

CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter November 2021

Invitation from Beth Johnson, vice-president
On Thursday, November 18th the Cass County Genealogical Society will hold their regular meeting at 1:00 in the meeting room of the Atlantic Public Library. At 2:00 p.m. Carl Malone, will present a program by Zoom on "History, Legend and Myth" about the arrival of the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower. 2020 and 2021 are considered the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower. The presentation will include the voyage, arrival and early events of the Pilgrims in Plymouth. Over the past 400 year some of the stories have become fictionalized and this presentation uses primary documents to tell the story.

Carl Malone is a member of the CCGS, living in New Mexico and is a former Atlantic resident. Carl is a member of the Mayflower Society.

Membership in the Society requires proof of direct lineal descent from one of the passengers who traveled to America on the Mayflower in 1620. In talking to Carl, he has indicated that there are several documented Mayflower descendants buried in the Atlantic Cemetery.

December Place and Time

There will be no business meeting at the next gathering of Cass County Genealogical Society. It is time to celebrate a year of accomplishments, programs and getting together.

We will be getting together at 2 pm in the Lower Level Lounge at Heritage. Don't know where to find the place? Instructions will be easier to understand if you ask at the front desk rather than a written explanation. Bring a sweet or savory snack if you wish. You might bring the recipe also. There are bound to be questions.

A Strong Woman

The oldest available material of the history of the Czech region has the beginning of the settlement of the village of Sedlec (known as Sedlice until 1930) from the years 1192-1193 A-D. It was the home of the Vorel family.

The Vorels were ancestors of my paternal grandmother. A number of the Vorels immigrated from the Czech Republic to Omaha and area in the mid-1800s. She was born May 5, 1887 in Fremont, Nebraska. She died March 22, 1983 in Dinuba, California.

Mary Pollat married William Morrow in 1910. They had 11 children. Interesting that Mary had 11 brothers and sisters.

During the depression it seemed there might be a better life in Canada. On March 31, 1930 William, Mary and nine children immigrated across the border. Their ages ranged for 3 to 19. I have often wondered what kind of vehicle or other transportation they used. How did they eat and sleep?

Farming in Canada was not successful. They soon returned to California. I need to search to find the date.

Four of six sons fought in WWII. One was a tail gunner in one of the large planes. The youngest at about 19 was in the Marines and was captured by the Japanese soon after he began service. None of them were killed. I would like to know more about their service.

Do you remember the TV show, Queen for a Day? Mary Morrow was a winner. I do not have many details but I remember seeing pictures of her in a fancy robe, carrying a scepter and wearing a crown with a big smile.

William died in 1957 which was 26 years before May. The Morrow family was scattered coast to coast. Mary was always ready to get on a plane to visit and help out.

There are so many stories to explore. Resources for this information came from research by Mary Hoegh, a book by Donna Pollat Weese and my memories (often not to be trusted).

By LaVon Eblen

Note from Mary

Thirty men are listed on The Honor Roll taken from **CASS COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR 1917-1918-1919**

Cecil M. Conley from Atlantic KIA. Died 3- 9-1918 buried in the American cemetery at Pexone, France

Fred D. Turner from Atlantic KIA 3-9-1918 buried in American cemetery at Pexone, France.

Irwin O. McConlee from Atlantic. Wounded 5-15-1918 on the Lorraine sector, died May 17, 1918 in the hospital at Baccaret where he was buried in the American Cemetery.

Lloyd L. Morrill from Atlantic. KIA 3-17-1918 buried in the American Cemetery at Pexone, France.

Max L. Hubbel from Atlantic. KIA 5-15-1918; is buried in the American Cemetery at Pexone, France.

Phil A. Brooks from Atlantic KIA in the battle of St. Mihiel 9-12-1918. No record of burial.

Norbert Wilson from Elliott. Died from scarlet fever 1-5-1918 at Chaumont, France. Buried in the American cemetery at that place.

Charles Donohoe from Anita. Died 10-5-1918 from wounds suffered in battle and is buried at La Veuve, Marne, France.

Oscar Henry Bartley from Anita. KIA of Soissons 7-19-1918 and is buried at Longpont, France.

Guy H. Peters from Lewis. Died from chest wounds 10-28-1918. Buried in American cemetery at Haumont, France.

Clyde A. Smeltzer from Massena. KIA 6-18-1918 in Belleau Woods, France.

James Howard South from Massena. KIA 7-26-1918 near Sergy buried near Sergy, France.

Leo Jennings from Massena. Died of influenza enroute overseas on 10-6-1918, buried at sea.

Clyde J. Harris from Atlantic. Died of pneumonia 11-29-1818 at Camp Upton, NY and buried at Atlantic, Iowa.

Frank Henry Enfield from Lewis. Died of influenza at Camp Dodge 10-17-1918 buried at Lewis, IA.

Ray Enfield from Lewis. Died from tuberculosis in base hospital at St. Nazaire, France on 1-21-1919. Buried in American cemetery at St. Nazaire, France. Both Frank and Ray were sons of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Enfield.

Joseph A. Baller from Lewis. Died from pneumonia at base hospital 2-28-1918. Buried in St. Nazaire, France.

Bernard W. Keffer from Lewis. Contracted tuberculosis while serving in the army in France. Died 8-31-1919 in Atlantic, IA. Buried in Atlantic cemetery.

James P. McCourt from Atlantic. KIA 11-10-1918. Participated in battles at St. Mihiel and Argonne-Meuse. No burial recorded.

Samuel L. Hazard from Atlantic. Died from wound in jaw and gas, 5-29-1918 near Baccaret, France. Buried in American cemetery at Baccaret.

Sam A. Miller from Anita. Wounded in both legs, 11-4-1918

in Argonne-Meuse campaign and dying same day. No record of burial.

Glen G. Blanchard from Griswold. Died from Influenza at Camp Dodge, 10-10-1918. Buried at Griswold, Iowa.

Andrew M. Anderson from Atlantic. Died from Scarlet Fever 4-4-1918 at Aldershot, England and buried at that place.

Vernon Purvis from Cumberland. Contracted pneumonia enroute overseas and died in the hospital at Brest, France 10-6-1918. Buried in American cemetery at Brest.

Louis C. Schuler from Griswold. Died of influenza at Camp Grant, ILL, 9-29-1918 and is buried in the Griswold cemetery.

Carl J. Lechner from Cumberland. Sailed for France, KIA 5-27-1918 Lorraine sector. No record of burial.

Edward Hansen from Atlantic. Died 10-1-1918 from influenza while at Camp Merritt, NJ. He was enroute overseas.

George A. Stengel from Atlantic. Died 10-14-1918 from influenza while stationed at Camp Dodge. Buried at Atlantic.

George A. Ihnen from Cumberland. Died 10-7-1918 at St. Nazaire, France from pneumonia. Buried in the American cemetery at St. Nazaire.

Frank Pieken from Atlantic. Sailed for France during Argonne-Meuse campaign. Returned to US and died at Ft. Baird N.M. on 11-19-1919 of tuberculosis resulted from gas wounds. Buried in Atlantic.

One hundred years ago the 1920 census gave Cass County 1,922 foreign born citizens. The ethnicity is broken down by the following countries:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Germany | 614 |
| Denmark. | 308 |
| England | 99 |
| Sweden | 76 |
| Ireland | 61 |
| Canada | 56 |
| Scotland | 6 |
| Norway | 21 |
| Mexico | 9 |
| Switzerland | 6 |
| France | 5 |
| Austria | 4 |
| Wales | 4 |
| Bohemia | 3 |
| Greece | 2 |
| Italy | 1 |
| Japan | 1 |
| Poland | 1 |
| New Zealand | 1 |
| The total population of Cass County was 19,421 | |

Interested in that one Cass County resident from New Zealand? John Reed was a single male, boarder in the home of Phillip Williams. He was a mechanic living in Grant township and his parents were from Scotland.

To find all this information I used the Atlantic Library's Digital Research, using Heritage Quest. You may either put in the name of the person you are looking for or you may click on the US Federal Census for the year you are interested in. Then you may brows the collection by State, County and Township.

Using census records to help in the search for your family tree is valuable. In the case of Cass County one of the census workers very carefully put down the area of Germany that the person came from. Census workers were not chosen for their good penmanship, however and some records are very difficult to read. In the case of Heritage Quest by using your computer curser a yellow highlight will follow the name and the words will reappear in printed form. That clue gives you a better idea of where to start your search.

Contributed by Beth Johnson

Mail to Cass County Genealogical Society 507 Poplar, Atlantic, IA 50022

Cass County Membership Form: \$15 Annual Membership fee due January for the calendar year. New members who join in October of a given year will have membership for the next calendar year.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Surnames Being Researched in Cass County _____
