When I came into the family I was determined to find this individual as a child, born in 1874. I was sure that he must be listed on a census record some place in Wisconsin. There would be a child of his name and age who undoubtedly would connect me to his family. I looked through Federal and Wisconsin state census records for the three to four counties he was known to be connected with and found nothing. I always seemed to come up empty-handed.

The big deadend was the lack of orphanage records. On a very long shot, I decided to write to the Wisconsin Department of Social Services asking if they might possibly have duplicates of the records of an orphanage in LaCrosse which had burned. I received a very nice letter in return telling me that at the time in question all the orphanages in the state were run by the Catholic Church and the writer had, very graciously, already forwarded my request to Catholic Charities in La-Crosse.

Shortly thereafter I received a letter from Catholic Charities in LaCrosse informing me that St. Michael's Orphanage had never burned and that they did indeed still have the records which consisted of brief facts listed on index cards. They enclosed a copy of the information, not only on Frank Benjamin's card, but also on the cards of his six brothers and sisters. Included were the names of the parents! EUREKA!

My next interest was to find the present descendants of some of these brothers and sisters. The oldest girl had joined St. Rose Convent in LaCrosse so she wouldn't have any descendants, but after several weeks, it hit me that convents would have records and they might have names of her living relatives while she was there. It turned out to be much better than that.

I received a kind letter from a sister who had personally known Sister Adeline Mueller. (Grandfather had changed the spelling of his last name.) Enclosed were not only the names of her living nieces and nephews but copies of two short oral histories which Sister Adeline had given about her family upon entering the convent and again at a later time. What a treasure!

The picture these histories presented of the severe sufferings and hardships faced by these children explained why it had been so difficult to trace this family. Grandfather, himself, had given incomplete and misleading information. He would seldom talk of his early life because of the painful memories, and he obviously didn't want the past brought into his adult life. Ironically, while he was hospitalized in LaCrosse not long before his death in 1947 and thinking of his brothers and sisters, he was unaware that his sister, Adeline, was directly across the street at St. Rose Convent. Even more frustrating for me was the fact that Sister Adeline did not die until 1972, several years after I had started trying to find the family. All of his life Frank Benjamin had lived within 60 miles of most of his brothers and sisters.

In 1978 three of his children made a trip to LaCrosse to meet their cousins for the first time. There was the surprise and fulfillment of finding common talents and interests in the two branches of the family who had had no contact for 91 years. There was the story of how one of the sisters had spent her lifetime looking for her lost brother who had been sent from the orphanage to a farm from which he had run off and disappeared. There was a sharing of family pictures and events and the locating of family graves. Family research was extended back another generation with the learning of the names of the mother's parents and the location of their homes in Europe as well as the names of the mother's sisters who had also come to the United States.

A mystery was solved, a grandfather a little better understood, and a family given deeper roots.

F.M.

"One hundred--perhaps only fifty--years from now, will your ancestors be able to find your final resting place intact?" is the question asked on a brochure printed by the Iowa-Nebraska Cemetery Protection Association. This Omaha-based group, formed in 1983, is interested in saving the old cemeteries of Nebraska and western Iowa.

"Or will time have erased your name?" continues the brochure. "Today there are countless cemeteries and family-burial plots whose stones cry for attention, plead that someone care--in a seemingly uncaring, throw-away world." According to members, farmers are often guilty of destroying the abandoned cemeteries as they grow tired of plowing around the small plots. Members suggest that the farmers record all of the information available about the cemetery before plowing it under.

Although members can't estimate how many old cemeteries have been destroyed, they hope to find out how many abandoned cemeteries remain and to compile a cemetery census.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HARDING AND HIS FAMILY

By Starlene Mitchell.

In 1882 my great grandfather George Harding continued to live and labor alone on his mine in Colorado. It was a solitary existence. His wife Deborah Jane and children--Richard, 14, and Emma, 11--had been living in New York City since the children were very small. There is no clue to suggest that George had seen them in all that time although there was an active exchange of letters between them and with the Harding relatives in Ohio, particularly George's sister Mary Ann who always seemed to be the clearing house for all the family news. Deborah had a hard time managing on very little money, blaming George for being a poor provider and doing much fussing about that and health problems in her correspondence. In all fairness we must recognize that it was not easy for her. She never failed to express great concern and affection for the various Harding families and their members in Ohio and Iowa.

George had written to Deborah in August of 1882 asking what it would cost to bring her and the children to Colorado. She replied that she was not about to make any plans until the money was in her hands and obviously her doubt was justified for we find her still in Brooklyn on September 9, 1883 when Debby penned a chatty letter to Mary Ann--

"Emma has been staying at her Aunts all vacation, returned home to go to school on Monday. She got promoted, I had to pay 67 cents for books for her. Richard is in his place yet, gets \$2.25 a week, got a weeks vacation and his pay... .. I am trying to get him a better place that is where he will get more pay I could get him a place to learn the jewelry business but I am afraid of his head the Doctor said if I could get him out door exercise it would be best for him, I have been troubled the last two months with neuralgia in my head... .."

And again, on February 12, 1884 - her last letter to Mary Ann--

"... .. I was sorry to learn by your letter your not feeling well but hope ere this reaches you will feel much better... .."

Mary Ann died a little over a month later, on March 29, 1884.

With his last dear sister gone, George now writes in a reflective mood to his friend and brother-in-law, Chester (Mary Ann's husband).

(transcript)

Feb 23th 85

Lawson Clearcreek Co. Col.

"Dear Brother & Family:

I thought I must write you a few lines as I sat here alone. I often think of you and would like to come to see you but times is so hard I cannot but I hope something may turn up that I may.

It must be very lonesome for you now. It seems so to me since my poor sisters are gone but it is no use to mourn for them. We will have to

"follow them soon I expect. I think their trouble is at an end. I do not think they have anything to answer for.

The silver question makes things look downward here. Folks do not know what to do for the best. There is not much work doing for days and pay most done by leasing. I have not been doing much in the way of mining for the last year.

I wish you could see some gold specimens I have now. I have 1 about the size of the palm of your hand, one side about 1 half inch thick, looks most all gold. I was thinking of sending them to my wife but I will send the money. I burned them and made the gold show like that in rock. It is taliried ore. I could not see gold till I burned them.

I have run out of news that would interest you so I must fill this with odds and ends. One company on this hill are sinking their shaft 2 hundred ft. deeper to open more ground. That will make it 6 hundred ft. deep. One shaft near here is 14 or 15 hundred, that is the deepest one in this part. Several one thousand ft. deep since I first came to this country, as I am one of the pioneers.

I have been on the front of settling the great west from Cleveland to this place and hardly been sick. I have never employed a doctor since I left Cleveland for myself. I have layed out lots of nights, tired and weary without a blanket. When I got too cold, get up and go again. I cant stand it quite so well now but pretty good yet, but I am failing. My hair is near white.

It would do you good to look at my house and see the tools and pots and pans hanging all over, 5 or six frying pans, drills, hammers, picks, powder caps and most everything you could think of.

My clock says 10, I must retire. So goodnight, hoping you all well, with best love I will conclude.

Geo. Harding"

Let us temporarily leave George and Deborah to work things out, and briefly divert this story to the folks in southeastern Nebraska where the fertile rolling prairie land abruptly rises into wooded Missouri River bluffs at now historic Brownville. Some four or five miles northwest at the village of London (optimistically named by early English settlers in honor of the metropolis of their native country), George's older brother John Harding was busy putting his roots as deep into the ground as those of his apple orchard. He had been appointed Postmaster in 1871 and still held the office. His wife Jeanette was active in church, literary and school affairs. Jason, George's son by a first marriage, had established his home and family a few miles away at a community called Sheridan which later became Auburn, the county seat of Nemaha County where my mother and I were born. An early newspaper of the area was The Nebraska Republican which faithfully reported all the London happenings, for example--

October 22, 1884
Mrs. R. C. Barrow of Tecumseh, with son and granddaughter, made a short visit to London and took with them a load of apples from the orchard of JOHN HARDING.

October 22, 1884

JOHN HARDING has a valuable cow that has an apple lodged in her throat, and it is feared no means can save her from dying. Be careful how you give apples to stock to eat.

November 5, 1884

JOHN HARDING is sick.

November 12, 1884

MRS. HARRIET HODGKINSON is spending a few days with her daughter, MRS. JASON HARDING.

April 22, 1885

MRS. HARDING's piece on tramps was very good but I would hate to go where she found the scripture to sentence the fellow that starved the tramp.

July 1, 1885

JOHN HARDING, of London, lost a fine mare a few days ago.

July 29, 1885

OSCAR REDFERN and MR. HARDING hauled a fine load of apples to Auburn Tuesday, for which they received 75 cents per bushel.

August 12, 1885

MR. JOHN HARDING threshed 113 bushels of rye last Monday, a good place to find seed rye.

March 20, 1886

MR. HARDING has bought him a saw that runs by horse power, so no more wood chopping at his house.

And what of George Harding's younger brother Henry in Clinton, Iowa all this time? Henry, you may remember, was a building contractor by profession and he had prospered to say the least. He had built an elegant 2-story brick home and carriage house at 1006 Second Street for his wife Sarah and their five children. He also owned a farm close to town and was the proprietor of four brick stores three stories high, was interested in a number of city lots, was a stockholder in the City National Bank and of the water works, and was involved in the manufacture of creamery supplies.

In Colorado George had finally scraped up enough money to finance Deborah Harding's long awaited trip from New York with the children, Richard and Emma (both teen-agers now) to join him in the small mining town of Lawson. They arrived in 1885. It must have been quite an adjustment straight from the streets of Brooklyn. Dick, age 17, went right to work mining metal ore with his father. Prior to their coming, George spent most of his time in a cabin with dirt floor and roof near the mine on Red Elephant Mountain. At first Deborah and Emma stayed in a home with friends until a house could be arranged for in town. In our only photograph she appears to be a thin, frail looking woman with beautiful eyes who had always been said to have "weak lungs" but her health improved in the clean high air. She even kept boarders for awhile.

As George Harding wrote so philosophically in one of his letters, "It does not take long for a generation to pass away." In our November newsletter this factual story of my Harding ancestors will be concluded with a few more disclosures into the fullness of their years and some interesting related events.

PUBLICATIONS OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

Those who trace their ancestry to Czechoslovakia will be interested in **CZECH IMMIGRATION PASSENGER LISTS, V. II** by Leo Baca. Seven thousand Czech and Slovak immigrants who arrived in New Orleans from 1879 to 1899 and in Galveston from 1896 to 1906 are identified. Home villages in Czechoslovakia and destinations in the United States are listed. Data on immigrant ships and instructions on genealogical research by mail through the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C. are also included. Order from:

Leo Baca
1707 Woodcreek
Richardson, TX 75081

Cost is \$16.95

A well-reviewed family record is that of **JAMES AND MARY VEATCH ELLIS, THEIR SONS AND OTHER DESCENDANTS** by Ann-Jannette Emerson. The book traces the family from the 1700's to 1985 and takes them through Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. The book can be ordered from:

Mrs. R. C. Emerson
540 Latimer Road
Santa Monica, CA 90402

Cost is \$35.00

THE LEGACY OF ADAM FISHER (1647-1757) has been compiled by James S. Fisher. This Adam Fisher arrived in this country ca 1741-42 with his wife and one son, Abraham, and settled in Pennsylvania. Other sons, Jacob, Daniel, and Adam Jr. were born there. The book records 1,299 descendants of Abraham, 2,036 of Jacob, 817 of Daniel, and 2,018 of Adam, Jr. The introduction presents three Fisher families in Europe in 1891 and clarifies the lineages of their descendants. Order from:

Piscator Publications
208 N. Madison
Jackson, MS 39202

Cost is \$50.00

LANCASTER COUNTY CONNECTIONS is being promoted as a must for anyone who has roots in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Information on the many ethnic backgrounds of that area is included. Material has been extracted from original documents and hard-to-get publications. Order:

Gary T. Hawbaker
P.O. Box 207
Hershey, PA 17033

Cost for a year's subscription for a quarterly magazine is \$17.50

The **CAR-DEL SCRIBE** in its 23rd year of publication offers free queries to subscribers. Published bi-monthly, it carries how-to articles, book reviews, and at least 400 queries in each issue. Order from:

Car-Del Publications
P.O. Box 73
Ludlow, MA 01056

Cost for one year's subscription is \$8.50

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The newsletter of the National Genealogical Society is running a series describing the holdings of the branch libraries of the National Archives. Beginning with their May-June issue, they are listing special holdings as well as materials held in common. Activities, addresses, directions, and working hours are included for each library.

Tri-State Genealogical Society of Belle Fourche, South Dakota reports that the genealogical section of the Belle Fourche Public Library has been moved to a larger area to hold their ever-increasing collection. Requests for a search of the materials, listed in their newsletter, THE WYMONDAK MESSENGER, can be sent to the Public Library, 905 Fifth Avenue, Belle Fourche, SD 57717. Please enclose a SASE with your request.

The South Dakota Genealogical Society has undertaken a Centennial project extracting vital records from pre-1906 newspapers. Extracted information will be sent to Pat Kennison, 608 Wayside Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702, who will alphabetize the names. Final repository of the information will be determined at their October meeting in Aberdeen.

NOTICE

Remodeling has been completed at the LDS Church so microfilm can again be ordered from the genealogical library at Salt Lake City. Reading hours are Wednesday evening and Saturday morning from 10 to 12. Microfilm cost is \$3.00 a roll with a six month rental period. For more information or to order, call Laura Glum after 5:00 P.M. at 224-2670.

NEW MEMBER

Maggie Dafoe--700 E. Dakota, #201, Pierre, SD 57501

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Geri Spargur--109 S. Adams, Pierre, SD 57501

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ruby Gray--1031 West Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501

See you at the courthouse:

September, 1986 JSM

MEMBER ONLY SERVICE
SERIES 12
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBER SERVICE
SERIES 12



YEAR 1986, VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6 ISSN 0737-7975

With the early arrival of winter, we are reminded that 1986 is fast drawing to a close. This is our last newsletter for the year and the last installment of the story of George Harding's life that we have followed with great interest. Soon all of us will be putting aside our genealogical efforts for a few weeks as we become caught up in the bustle of Christmas preparations.

Before you tuck everything genealogical away, look over your records. If you need supplies, call Joanne Fix at 224-2612. She may have what you need on hand. If not, she will make up an order so that you can receive it before Christmas.

COMING UP

Our next and last meeting for this year will be November 18 at Rawlins Library. We'll be working on Riverside Cemetery records. Stan Oestreich has entered the records into his computer. We'll be checking the entries against the original data so we will need sharp-eyed proof readers. This will be an opportunity for those who feel a twinge of guilt because they don't like trudging through cemeteries (and therefore haven't) or those who don't feel physically up to the strenuous work of cemetery reading to contribute to the cemetery projects. The more workers we have at this meeting, the sooner we will have this phase of the project completed.

Supplies will be available for purchase at this meeting.

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY

Work on Cedar Hill Cemetery at Ft. Pierre has been completed. With the recent discovery of the original receipt books for the sale of the lots, workers were able to identify many of the early burials. Although not all of the graves have been identified, the latest cemetery list is much more accurate than any that preceded it.

The Society and the Stanley County Register of Deeds welcome any additions and/or corrections to the list of names they have compiled. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact Kathy Klemann, Register of Deeds, at Ft. Pierre or Laura Glum at the South Dakota Archives in Pierre or Joanne Fix in Pierre.

BOOK CORNER

THE HORNES, AN AMERICAN FAMILY is the title of a recently published book by Gail Lumet Buckley, the daughter of Lena Horne. Lena Horne is a star but in the Horne family she is only one of many stars. The Hornes were 'special.' They belonged to a black bourgeoisie of the nineteenth century in which they stood out as achievers. Not only were they achievers but they were good-looking, intellectual, and politically motivated. Unfortunately, they were black. In another time one of them might have risen to the nation's top office but in post-Civil War America they only reached the top of their 'class.'

Their founding mother bought freedom for her family by selling ginger cakes and persimmon beer on a street corner in Georgia after seeing one of her children sold away to Mississippi and another sent to colonize Liberia. Once free, the family moved to Chicago except for the oldest daughter who remained a slave in Georgia until after the Civil War. It is this branch of the family from which the author descends and which she has traced using genealogical sources.

To assist her in her search, Buckley had her grandfather's trunk full of memorabilia. The Hornes were savers. The accumulation showed clearly the life style of a comfortably well-off, well educated family of the late nineteenth century. They flourished during a brief period following the Civil War before Jim Crow legislation was inflicted upon them. Their lives revolved around their churches and social clubs as did those of their white counterparts. By 1896 it was clear that the violence and restrictions on their life in the South were continuing to increase so the Hornes moved to New York City.

Lena was born in a pleasant residential area of Brooklyn and spent much of her youth in the care of her feminist grandmother who expected proper social behavior from Lena. It was her mother who pushed her into show business. The Hornes were much more interested in the NAACP, women's suffrage, and social wrongs than entertainment. Lena's career suffered from the racist attitudes of the American public who thought it was all right for her to perform in Harlem or with black bands but not with white people.

Buckley has woven the many colors of her ancestry into her book. She writes of her white and Indian forebears and reminds the reader of a world in which light-colored individuals sometimes chose to 'pass.' She also names many of darker skin who contributed to the United States.

In the same straightforward manner, she writes of herself, her troubled years and her final peace at having found herself. How? By proving once again the genealogical adage, "You never know who you are until you know from where you came."

THE HORNES, AN AMERICAN FAMILY is available at the South Dakota State Library, call number F129

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B83

FIRST FLEETERS

As Australia approaches her Bicentennial in 1988, interest has begun to stir in tracing families of the First Fleeters. The eleven ships of the First Fleet landed in Sydney Cove January 26, 1788 after an eight months sea voyage from England. There were 1,000 people on board the ships, 750 of whom were convicted criminals who had been sentenced to be transported to Australia for seven or fourteen years or for life. The rest of the passengers were the sailors, guards, and officials of the new colony.

The criminals had been sentenced for small crimes and were pickpockets petty thieves, highwaymen, and prostitutes. Those convicted of more serious crimes were hanged. Seven years was a common sentence during the years of upheaval caused by the Industrial Revolution. In attempting to cut down on crime, more severe punishments were given causing a surplus of criminals in England.

Before the American Revolution, England had sent some of the surplus to the Colonies. No longer able to do that after the Colonies won their freedom, England started to use "hulks," the derelict ships anchored on her coast, to handle the prison overflow, but the hulks filled up. England was forced to look for another solution to the prison housing problem.

Transporting the criminals to Australia seemed a good solution. It would increase England's power in the Pacific, giving them a trade base. It seemed good to the convicts, too. There they would have an outdoor life and some freedom as they were not usually locked up. Convicts were given grants of land after their terms were up, something they never would have received in England. The guards and marines received land as many of them liked it so well that they, too, stayed on. A few of the criminals continued their criminal life but most became the citizens who built Australia. Unlike England, the class system never developed in Australia.

Up until ten or twenty years ago, convict ancestors were never mentioned in Australia but today having a convict ancestor has become fashionable. The Fellowship of First Fleeters has about 3500 members who trace their ancestry to only 130 of the people who came in the First Fleet. Estimates are that 250,000 to 500,000 Australians would qualify for membership if they searched their ancestry. That's just the beginning. A total of 164,000 convicts were transported. Think how many Australians could find a convict in their ancestry if they just started looking!

Information used above was taken from an article about Australia by Catherine Watson, Travel Editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, January 19, 1986.

RECENT GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

SHAKING YOUR FAMILY TREE, A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy by Dr. Ralph Crandall is now in its second printing. Crandall, Director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, has written a practical guide to finding one's family here and overseas. Order from:
Cost: \$15.95
Yankee Books
Trade Sales Division
Depot Square
Peterborough, NH 03458

THEIR OWN SAGA, Letters from the Norwegian Global Migration contains letters from emigrant Norwegians in every part of the world. North and South Dakota are strongly represented. Order from:
Cost: \$17.95
Minnesota Press
P.O. Box 13063
Minneapolis, MN 55414

COLONY OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1765-1775, Abstracts of Land Patents is now available from Margaret Hofmann. Hofmann has published a number of books containing abstracts of deeds and wills from North Carolina. All are indexed by surname and place name. For more information, contact:
Margaret Hofmann
Box 446
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

SUMMER SOLDIERS: A Survey and Index of Revolutionary War Courts-Martial holds the names of more than 3,000 individuals who appeared before the military tribunals. Genealogical information is given for each individual. Available from the same publisher is THE WUERTEMBERG EMIGRATION INDEX. This first volume contains the names of 11,500 persons who applied to leave Germany from the late eighteenth century to 1900. Over 60,000 people in all left in that time period and it is assumed that more volumes will follow. Both books can be ordered from:
Cost: Ancestry Incorporated
Summer Soldiers--\$16.95 P.O. Box 476
The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index--\$15.95 Salt Lake City, UT 84110

Copies of the original handwritten records of the 1850 census are now available in book form. These microfilm books are complete copies of the records, not transcriptions. Counties from 16 states are listed. For more information, contact:
Heritage House
P.O. Box 8173
Wichita, KS 67208

ANCESTORS WE HAVE FOUND is the title of the North San Diego County Genealogical Society's surname index. Over 3400 surnames are included. Order from:
Cost: \$19.95 + \$2.00 handling
North San Diego Co. Gen. Society Inc.
P.O. Box 581
Carlsbad, CA 92008

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF GEORGE HARDING AND HIS FAMILY

By Starlene Mitchell

In reviewing the life of my great grandfather for the bulletin of this Society during the past year, we find George at the age of 57 in the small mining town of Lawson, State of Colorado, where he has spent most of his adult life. Wife Deborah and teenage children, Richard and Emma, finally joined him during the past year from Brooklyn, New York where they had lived with her relatives since the children were small.

George continued, as always, to keep in touch by correspondence with his brother-in-law back in Ohio, husband of deceased sister Mary Ann. In the following letter he also mentions his brother Henry Harding who is a successful businessman/farmer in Clinton, Iowa; his brother John who is a pillar of the farming community in London, Nemaha County, Nebraska; his niece Emily in Ohio (daughter of his sister Mary Ann); his brother-in-law Albert BALDWIN who was the husband of his sister Maria; George's son Jason by his first wife; and John, a WEATHERHEAD relative by marriage.

July 17th 86
Lawson, Clearcreek Co.
Colorado

"Mr. Chester Hurlbut,
Parma, Cuyahoga Co.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Brother & Family:

It is some time since I wrote. I am very slow about getting at it. I have nothing worth writing. We are well except Debby. She is troubled with a cough but she is much better hear than she was in the east. I am not mining this summer. Richard and me are cutting wood this summer. The timber is fine. We get \$1.50 per cord. We are getting along pretty well, have our own house. Richard is as tall as I am. Emma is 5 ft. 2 inches but not very large of her age. She is 15 years old. The weather is pretty dry.

I hear the crops in the valley are looking well. I have not been to the valley for about 6 years. Denver City has grown very fast since I was there. I would not know the place. I think there is 13 railroads into Denver. Some of the mines are doing well here. Some men, 4 in one party of leases, has made \$960 clear each in one month and next month about \$1500 apiece, that is on this hill. I have not got my mines in shape for work. I expect to do some work there this winter. It takes lots of work to develop mines.

I can't think of much as I have not been away. Richard cut his foot on the big toe joint and was layed up 6 weeks. He has been working about 3 weeks since. Today he cut the same joint but not bad enough to lay him up. Emma is trying to raise chickens but she has bad luck. They die or don't hatch. The weather is pretty warm for this place. It is never so hot or so cold up here in the mountains as it is in the valley or Ohio. The climate is nice and the water so nice and cold. Beautiful springs. I suppose you find it lonely since mother is gone. How is Emily and family? I do not hear from Albert's folks since Maria's death. I wrote them but no answer.

I received a letter from Brother Henry. They were all well. His barn was taken away by wind and he is building another. He has 25 acres of grass to cut this year. John don't write any more but I must write to him. I received some newspapers from Jason but no letter for about a year. John Weatherhead I think has 9 girls, 2 married.

"I do not think of any thing more. The folks are asleep and I must go too.
So good night,

Hoping you all well, The fourth was kept for 3 days. We did not go any
place. The railroad was half fare. Write soon.

From Geo. Harding"

The course of events wrought many changes in the lives of our family members during the next five years. Brother Henry and brother John both passed away in 1889 and 1890 respectively. George's son Jason in Auburn, Nebraska, found plenty of work as a carpenter on the Methodist parsonage and the new bank. He and his wife Becky (HODGKINSON) had three girls--Harriet Elizabeth, Martha Ellen, and Lucy Alice. (Later there would be two more children--my mother Ruth Irene, and another George.) Nieces and nephews in Ohio married, multiplied, and spread, some to southeastern Nebraska. The Nemaha County Herald reported many current events in the rural London community:

February 24, 1888

Some of the friends of MRS. JEANETTE HARDING gave her a surprise on the 20th, her birthday. She was the recipient of some handsome presents. An elegant supper was prepared for the occasion. She appreciates the honor and hopes these friends may come again at the close of another half century, or perhaps it might be better to come sooner.

March 2, 1888

MRS. JASON HARDING and family of Auburn, spent a week here with her parents and other friends.

April 6, 1888

GEORGE HODGKINSON has been quite sick with lung trouble. LEVI YOUNG will work a portion of JOHN HARDING's farm this season.

May 10, 1889

HENRY HARDING of Iowa, who has been an invalid for about two years, on his way to the mountains for his health, is spending a few days with his brother, JOHN HARDING, of London.

September 17, 1889

JOHN HARDING has received the sad intelligence of the death of his brother. It will be remembered by some that MR. HARDING, as an invalid, passed through Nebraska, stopping at Auburn and London on his way to Denver in search of health, but did not find it - and he is gone. MRS. HARDING would acknowledge with thanks the receipt of that lovely bouquet of flowers from the garden of MRS. HODGKINSON.

Then on May 4, 1891 in Colorado, Deborah Harding's chronic lung trouble took her life at last. Daughter Emma Jane took over George's household and son Richard continued to work with his father in the mines along with a young man named John AYNEWARD from Minnesota who later became Emma's husband.

Some early snapshots were taken, now yellowed, cracked, and faded. In them we see barren hills stripped of timber, and the hurly-burly Clear Creek rushing madly over its rocky bed to lower elevations. The mine entrance is a square opening in the mountainside, shored up with heavy timbers. The two handle-bar mustached young men

stand there wearing coarse work clothes and miner's caps. We see George as a man appearing older than his 62 years would suggest. He has a full white beard halfway down his chest, and stands on open wood steps by willowy Emma whose waist may well have been small enough to be spanned by a man's two hands. High-topped button shoes peek from under her long dark dress.

At this point let us go back to the widows of brother John and Henry Harding. Their stories conclude:

John's wife, Jeanette (BARLOW), always an active and influential community leader, a power in the local church and Sunday School, had become postmistress of London in the position John held for so many years. The Nemaha County Herald announced:

September 15, 1893

There will be a neighborhood picnic in MRS. HARDING's grove Saturday, September 23, '93, all invited.

September 29, 1893

MRS. HARDING thinks some of resigning the position as postmistress of this office and visiting and traveling some. Who will bid now for this fat office?

September 27, 1895

MRS. JENNETTE HARDING, who has so long filled the position of postmaster of London, has sent in her resignation and we understand the office at London will be discontinued after the first of the month.

Jeanette, student, educator, missionary, Susan B. Anthony associate, altogether a remarkable woman of her day, wrote the following in her diary during her final illness in 1914.

"Oh, how time and events change affairs! I am an aged woman, still a pilgrim seeking a better country, not knowing the scenes I have yet to pass through; the Lord help and prepare me for all the events of the future. It seems that I have played my part in the world and am now a spectator in the great drama, yet I feel a keen interest in all the affairs of life, religious and political. Oh, that I had better health!"

She is buried by John in the historic old Walnut Grove Cemetery on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River at Brownville, Nebraska.

When Henry Harding first married his bride, Sarah (BUCKMASTER), the adjective "compassionate" was used to describe her nature. This held true throughout her life. After Henry died and the children were grown her concerns turned more and more to helping the aged and indigent. Her two sons Albert and Edward had established a paper box firm in Washington, D.C. and became wealthy men. They fulfilled the dream of their mother with a million dollar endowment for a home for the aged in Clinton, Iowa, in her memory. Thus, The Sarah Harding Home was established for the comfort and well-being of the elderly. A large trust fund was created for maintenance, future building, and keeping costs of residents to a minimum. The beautiful Sarah

Harding Home became a modern complex with the addition of Harding East, Harding West, administrative offices, chapel, etc. and continues to this day as Sarah's testimonial in the words of her sons: "To provide for aged persons whose circumstances may so require, a comfortable residence, with board and such other personal attentions and comforts as Christian brotherhood may dictate."

It was probably in 1897, at least it was after the election of William McKinley to the presidency in 1896 that George Harding decided to pay a visit to his son Jason and family in Auburn, Nebraska. We can be pretty sure that George was a political conservative and a strong Republican like his brother Henry (according to biog.) but who was persuaded only temporarily otherwise. George made a comment during that visit that survived to reach this documentary through the primary recollection of Jason's wife Rebecca, my grandmother. He remarked that the only thing that would keep him from going to heaven was that he had voted for Bryan! (William J. Bryan, Democrat candidate for President.) The Nemaha County Fair was in progress and ripe paw-paws* were being sold. (*Paw-paw or papaw, an oblong yellowish wild fruit which grew in the brush along the Missouri River bottomland.) George had never seen these before. He took a liking to them and bought a sack full every day, calling them Missouri bananas.

George's last years were spent living with his daughter Emma and her family and son Richard who never married. In his 77th year George died on January 22, 1906, never having recovered from an attack of "la grippe" which he had contracted the previous October. He and Deborah along with the others of his mountain family rest in the high country that he loved--the old Alvarado Cemetery near Georgetown, Colorado.

Before the history of this man is concluded, someone is sure to wonder whatever became of the Harding mine of Red Elephant Mountain. The mine property was left to Richard and Emma. Jason paid the taxes for some years as Richard and Emma were not financially able. When Richard passed away in 1934 without issue, Emma gave his half to his half brother Jason. The mine was no longer worked. The mining industry in that area had long before come to a standstill. Jason's half was eventually left to his five children. By then the mine was considered worthless, caved in, filled with water. Only Jason's second daughter Lucy wanted to keep it for sentimental reasons so the others transferred their shares to her. Within recent knowledge there have been no further developments. Claim, if any, to this property rests with those descendants. Emma's descendants are also gone as far as is known.

I think it can be safely and objectively said that George Harding was his own man but not so much as to live entirely within himself. He was an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In fact, his funeral service was held in the I.O.O.F. hall. According to his obituary he was "well liked and respected" and was "an interesting speaker on any subject." If these phrases might be considered platitudes, there was another significant obituary statement that can be interpreted as a true testimonial to his character. He was "a favorite among the children of the place" and the schools closed to attend "Uncle" George's funeral. That is an honor which does not come to many.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Sioux Falls Argus-Leader Index--January 1985 - May 1986

From Steve and Floramay Miller--Where Are They Now? Handy Guide to
Non-Current School Records

From Joanne Fix--The Sweeping Wind, A Memoir by Paul de Kruif
That Reminds Me (Alben Barkley's autobiography)
1968 Jack Rabbit, Yearbook of South Dakota State
University, Brookings
South Dakota Historical Review 1935, 1936, 1937

From Geri Spargur--Hughes County Atlas 1949
Pierre City Directories 1966, 1975
Stanley County Farm and Ranch Directory 1967, '72, '73
Hughes County Farm and Ranch Directory 1967, '72, '73
Hand-Hyde County Farm Directory 1972
Sully County Farm Directory 1972
Stanley-Hughes County Farm Directory 1967, '69, '71
Faulk-Potter-Sully Farm Directory 1967
Pierre-Ft. Pierre Telephone Directories 1949 - 1976
Rapid City and Hill City Telephone Directory 1947
Deadwood, Lead, Spearfish, Whitewood Telephone
Directory 1947
Huron, Iroquois, Wolsey Telephone Directory 1946

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Are you looking for that perfect gift for a genealogical cousin? Or would you like to treat yourself to guaranteed genealogical giggles? Then consider COLLECTING DEAD RELATIVES, the book that asks what type of researcher are you. The Briefcase Magnet? The Local Blueblood? The Unconscious Mother Hen? and What do they call those who do it for money?

This illustrated paperback includes chapters on the latest "Genealogist Repellents" Used by Your Friendly County Clerks. Dry Behavior for Cemetery Browsing. The D.A.R. Exposed! Research Trip Survival Tactics. How to Deal With LIVE Relatives. Self-Publishing--The Road to Bankruptcy. Seriously now, folks, you can order this book from:

Cost: \$8.00 (includes shipping) M. Laverne Moore
15361 Skyview Drive
San Jose, CA 95132

November 1986 JS

PIERRE SOUTH DAKOTA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBER'S SERVICE

