

MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

www.foxwoodsprings.org

Volume XXII

October, 2018

Number 10

DIVORCE ON THE FRONTIER

The MCG speaker at our next meeting on Saturday, October 20 at 9:30 a.m. in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore, Missouri will be Tom Rafiner. We always look forward to Tom's presentations, and this should also be a very interesting and informative presentation. Tom will be speaking about "Divorce on the Frontier". The first time we announced this publicly here, several people laughed, and one asked if divorce was accomplished by using a gun. We sometimes think legal divorce is a totally modern activity, but some of us have found divorces in our families as long as 175 years ago.

Tom says, "There is a myth that couples did not go through divorce, but my research shows that it was not uncommon. Some cases in Cass County make an interesting subject".

Tom is a frequent speaker at MCG meetings and has also spoken at Foxwood Springs on FSTV several times. His books, *Caught Between Three Fires* and *Cinders and Silence*, discuss western Missouri and eastern Kansas history before, during, and after the Civil War.

"Tom Rafiner is an independent researcher, historian, and author. He grew up in Jackson County, Mo. and has western Missouri ancestral roots stretching back to 1831. During the Border War and through the Civil War, his ancestors felt the angst of the fighting and suffered the pain of refugees under Order No. 11.

Since 2003, Tom has devoted his full energy and passion to recovering the Burnt District's lost history. By relentlessly pursuing the stories of individual families and communities, he has brought

the historical mosaic of Jackson, Cass, and Bates counties into clearer focus.

The commitment to documented detail has carried Tom to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. five times. His pursuit of first hand stories has led him throughout the Midwest". (www.casscountyyorderno11.com/)

Put this date on your calendar. We are looking forward to seeing you on October 20. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I started teaching in the Independence, Missouri Public School District in September, 1963. My first year, I taught seventh grade mathematics in a building that was to become Truman High School. It was called South Secondary, and it held all of the seventh grade students in the Independence School District. In the fall of 1964, the building became Truman High School. I then went to the "Old William Chrisman High School", but now it is called William Chrisman Junior High School. The building was built between 1915 and 1920. It was located one block south of President Harry Truman's house. I taught eighth grade mathematics for the next five years. The building housed grades 7, 8, and 9 students that lived in the northern half of Independence. These students eventually went to William Chrisman High School. The southern half of the district had grades 7, 8, and 9 in Palmer Junior High School, and they eventually went to Truman High School. Ironically, Palmer Junior High School was two blocks east of William Chrisman Junior High School.

In the fall of 1969, I started teaching grade 9 math classes. The grade 9 students were placed in 4 different classes. They were Algebra I, Pre Algebra, Functional Math, and Basic Math. I taught all of these classes over the years. Whenever I taught Algebra, I also had a Basic Math class. The students in Basic Math were, according to past grades and national testing, those who still lacked the basic skills for even Functional Math.

There had been an influx of new home construction, and so the school population was increasing. Our school, which could comfortably house 1000 students, had 1500 students. So, I generally moved from one room to another. I taught math in English, science, math, history, and art classrooms. I, even, for a few years, taught in the cafeteria during the first two hours and the last two hours of the day. Eventually, a third junior high was constructed, Jim Bridger Junior High. This helped ease the overcrowding. I finally even had a room of my own.

The school population declined some, and it was decided to close one of the junior high schools and send all grade 9 students to the high schools. Our school was the chosen one, so I started teaching at William Chrisman High School (WCHS) in the fall of 1982. I taught my usual Algebra classes. In the second semester, the principal opened a new class of trigonometry, and I was asked to teach it. In the fall of 1983, I started teaching the senior level math classes of trigonometry, analytic geometry, math analysis, and calculus. I also had an Algebra class.

Beginning in the fall of 1984, a new program was instituted by four school districts. It was called Mathematics & Physics Institute. Qualified high school seniors from Independence, Kansas City, Raytown, and Fort Osage came to a building in Independence operated by the University of Missouri in Kansas City (UMKC). This building was directly north of the Harry S Truman Library. The program offered Calculus I and Physics with college credit from UMKC. There were two professors from UMKC that taught and administered the program. High school teachers from the four school districts were invited to be a

part of the teaching staff. I was asked to represent WCHS. The classes were taught in a team teaching method. The calculus professor taught the class while I watched. After the first test, I then taught the class as the professor led one of the other classes. We continued to switch from test to test. These classes were taught between 7 and 9 am. The students then returned to their respective schools. I also returned to WCHS and taught 4 classes.

Over the years, I also served in many other ways. In junior high, I sponsored the National Junior Honor Society, and I took math students to math relays. In high school, I still took students to math relays, where we had some successes. I also was a co-sponsor of the senior class, which involved some interesting times with senior prom, senior class dinner, and graduation. I also served on many different faculty committees. I stayed after school many times to help students with homework. I also did some homebound teaching. These were students with illnesses and could not attend school for a while and I went to their homes to give them assignments and tests for all of the classes they were taking. I did get paid extra for that, but I found this act of teaching very heartening.

I retired from full time teaching in the spring of 1994 after 31 years. I continued as a part time teacher in the Mathematics & Physics Institute for 4 more years. Of course, I had to go to WCHS every day to turn in the absences and take care of other business.

PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY

Marjorie Slavens

Al and Dorothy Morse have been researching their family history and collecting pictures and data for some time. However, Dorothy's family history became very contemporary recently. In August, Dorothy received a call from her cousin, Charles McDaniel, Jr. Telling her that the dog tag of his father and Dorothy's uncle, Charles McDaniel, had been returned from North Korea. The remains of 55 soldiers were returned, but there was only one dog

tag—her uncle’s. The dog tag and the remains have been identified. The dog tag has already been returned to Charles, Jr., and his brother, Larry.

Al wrote about this story in his “The President’s Corner” last month. Charles, Jr. told Al that he had been interviewed by CBS. We looked for the story on the net and found more than we had expected.

Blair Guild, CBS NEWS August 8, 2018, 7:06 PM
“2 brothers reunited with father's Korean War dog tag

The sons of Army Master Sgt. Charles McDaniel were given their father's Korean War dog tag Wednesday. It was returned from North Korea along with the remains of American service members repatriated to the United States last week.

McDaniel, an Army medic, was lost in action on November 20, 1950. An eyewitness said he believed McDaniel had been killed in action, but his death was never confirmed by the U.S. government.

He left behind his two sons -- two and three years old at the time -- and his wife. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) laboratory in Hawaii is attempting to identify the remains of what are believed to be American soldiers lost in the Korean War, including what may be McDaniel's remains. And while that lengthy process continues, McDaniel's sons, who are now in their 70s, feel a little peace of mind now that their father's dog tag has been brought back to the U.S. The sons talked about what it meant to them at a news conference in Arlington, Virginia on Wednesday.

‘Even though I was a small boy and have very little memory of my father...I sat there, and I cried for a while,’ McDaniel's eldest son and namesake, Charles McDaniel, a veteran himself, said when he received the phone call about the recovery of his father's dog tag.

A World War II veteran from Indiana, the senior Charles McDaniel was traveling with the 3rd Battalion along the Yalu River on the Chinese-Korean border when his unit was ambushed

by Chinese forces.

So far, McDaniel's sons are the only individuals who have been given any indication that the repatriated remains may include a loved one.

‘We're really, in one small sense, the most fortunate because we're the only ones that have a name now,’ McDaniel, Jr. said.

Dr. John Byrd, Director of the DPAA, cautioned that because the North Koreans admitted many of the remains had been interspersed, there is no way of knowing yet whether the remains with which the stainless steel dog tag were delivered actually belong to McDaniel. Both of McDaniels' sons have volunteered samples of their DNA to aid the identification process. According to Byrd, most of the returned remains contain long bone portions and material possessions, like helmets and boots.” (Blair Guild is a politics reporter and video producer for CBSNews. CBS News' Robert Legare contributed to this report. CBS + videos”, All Rights Reserved, CBS.com.)

Al and Dorothy went to Butler last week to take some family pictures relating to her uncle to the Bates County Museum. Shortly after they returned, Charles, Jr. Called to ask for pictures of the family and more family information. Al could send some material, but he put Charles in contact with Peggy Buhr, Bates County Museum Director. She was able to copy some of the pictures and send them to Charles. Charles also told Al and Dorothy that they planned to bury the remains of his father in Indianapolis, where Charles, his wife, Karen, and his mother, Gladys, live.

This story has been both national and international. When we did a Google search, “Charles McDaniel” + Korea + CBS + videos”, we found more than 2,350 references in addition to the material cited from CBS. Al and Dorothy were able to see some of the videos and also to copy some of the written material.

THE YEAR WAS 1840

The year was 1840 and it was a big year for the mail. On January 10, the “Penny Black,” the world’s first postage stamp was introduced in the UK. This shifted the cost of mailing from the recipient to the sender of posts. This pre-paid system allowed for a lower rate and the number of letters jumped from 76 million in 1839 to 168 million in 1840, and further to 347 million ten years later.

In Canada, the Union Act of 1840 unites the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and establishes the Province of Canada with one centralized government.

The United States was growing and in 1840 there were more than 4 million more people counted in the census than in 1830—an increase of 32.7 percent. There were 131 cities and towns that had more than 2,500 residents or more and only 10.8 percent of the population lived in these “urban” areas. The remaining 89.2 percent still lived in rural areas. Only four states claimed a population of more than one million: New York being the most populous with 2,428,921; Pennsylvania next with 1,724,033; then Ohio with 1,519,487; and Virginia rounding out the top four with 1,239,797.

William Henry Harrison defeated Martin Van Buren in the U.S. presidential election with his slogan of “Tippecanoe and Tyler too!” referring to Harrison’s hero status from the Battle of Tippecanoe and his running mate, John Tyler. He won the electoral vote by a large margin, but only earned 145,000 more of the popular vote.

1840 saw one of the greatest tornado disasters in U.S. history with the Great Natchez Tornado. Shortly after noon, a mile-wide twister that followed the path of the Mississippi River struck the towns of Natchez and Vidalia. Across the river, Concordia Parish in Louisiana also suffered severe damage. The death toll is estimated at 317, with another 109 people injured, ranking it as the second deadliest tornado (behind the Tri-State Tornado of 1925). (“Ancestry Weekly Journal, 6 May, 2007)

DIVORCE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Marjorie Slavens

We sometimes think of divorce as being primarily a 20th Century phenomenon, but Our family had some divorces as early as 175 years ago.

Our immigrant ancestor, Peter Welty, came to Pennsylvania in 1727. He had two sons, John, our ancestor, and Abraham. John’s descendants moved first to western Pennsylvania and then to Jefferson and Fairfield Counties in Ohio. Abraham’s family moved to Virginia and Kentucky, , and his fourth child, David, moved to Highland County, Ohio.

Abraham Welty , son of David Welty and Mary Brown, was born October 5, 1801 in Simpson County, Kentucky. He moved with his family to Highland County, Ohio, where he was married three times and all of his children were born. He died November 3, 1875 in Denver Township, Richland County, Illinois and is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery.

Abraham married Nancy Landis on March 12, 1822, and their children were Isaac born 1823, Sarah, born 1827, John, 1829, Isaiah, born 1830, and Mary, born 1831. He married Elizabeth Patchell Stafford, a widow, on September 6, 1832, and their son was William, born 1834. He married on November 30, 1857 Garllinda Jane Jordan, born September 23, 1829, and their children were Deborah born 1859 Nancy, born 1860, and Cassie, born 1862.

Abraham was a minister of the Christian Church and a farmer. His second wife, Elizabeth, was born in 1799 in Ohio. He filed a divorce suit against her on November 22, 1856 in Highland County, charging that she had left him in 1836 for six weeks because he refused to put out of his house two children by a former marriage, One of these children was four and the other six. These children were Sarah, born 1827 and John, born 1829. Abraham’s children with Nancy were from 1 to 9 years old when he married Elizabeth in 1832. Only two of the

five children were mentioned when he filed for the divorce. . She returned but left him again in 1854 after a marriage of 20 years. The divorce was granted.

Abraham's two oldest children, Isaac, 1823, and Sarah, moved with their families to Richland County, Illinois, Sarah in 1854 and Isaac between 1860 and 1865. Fifth Child, Mary, and her family moved to Richland County, Illinois in 1863, and Abraham and third wife, Garlinda Jane, also moved there in 1870. The third and fourth children, John and Isaiah, remained in Ohio. John was the executor in Ohio in 1873 of the estate of William Welty, the only child of Abraham and his second wife, Elizabeth Patchell. The various children seemed to have a better relationship with each other than Abraham and Elizabeth had with each other.

Our immigrant Heape ancestor was Robert Heape, who came to this country from Manchester, England to Harford County, Maryland when he was very young. Robert, Jr., our ancestor, born in 1753, was the oldest of his six children. John Chalk, born in 1784, was the second child of Robert Heape, Jr. And Martha Chalk Smith James, who were married in 1782. He left Maryland when he married in 1804 Martha Allen, born in York County, Pennsylvania in 1780. Her father, Thomas Allen, had received a land patent from William and Richard Penn in 1767. They sold this land to John Chalk Heape for \$20.00, "Thomas Allen and Ann, his wife, for and in consideration of the natural love which they have and bear to their daughter, Martha". John Chalk sold this land in 1815 for \$393, and the family moved to Fairfield County, Ohio and then to Richland County. After Richland was divided, their land was in Morrow County. He bought his land there in 1834. Martha Allen Heape and her adult children moved to Perry County, Illinois before 1840, but her husband did not go with them. He was in Richland County in the 1840 Census and in Morrow County in the 1850 Census. He married Miranda Melonde in Knox County, Ohio on November 8, 1842, and she was listed with him in 1860 in Adams County, Indiana.

We did not find the divorce record, but he and Martha went their separate ways, and he was married again two years later. John Chalk Heape maintained contact with his children. In his will, he gave his property to his second wife and to his oldest daughter, Ann Heape Snodgrass, who lived near her mother in Perry County. His will says, "3. If my said daughter above named should desire to share the amount so willed to her with her brothers and sisters or any of them she is at liberty to do so. I so will my property to my said daughter above named because I consider her more needy than any of my other children not that I love them less.

4 . My said wife and daughter have the personal property at the appraisement thereof or let it be sold and take the proceeds and in case there should be any difficulty as to the division my wife shall have the first choice and my daughter the next."

The second son of John Chalk Heape and Martha Allen was Thomas, my 3 great grandfather, who served illegally from Perry County, Illinois in the Union Army; he lied about his age because he was too old to serve. His second son, James, served from Texas in the Confederate Army. Thomas and James met again when they both moved to Cherokee County, Kansas after the war. James' daughter, Elzina H. (Ella) Heape, my great grandmother, was born there in 1869 and married Charles Merlin Kerr in 1886. She died following the birth of her fourth child, leaving two children. We knew nothing about the Heape family beyond Ella until my mother researched this family line.

Charles Merlin Kerr married Elzina H. (Ella) Heape in 1886 in Kansas. They returned briefly to Jasper County, Missouri, but he decided to go to New Mexico to work for the Railroad. In 1895, She had her fourth child, Ella Mae. Ella died shortly after the baby was born, and Ella Mae died shortly afterward. Charles tried to find a woman who could care for his children, Hattie Lee, my grandmother, and Ora. He could not find an English-speaking caregiver, and he had heard of a widow with one child, Millie Bain Richardson, back in Jasper County, Missouri who

needed financial help caring for her son. I was told she was a “grass widow; she had been divorced from her first husband, the father of her son, Ray Richardson. The Kerrs were married in Medoc, Missouri in July, 1896; he then had a caregiver for his two children, and she had someone to support her and her son. Ironically, I learned that she and her ex-husband’s wife became good friends and used to travel to St. Joseph together to shop. Charles Kerr’s second marriage lasted for 63 years before his wife died in 1959.

THE YEAR WAS 1896

The year was 1896, and it marked the return of the ancient Olympic Games to Athens, Greece, and was the first of the modern Olympic games. Participants came from fourteen countries, including the United States, Greece, Germany, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Austria, Australia, Denmark, Switzerland, and a mixed team. American, James Connolly won the first medal in the triple jump. Greece won the most medals with a total of forty-six; the U.S. was next in the medal count with twenty. The anthem used for those Olympic Games, by Spyros Samaras and Kostis Palamas was revived in 1960 and is now the official anthem of the Games.

In musical news, a quartet of women helped to save Oscar Hammerstein from the brink of financial ruin at the expense of audiences’ ears. The Cherry Sisters, four women from Iowa, were hired by him to perform in his Olympia Music Hall in New York after touring Iowa to produce-hurling audiences. The critics had not been kind either. The “New York Times” called them “Four Freaks from Iowa” and reported that, “They presented a spectacle more pitiable than amusing.” However, the “Progress Review” (LaPorte City, Iowa), of 19 December 1896 reported that, “Their New York engagement was a successful one from a financial point of view. The Cherry’s [sic] were paid \$100 a week and it is said that Hammerstein, the owner of the theatre, cleared \$10,000 on the engagement.”

After the New York appearance, the sisters continued their tour in Chicago and throughout the

Midwest to similar receptions.

The sisters sued several of their critics, but the suit with the most impact would be their 1901 case against the “Des Moines Leader”. The suit was based on an article that said, “...Their long, skinny arms, equipped with talons at the extremities, swung mechanically, and soon were waved frantically at the suffering audience. The mouths of their rancid features opened like caverns and sounds like the wailings of damned souls issued therefrom...”

After sitting through portion of the act in court, the ruling was in favor of the defendants, stating that “If there ever was a case justifying ridicule and sarcasm,—aye, even gross exaggeration,—it is the one now before us.” The suit was notable in that it upheld the right of critics to “fair comment.”

1896 was a year of severe weather in the U.S., with more than forty “killer tornadoes,” across the country. In St. Louis, Missouri, an F4 tornado cut a half-mile swath through the city. More than 255 people lost their lives in St. Louis and East St. Louis, and descriptions of the damage from the “East Saint Louis Journal” paint a picture of “death and desolation.”

Further west, on 4 January, Utah became the 45th state to join the Union, and the news was met with celebration, with business suspended in Salt Lake City. (“Ancestry Weekly Journal”, 22 January, 2007)

OFFICERS

Al Morse, President

Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer

Marjorie Slavens, Programs, Newsletter Editor