



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA



*Eastern Nebraska  
Genealogical Society  
Newsletter*

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541

**October 2018**

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**On Oct 8, instead of our regular meeting, ENGS is hosting a Humanities Nebraska presentation by Doug Rung. The ENGS library will not be open.**

**Nebraskans Remember  
World War II**

**7 PM - October 8  
St Timothy Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
538 W 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

**-- Free and open to the public--  
Please invite your friends and family.**

**Parking is on the west side of the church - 16th Street  
and Colson – enter through the west entrance**

**Travel back with Rung to the 1940s and WW II  
for stories about local military installations, the  
people involved with their operations and how  
the war affected the economy and everyday life  
of many Nebraskans.**

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**Nov 12:** Jeff Kappeler will share his latest Swiss research discoveries.

**Dec 10:** Everyone is invited to tell about their Ancestral Family Christmas Traditions

The annual ENGS September "Show and Tell" program brought out stories about DNA searches, building family stories with writing efforts made in small increments especially for grandchildren, completing family group sheets to organize family information and stories, and puzzling information about ancestors' living arrangements.

**Publication Survey results:**

About 10% of the surveys mailed were returned. Many of the responses indicated that members do appreciate both the monthly and quarterly publications. Several responders suggested email to save on costs, while responses to questions 1 and 2 were evenly distributed across the options a, b, and c. None of the responses indicated that the publications should be dropped.

Only 2 members responded to question 3 with an offer to help keep ENGS running smoothly. Without help from local and remote members, it will be very difficult to continue producing any publications. We need you!

**At the Nov 12 meeting, members will decide the future of ENGS publications.** Between now and then, please consider stepping up to let us know that you can help in some small way to contribute time and effort to extend the lifetime of dedication that Claire Mares has given to family researchers in and far beyond Eastern Nebraska. We need to hear from members who want to see ENGS move into the future—especially if you cannot attend the Nov meeting.

**1)** To continue providing interesting publications, we are hoping to feature Dodge County Schools in the 2019 Roots and Leaves Quarterlies. If you have history, stories, or photos of any of the Dodge County schools that you can share, please tell us about what you have. If you have already sent school information for use on the Dodge County NEGenWeb site, we do plan to incorporate those items in publications.

**2)** Family stories about area ancestors would also be helpful for future publications. No matter how brief, we believe that your stories will help inspire other researchers and possibly reveal new family connections. Think about what you can share about your family and send a note to let us know.

**3)** To make good use of the 10 reels of Fremont Tribune microfilm that was purchased by ENGS earlier this year, we need people who are willing to spend time at the May Museum reading the microfilm. Locating and printing birth, marriage, and death notices for our research files, along with selecting an occasional interesting news story is necessary to provide easy access to this wealth of information for all researchers. The museum is open Wed through Sat afternoons and assistance using the microfilm reader is available. Can you spare an hour or so a week to begin working through a reel of microfilm?

**4)** To continue Claire's valuable collection of obituaries from the Fremont Tribune, we need someone who can locate copies of obits published in the past year and continue the weekly clipping of additional items. The Fremont Tribune obituary collection is used constantly to help new researchers get started tracking their family history and to fulfill research requests from all over the world. Often our shoeboxes of obituaries can open a new window for a frustrated genealogist who has hit a brick wall.

**How can you help? Let us know by** communicating with us via email to reneebunck@gmail.com, mail to ENGS PO Box 541 Fremont, NE 68026 or come and participate in the November 12 ENGS meeting.

## Continuing with Burt County NE ....

### Burt County books in our library:

Burt County History-1803-1929 (reprint)  
 Burt County Atlas-1884  
 Burt County Atlas-1918  
 Burt County Altas-1963  
 Burt County NE Plat Books-1909, 67-68,77-78,84,89  
 Burt County NE World War 1 1917-1918-1920  
 Burt County Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery  
 Ten Years in Burt Co NE 1900-1910, A History of Burt Co & It's People  
 Alder Grove-Burt County NE Vol 1&2  
 Craig NE Cemetery – 1993 by Velma Cooper  
 A Craig Scrapbook – 2008 by Russell Clark Lang  
 Decatur - Story of an Old Town by A P Demil  
 Decatur Hillcrest Cemetery- Burt Co NE  
 Decatur, NE Calendar 2004 edition-second oldest settlement  
 Decatur, NE, From Prohibition to Depression 1920-1930 by Lee Deman 2005  
 Decatur, NE- The Depression Years 1930-1940- A history of Decatur and its Citizens by Lee Deman- 2006  
 Lyons NE Heritage 1884-1984  
 Lyons Burt Co NE Cemetery 1993  
 Oakland - Burt Co -First Lutheran Church (5 booklets)  
 Oakland Centennial 1863-1963 Swedish Capitol of NE  
 Oakland – Westside United Methodist – 1977 Booklet  
 St Johannes Danish Lutheran Church- (includes Argo)  
 Tekamah NE Cemetery in Burt Co  
 Tekamah - Burt Co 1854-1954 (Centennial book)

### From *Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska, 1921*

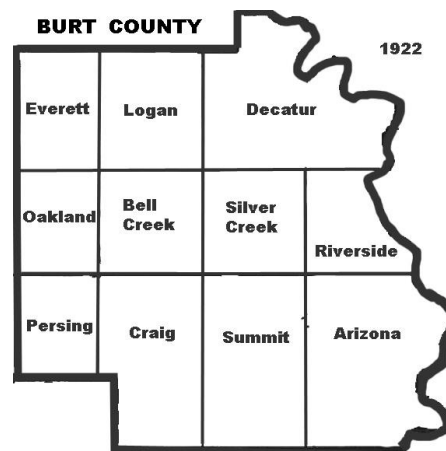
Tekamah, the county seat, is located in the southeastern part of the county, partly on the bottom lands of the Missouri, and partly on the contiguous bluffs. The name was given to it by W. N. Byers, one of the early transient settlers, the privilege of naming it having fallen to him by lot. He gave it the name Tekamah in commemoration of some place in the Far West which he had visited, or in which he had resided. The first claim made on the present site of Tekamah was by B. R. Folsom, W. N. Byers, J. W. Patterson, H. C. Purple, John Young, Jerry Folsom, Mr. Maynard, William T. Raymond and Mr. White, in the name of the Nebraska Stock Company, on October 7, 1854. This party of pioneers left Council Bluffs, Iowa on October 2, and, after passing through Omaha, the site of the deserted Mormon city of "Winter Quarters". now Florence, reached the site of the present city of Fontanelle, on October 5. There they found Dr. H. M. Clark and two other men, who had one hour before arrived there, in behalf of the Quincy Company, had staked out their claim, and were preparing to erect "the first tenement west of the Missouri," according to Mr. B. R. Folsom. They, on October 7, reached the present site of Tekamah and staked out their claim, "four miles square." Then they returned to Council Bluffs, reaching there on October 9.

The first permanent settlement in Tekamah was made on April 19, 1855, by B. R. Folsom, Z. B. Wilder, John B. Folsom, Niles R. Folsom, William F. Goodwill (who remained permanently), and a few others (among them W. N. Byers, who named the town), who only remained a short time.

A few weeks subsequently, F. E. Lange, W. B. Beck and Deidrick Fees and wife joined the first settlers. Mrs. Fees was the first white woman to come into the county. On the 18th of July, following, a little colony from La Salle County, Ill., which

had settled upon claims just north of Silver Creek, moved to Tekamah, doing this for safety upon hearing of the killing and scalping of the two white men, Porter and Demaree, near Fontanelle. Fear of the Indians was very great in those days, and greatly retarded the development of the country. This colony consisted of G. M. Peterson, T. Thompson, John Oak and George Erickson, and their families--twenty-four in all.

Tekamah was incorporated as a city very early in its history, on March 14, 1855, and became the county seat at the same time. Olney Harrington was made Postmaster in 1855. Miles Chillcot opened the first store in 1856. Michael Olinger arrived in the fall and built a blacksmith shop. The first child born was in the fall of 1855, to Mrs. Thomas Thompson, who died in child-birth. Hers was the first death, and the child lived but a few days. The first marriage was that of Lewis P. Peterson to Miss Elsa Thompson, in the fall of 1855. The first school was taught by J. R. Conkling in 1857. The first sermon was preached on Sunday, November 5, 1854, by a Methodist minister. Rev. William Bates preached in July, 1855, also a Methodist; and the Rev. Jacob Adriance, of the De Soto Circuit, was the first regular preacher. In August, 1856, a Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. L. F. Stringfield. The first physician was J. R. Conkling, of Chicago, who located here in 1857, and was a brother of the present editor of the *Burt County News*, A. T. Conkling. The first lawyer was J. H. Smith, who came in 1862. The first newspaper was the *Burt County Pilot*, established in 1871, by J. Y. Lambert, and which was moved to Blair in 1874. The next was the *Burtonian*, established in 1872, and edited by G. P. Hull, who is still its editor. G. P. Thomas and wife reached here in 1856.



Tekamah has one graded school, with four teachers, and one ward school. The principal school building is a fine two-story frame, costing \$5,000, and located in a pleasant park of nearly two acres.

Population	- No detail for 1910 or 1910 because of redistricting	1920
<b>Burt County</b>		<b>12,559</b>
Arizona township		780
Bell Creek township		715
Craig township, including Craig village		1,405
Decatur township, including Decatur village		1,500
Everett township, including Lyons village		1,492
Logan township		792
Oakland city		1,358
Oakland township		450
Pershing township		432
Riverside township		342
Silver Creek township		609
Summit township		875
Tekamah city		1,811

For more about Burt Co, NE go to:

<http://usgenwebsites.org/NEBurt>