



DENTON COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATED ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

By LaVina Vagts

The DCHS 10th anniversary celebration was held November 3rd at the Denton Community Center with a catered dinner. As part of the festivities each table was specially decorated by the host of that table with a theme. The decorations varied with fall, holiday (Thanksgiving and Christmas), farms, clowns and other themes. There were 103 people in attendance.

The guest speakers were Mike Smith, Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society, John Schleicher, former Statewide Coordinator of the Nebraska State Historical Society, and LaVina Vagts, the first President of DCHS. John Schleicher assisted in the forming of our society ten years ago.

The drawing of door prizes, which were donated by DCHS members and local and surrounding town merchants, occurred after dinner.

Four walnut boards were unveiled. One was the

were JoAnn Benes, Don Daniel, Marilyn Giles, Mrs. Pat Norris, Annabell Peshek, Edna Rapp, Bell Soucie, Joe Splichal, Bernadine Stransky, Cathy Sullivan, Dorothy Wiechert and LaVina Vagts.

Officers elected were LaVina Vagts, President; Dorothy Wiechert, Vice President; Marilyn Giles, 2nd Vice President; Cathy Sullivan, Secretary; and Mrs. Pat Norris, Treasurer.

This was the official beginning of DCHS. The idea to form a historical society came as a result of the Denton Q125 celebration in July of 1996. As part of the Q125, the organizational committee suggested that a pictorial display of the early years would be an excellent addition to the planned displays. Dorothy, Marilyn and LaVina served on the committee to collect, copy and display the photos of yesteryear. School, family, church, downtown Denton businesses and other subjects were included in the photo collection

Photos on black poster boards were displayed in the Community Center for the 1996 celebration. Visitors enjoyed the pictorial display and local residents were concerned about the future of the pictures. How could they be preserved? The suggestion was made to start a historical society.

It seemed an impossible dream to the committee trio but as they talked to others it began to take shape. There was a series of meetings and with John Schleicher's help a Historical Society seemed possible.

The trio made a request to the Denton Village Board to obtain possession of the items collected. The board responded that they needed to form a Historical Society as a 501-3c organization and to draw up bylaws. Then the group would own the collection from Q125.

Dorothy and LaVina worked with the IRS and completed the necessary requirement for a 501-3c organization. The DCHS board drew up the bylaws and DCHS was a new Historical Society.

It was decided to name our organization, "The Denton Community Historical Society" and include surrounding towns and villages. The reason for this decision was that as Denton-area families grew, their descendants married into families in the surrounding area, so even though living slightly away from Denton, they still had Denton connections.

The DCHS boundaries established were Highway 77 on the east, Highway 33 on the south, Highway 103 on the west, and Highway 6 and I-80 on the north. Included were the villages of Denton, Emerald, Rokeby, and Centerville and places that are no longer in existence, namely: Cobb Jct. Berks, Burnham, Cheese Creek, and the Yankee

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L: Mike Smith, Director of Nebraska State Historical Society.
R: John Schleicher, former Statewide Coordinator of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Photos courtesy of subjects.



Above: LaVina Vagts, first President of DCHS. Photo courtesy of subject.

Memory Board which lists the names of **Deceased Members**, another lists **Charter Members**, another lists **Lifetime Members**, and another lists **Presidents**. The Wiechert family donated the walnut wood and the boards were constructed by Rodney Borgman

The DCHS was created with an organizational meeting in January, 1997, at a meeting at which 12 board members were elected and from that group, five officers were elected. The original board members

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Hill area that replaced Burnham. In time these boundaries became flexible with Martell and Sprague area pictures and memorabilia added.

The Q125 collection was the first item DCHS had in its "museum". The following is a partial list of collected and donated items since then: Photos and items from the Denton Civilian Conservation Corp camp (that was located SW of Denton in the 1930's), a scale model of this CCC camp taken from records in St. Louis archives, a rifle that was owned by Daniel Denton, Rev. Warren Spellman's WWI army uniform and gear, Annabell Peshek's military uniforms, a friendship quilt made by the ladies of Emerald, nine bound volumes containing all the editions of the *Rokeby Rustler* high school newsletters, copies of some of the *Denton Oriole* school newsletter. Also a leather bound copy of the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster Co. Nebraska* which was published in 1888 is included in our collection as is a framed copy of the original plat of Sunnyside Cemetery in Denton. The Ruth Rosekrans Hoffman collection is great. We do have a large plat book from 1921 for Lancaster County. Also acquired is the wooden sign that was located above the Rokeby grade school. And a prized possession is the four by four map of Lancaster County which was produced by the Lincoln newspaper when the circulation of that paper was 20,000.

Our photo collection has grown tremendously with military, school, family, church, business, cemetery, farm, etc. pictures added every year. We have donated family histories of the Buhrmann, Fraas, Culp, Gray, and Sullivan families to name just a few. We also have biographies written by ladies from the Rokeby Church many years ago and a journal from the Denton area written by J.R.C. Miller and many smaller journals.

The word "museum" mentioned earlier in this article was enclosed by quotation marks for a good reason. Our "museum" consists of a room in the Denton Village Annex building that the Village Board allows us to use. As we have grown and added items listed above, we have outgrown that space. Some DCHS members store items in their own homes, under beds and in spare closets.

We are in need of a building to serve as a real museum. Through the years, attempts have been made to purchase a building or home or lots but so far nothing has been feasible. A plot in Denton would be ideal. A Morton-type building could be erected to suit our needs, but there are virtually no lots available. We have considered outlying building sites but security is an issue in a country setting as well as the expense of obtaining water and establishing everything else.

We have worked at fund-raising projects to finance a museum and currently have a fund in the bank designated for this purpose. DCHS members are encouraged to contact the officers and/or board members and give their opinions and input on locating a building or building site. It would be helpful to know if members would be willing to contribute financially if a suitable site could be located. Officers and board members are included in the membership book.

Our fund-raising projects have included pancake breakfasts, soup suppers, sale of DCHS t-shirts, coffee mugs, etc. Our main income comes from the proceeds from a Lincoln-area store promotion twice a year. This is a Younkers store and brought in over \$1000 this past year.

There never seems to be a dull moment for active members. We sponsored a "Pippa White" production, a one-woman show detailing the Ellis Island experience, which was meaningful and heartwarming. The CCC experience is dear to many of our hearts, especially to the ones who remember when the camp was part of our community. We sponsored a reunion of former CCC members during their anniversary year. Many of these men related their CCC memories. Sue Williams, a DCHS member is currently writing a book about the CCC after much research and interviews with CCC members. This book will be available later this year. The DCHS sponsored a Denton Parade several years ago with many entries and good success.

We have established a "Thanks for the Memories" Day which will be held on July 25th of this year. A committee coordinates the event with a lot of help from members. All our pictures and collections are brought out and displayed in the Denton Community Center. Members who are knowledgeable about each of our areas are available to answer questions. A copy machine is available to make copies. In 2007, doors opened in the late morning and closed about 4 p.m. Since new items are added every year there is always something new to see. All are urged to come enjoy a day of nostalgia, fellowship and fun.

In addition to the upcoming CCC book, we have several others now available. Clara Empey, a recently deceased member, spent hours compiling a book with entries taken from the *Lancaster County Weekly* published from April 18, 1933, to February 13, 1936, and from the *Capital Farm and Home News* published from February 29, 1936, to October 11, 1945. This index includes every name in which there is some connection with someone else. Most entries are from Sprague, Martell, Rokeby, Kramer, Denton, Emerald and Hallam but some are from other areas mentioned in connection with local entries. Index includes the page and column number where the item can be located in the paper. Also available is the original 1971 *Denton Centennial Book*. After requests for copies, DCHS board voted to republish and some are still available.

One of our members, Matt Steinhausen, is researching barns and the history of barns. He noticed that many area barns were deteriorating and felt that they needed to be photographed. He has a pictorial album containing some of his collection. Matt received a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council and Norris Public Power Co. to assist in his research.

In July, 1999, the first edition of the *Tales and Trails* newsletter was sent to members. This was started in order to keep members, who live outside the local area, up-to-date on society activities and also to, as space allows, include historical items from

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the past. We encourage all members, near and far to submit articles to share with all of us. We are interested in your family and your history. And please give us some feedback on what we are doing, right or wrong.

Another medium that you need to know about is our website:

<http://denton.ancestralwhispers.com>

Also some of our history is on the Lancaster County site which is:

<http://lancaster.ancestralwhispers.com>

We use this Lancaster County site because it gets more hits and has a link to our site. Kathie Harrison is the webmaster and has added “sparkle” to our site. This is paid for as a donation from Kathie. You must

check it out. “Thank You Kathie”

Each month we hold a meeting in the Denton Community Center on the fourth Tuesday. Besides a short business meeting, we generally have a speaker. Our meetings are well attended. The speakers for 2008 are listed on page 8 in this newsletter.

So as you can see, we are busy. DCHS has come a long way in the past ten years. It has been a learning experience, and so rewarding with people coming together and working toward a common goal—preserving our precious history.

LaVina Vagts

Thank you's go to Teresa Sullivan and Marilyn Giles who were consultants on this article.

WE NOW SPARKLE

The DCHS website has a new address and a new look and it sparkles. The new address is

<http://denton.ancestralwhispers.com>

and the sparkle is a donation from Kathie Harrison, webmaster. And if you have not checked it out lately, do yourself a favor and log on. Don't have a computer? Then just log on at your local library or at a friend's. And if you have information you would like to see there, just send it to Teresa Sullivan at 6144 Baxter Place, Lincoln, Nebraska 68516 or e-mail to dsull88075@aol.com. It will be forwarded to Kathie.

Kathie has another site:

<http://lancaster.ancestralwhispers.com>

This site has information on all of Lancaster County. Contact Kathie if you have something you wish to add to that site. Then bookmark these sites and check back often.

THE FARM BUILDINGS

By Alvia Kubes Troutt



Of the many farm buildings on our farm, the barn had the most activity. The front of the barn to the west had a large sliding door so the horses could easily enter and exit. There were six stalls to accommodate six horses; each stall had a manger for the hay and a box for grain. There was also room in the stalls for a person to walk between the horses to remove their harnesses. There were four stalls to the north and two to the south. The area on the south where there were no stalls was used to hang the harness and store various things. There was, also, a stair there that led up to the hay loft and the upper level.



The horse stalls occupied the biggest part of the barn, but there was also an area to the east for cows to be milked. Here they were put in stanchions. This was used only in winter, as in summer we milked the cows outside in the corral. Our cows

all had names and were of a gentle nature, so it was no problem to milk them outside. In that area of the barn, also, in the southeast corner was a space for calves when they were weaned from their mothers. Here they would bawl and their mothers outside would beller back.

The hayloft held the hay, of course, which was elevated up to the loft with a rope sling. A big door on the south end of the loft was dropped open, and a trolley in the top of the barn came out and down to the ground. The hay was put on the trolley and ropes were attached. Two horses pulled the cable and the hay was lifted, swung into the barn and released. Several loads of hay were brought before the big door was closed. This was feed for the horses and cows. Above the mangers, in the floor of the upper level of the barn, square holes were cut, so all one had to do was poke the hay down to the animals. Sometimes a mother cat would decide to have her kittens in the hayloft, which was a good and a secret place. Unfortunately, when the kittens began to run around and play, they sometimes fell through the holes over the manger and then walked out where the cows or horses stood and were accidentally trampled. Upstairs to the east where the roof tapered, were two rooms for grain to be stored, usually oats, as that was what the horses were fed. Sometimes ear corn was fed to the horses. I loved the hayloft. It smelled so good and was so big, especially in a child's eyes.

The barn always had barn swallows that came in the spring and made their mud nests on the 2 x 4's in the ceiling of the barn. Our parents told Loren and I never to bother them or destroy the nests "or the barn would burn down". It was their way of keeping us from harming them. We always respected all the animals and fowl on the farm. Each life was precious.

I played "cowboy" in the barn. The partitions that made up the stalls for the cows were wide heavy boards and those were my make-believe horses in the summer. The area was clean as it was not used in the summer, and I had the door to the south left open while I played.

Another building on the farm was the washhouse. So named because this is where mother washed her clothes, winter and summer. She had an engine powered wash machine, and Monday was her wash day. It was near to the windmill so water was close, although she often carried soft water from the cistern for her wash. The washhouse had a little stove which had to be filled with cobs and wood. The fire was built to heat the water for the wash. Mother would sweep the floor and lay her clothes out in piles. She would wash them and hang them out to dry. How white the whites and bright the colors with her own home-made soap. My mother actually loved work and did everything with a light happy heart. Her work habits and attitude have always been an inspiration to me.

The little washhouse was also used to separate the milk from the cream. A "separator" stood to the west side and each day, morning and night, it was used. After each time the bowl on top was taken into the house to be washed, with all the little metal discs that separated the milk from the cream. This was quite a chore in itself and keep in mind that flies were attracted to a building that held milk products. The separator had a crank that was turned by hand. The skim milk was sometimes put into large crocks to sour and later fed to chickens, ducks and pigs. Sometimes it was fed fresh to the pigs. Of course, the cats were always waiting beside their little pan. Milk for drinking and the cream went to the house and in the summer the cream was carried into the basement where it was cooled and later taken to town to sell.



On the farm we had chickens. We had a large chicken house with two large rooms, with a wall and door in between. It had windows to the south for sunshine to warm it in the winter. This house was for the laying hens, usually a large tan chicken named Bufforfingtons. Mother also raised Leghorns, a white, smaller hen

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known for it's laying production. The Leghorns were a nervous, excitable breed, but the Buffs were quiet and docile. At one time, we had two chicken houses. We had one behind the garage where mother housed her Leghorns only. It was smaller. There was, also, the brooder house. This is where the baby chicks got their start. It also had the south side in windows and it had a brooder stove, which was run by oil and was kept going when the chickens were little. After they developed into young feathered roosters and hens, they were carried manually a few at a time to the big hen house. This was done at night when they were easy to catch. It always took all four of us to carry them. Mother raised several hundred chickens each year. We ate them daily in the summer when the roosters were young. We had eggs to eat and sell. Eggs were cheap in the thirties, not bringing in much money, but it bought our few groceries. Sometimes a few chickens were sold, four or six, and this was extra cash for a pair of shoes or some other needed expenditure. To me then it was all taken for granted, but as I look back on it now, it was my parents way of making ends meet during the 30's. The so-called depression. We were better off than a lot of people. We always had enough to eat.

Other buildings on the farm were the two granaries, both moved from my grandparent's Kubes farm after they died in 1933 and 1934, as was our second chicken house behind the garage. A second barn also was moved. It was smaller than the first one, but with a hayloft. It was used primarily for young calves, and for storage. It was not moved as a building, but taken down and rebuilt. Mom, Dad, Loren, and I took it down and then dad rebuilt it with Loren's help.

We had an outdoor toilet as there was no plumbing in the house. The one from my grandfather's farm was also brought over. Dad took out the seat and just put a floor in it and it became my playhouse for a time. Then it became a little chicken coop for my one hen and her brood of chickens that I was allowed to raise each summer for my own money. Still later, in about 1940, it was moved to stand in front of the windmill, and a small tank put inside to catch the cold freshly pumped water and then from that it ran into the larger tank outside. The milk was put in the coldest tank to cool. Five gallon metal cans of milk were cooled there from the evening milking. This was after we quit separating the milk and a milk truck came daily to pick it up. The truck arrived between 4:30 and 6:00 a.m. We had to be up at 4:30 a.m. to have the cows milked and the milk ready to go. My mother seldom swore, but when she heard that truck coming around the jog too early, she had a few words to say. I helped with the milking morning and night and when the check came every two weeks, Mother gave me \$15.00. I felt very rich and it was used to buy some article of clothing I might want, as I was about 13 years old by then.



We also kept RC Cola in bottles in the tank, and they were good and cold when we came home from

the fields. A real treat.

We had a smokehouse made of bricks where Dad smoked bacon and hams when we butchered a hog in the winter. He also made a baloney that was very good.

When Loren was 12 or 13, he wanted to raise rabbits, so Dad and Loren built a rabbit hutch. It was big enough so several people could walk in. It had room for several rabbits, and there were several units. Each doe had a place to eat and move around freely, and then there was an enclosed compartment for her to have her babies, but that place could be opened so we could see her little ones. The building was opened to the east and screened in there, so it never had an unpleasant odor. We all enjoyed the rabbits, they were so pretty, some spotted and some pure white. We ate fried rabbit sometimes. I don't think Loren made any profit on them, but it was a fun project, and company always had to see them.

We had a garage for our 1928 Chevrolet. The only car we had. Dad bought it new in Emerald, Nebraska, from Mr. Volstead. I think the price was around \$400. Dad always took it back there for repairs, which weren't many. He drove very slowly, 25 to 35 miles per hour. The garage was wide enough that dad had a workbench to the west and a shelf to the east where much stuff was kept. Our bicycles sat against the east wall. It had only one window to the back (north) so the doors were kept open. Each opened to one side. The garage was used almost daily and everything was then accessible.

One time the garage was used for another purpose than housing the car. This was when the folks butchered. I never helped much with this, but on cold days the pig, after it was shot was put in the wooden vat to be scalded and scraped, and the garage was used for shelter. The garage had only a dirt floor. I have memories of that old wooden vat. It was quite large, and in the summer, as a child. I put boards across the top. I would leave an open space at one end so I could crawl into it. It was my boat. I sat on some make-shift stool on top of the boards to drive and guide my boat, and then crawled into the bottom for lodging, all while the vat sat on dry ground in the hot sun. What imaginations we have as children, I can't remember ever being bored.

Another of my games, and Loren did this too, was our stick horses. We rode them all over the farm. Dad had drilled a hole in the end of mine and I had a piece of twine through it for the rein.

Mom and Dad usually laid down and rested after our noon meal. Loren and I would go outside and there were two barrels of sand on the east side of the red granary. By noon or after, they were shaded from the sun so we would play there. We used stones for our horses and cows. We could till the sand. We spent many an hour playing there.

JOHN JACOB FAIG

By Violet Faig Peterson

We all can tell a story of an ancestor whose life has had some interesting events. This story is of my paternal grandfather, John Jacob Faig, (usually called Jake) who seems to me to have had such a life. His name is not in books but mostly in our memories.

Jake was born in a small town, Huelben, Germany, which is south of Stuttgart, Germany, to Gottlieb and Susannah Faig on January 24, 1840.

We do not know much of Jake's childhood but do know he liked to draw. The family has a number of his drawings. These were of various scenes in Germany and schools.

Jake's father, Gottlieb, shod horses and welded wagon wheels in Germany for the army. He did not like the military situation and decided to come to America in 1852 with his wife, son, and daughter.

The family left from Hamburg, Germany, on a sailboat. We do know they had a trunk, which a granddaughter now has in her home. There was also a yellow cream pitcher with a dark blue strip around the middle, and a hammer. Dad said the rhubarb in his garden came from stock brought over from Germany.

The ship was to land in New York but the wind kept blowing them out to sea. So they had to sail to New Orleans and entered the United States from there. From there the family seemed to follow the Mississippi River and settled around Iowa City, Iowa.

One thing we know of Jake while he was in Iowa City is that he drove a stagecoach with his future brother-in-law, Abram Houser.

Jake's father became a drunkard, (my Dad's term). Because he took all the family's earnings to support his habit, Jake decided to look into homesteading in Nebraska. He came to Nebraska in the fall of 1868 and looked over the situation. He was told not to choose level land but to homestead rolling hills where the water would run off. He did this and overlooked some very choice land southwest of Lincoln.

Jake came to Nebraska in the spring of 1869 to homestead 80 acres near Centerville Section 18. His mother came in the fall of 1869 to homestead an adjoining 80 acres. They built the homestead buildings on the property lines where the two properties joined. We have copies of the homestead papers.

The first years in Nebraska when food was scarce they ate rabbits and grouse. In the summer they ate fish from a nearby creek. The method for getting fish was to shoot beneath the fish in the water and cause the air sac of the fish to break. Then the fish were taken from the water with a net.

Jake was a hard-working man. The first winter in Nebraska, he spent most of the time working at a quarry that furnished rock for the State Penitentiary. The next year the job was given to the penitentiary inmates. The quarry was located where the Lincoln

Memorial Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, is today. The next year he worked at a quarry near Roca. He walked to work, but it is said he ran instead of walking. He followed railroad tracks.

Another walking story is that when his daughter, Sophie, was ill he walked to Lincoln to get medicine for her. When he got back home he found the medicine was in a lump. They did not know how much to give Sophie so Jake walked back to Lincoln and found the right dosage. Sophie died of a ruptured appendix.

When Jake started farming he had a horse and an ox. They did not work well as a team as the ox was slow and the horse wanted to go faster.

The first taxes on the farm were paid in 1872.

The 1885 Nebraska census said he was living alone. He could not read or write (probably English). He had sold \$600 worth of produce. He owned 5 horses not mules.

He was interested in raising fruit. He was also good at pruning fruit trees. They tell that he made apple cider. Pieces of the cider press were still around in the 1920s.

Jake said he wanted a German girl for a wife. He waited until he was 52 years old before he married. He met a 29-year-old German lady, Marie Elizabeth Henske (Lizzie), at a Sunday School convention near Kramer. She had just come from Germany a year before. They were married February 19, 1891. They seemed to have had a good marriage. They had 2 children.

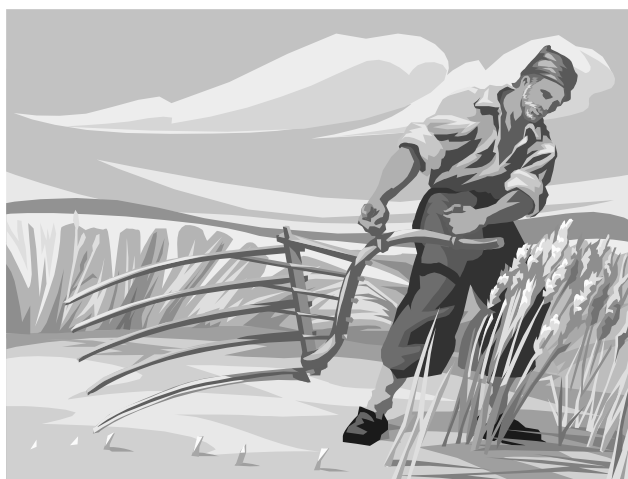
Jake's family was originally of the German Lutheran faith. In Muscatine, Iowa, he may have joined the Methodist Church. In Nebraska he joined and faithfully attended the Centerville Church. This church was located two and three-quarter miles east of the farm.

Jake lived on his homestead until the age of 83.

He died in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska, on August 11, 1923.

He is buried in the Centerville Cemetery.

What an interesting life of a pioneer.



Obituaries

Clara Knopp Sullivan passed away on September 13, 2007. She was the widow of Joseph J. Sullivan and lived for many years in Yankee Hill Precinct. She had attended District #43 and Rokeby High School.

Albert Hennecke died September 14, 2007. He and his wife, Norma, lived at Yankee Hill for many years. He was 83.

Ruth O. Rosekrans Hoffman died September 26, 2007 at David City. Ruth was a talented artist and had written childrens' books as well as illustrated them. She was a DCHS member for many years. Her parents were Jim and Pearl Hocking Rosekrans. Ruth graduated from Denton High School. She was 81.

Rita Overton, age 90, passed away on September 27, 2007. She was the daughter of Jerry E. and Kate Enright Sullivan. She and her husband, Don, were DCHS members for many years.

Donald M. Parker was 83 when he passed away on September 26, 2007. His parents were Carl and Elizabeth Maughan Parker. Don was a house painter.

Donald Kurtzer died November 8, 2007, in Lincoln, Nebraska, at age 80. He was the son of Irvin and Lieda Schafer Kurtzer and grew up in Emerald, Nebraska. Survivors include sisters and brothers-in-law, Clara Knaub Agresti and Lucille and Wilbur Scott, and brother, Harold.

Joseph Paul Splichal and wife, Corrinne, were long-time members of DCHS. Joe passed away on November 28, 2007. He was born in Genoa, Nebraska. He was a CCC member at the Denton CCC camp and was very interested in keeping the history of that organization alive. He was instrumental in getting the CCC monument that stands in Denton, Nebraska.

Lauretta Wunderlich passed away at age 99. She was the widow of Milton H. Wunderlich, and she graduated from Central High School in Sprague-Martell, Nebraska, in 1926. Lauretta was a member of Rokeby Trinity Chapel Church.

Lucille Daniel Jones, age 63, passed away on December 13, 2007. Her residence was in Fairbury, Nebraska. Her parents were Ervin and Blanche Daniel. Ervin is deceased.

Martha Spellman died at age 83 on December 13, 2007. She was the wife of Rev. Warren Spellman. Rev. Spellman and Martha were DCHS members for many years.

James Herbert (Herb) Elrod passed away on December 13, 2007, at age 98. He was the son of John Elrod and Florence Mays Elrod. Survivors include his brothers, George and Bernard, and his sister, Sadie Juricek. Herb and his daughter, Carol, have been DCHS members for many years.

Frank Clifford Kleager passed away in Colorado Springs Colorado, at age 85. He had lived there for a number of years. His widow is the former Mildred (Mickey) Clymer. Mildred was a graduate of Rokeby High School, and she and Cliff were active in the Rokeby Alumni Group.

Viola Markle Schmadeke died in Yankton South Dakota, on December 28, 2007. She was the daughter of Arius and Mary Brt Markle. Viola graduated from Denton High School. The Markles lived on section 19 of Denton Precinct.

Neil McPherson, age 84, passed away on January 9, 2008. His widow is the former Lois Allan, a 1941 graduate of Rokeby High School. Neil was a Lincoln fireman for 43 years, retiring in 1989.



GET OUT YOUR CALENDARS

Get the calendar and write down the dates and times for our 2008 meetings and programs. **We will miss you if you don't come.**

February 26, 2008, at 2 p.m. Gloria Hall will talk on quilt restoration.

March 25, 2008, Members will tour the NSHS library at 15th and R Streets in Lincoln, Nebraska. Call for more information 797-2050 in March. Rural transit from Denton will be available. Come and learn what is available for research at this great facility.

April 22, 2008, 7 p.m. Mike and Freda Gregg will speak about living in Ireland

May 27, 2008, 7 p.m. David Wells, historian and genealogist will speak about the first Memorial Day and the GRAND ARMY OF THE REBUBLIC

June 24, 2008, 7 p.m. Marcia Melichar Elder will share her memories of growing up in the Denton area.

July 22, 2008, 7 p.m. Adam Thayer, DCHS member will give a program on unusual tombstones that he had photographed

August 26, 2008, 7 p.m. Jane Bredenberg Reinkordt will speak about her uncle, Ravil Smith who was in WW2 and his letters from home that he saved.

September 23, 2008, 7 p.m. JoAnn Stofer will speak on the history of the Martell State Bank

October 28, 2008, 7 p.m. LaVina Kraus Vagts will speak about her memories of growing up in the 40's. Come share your recollections of where you were on Pearl Harbor Day.

November 26, 2008, 6 p.m. Potluck supper, short meeting and entertainment

December, 2008, No meeting

All meetings will be at the Denton Community Center except for March 25 and July 22.

We really did miss you at the 2007 meetings. Some of the speakers and topics you may have missed were:

Victory Gardens by LaVina Vagts. Did you know that part of Hyde Park in London was turned into a Victory Garden during WWII?

"Disaster Preparedness" by Annette Wiechert. Movie "The Trial of Standing Bear". Excellent program.

"Quilts, etc." by Twyla Burgess Lidolph.

A tour of Spring Creek Prairie.

"Ireland" by Jim Wilkinson.

Jim McKee did a program on railroads which was very educational.

"Trails" was the topic for the program by David R. Murphy.

Again, we are sorry if you missed these.

And do come to the 2008 offerings.

DCHS is Online

Our DCHS webmaster, Kathie Harrison, is working very hard to add interesting features to our website. Please send an Email or note to five people who have ties to this area. They may not know about all the articles and pictures Kathy is putting on the site.

Our web address is:

[http://](http://denton.ancestralwhispers.com)

denton.ancestralwhispers.com

Then bookmark the site to your "favorites" and check back often.

Newsletter Staff

Cathy Sullivan

Lee Gray

Teresa Sullivan

Sue Williams

Mugs with the DCHS Logo are Still Available

As a new member or one of long-standing, don't you have someone that would enjoy a good beverage mug. The mugs are still on sale for \$4.76 plus .24 tax for a total of \$5.00. These mugs make great birthday or holiday gifts or just a hometown remembrance for someone special. Available for sale at all DCHS meetings.



Denton Community Historical Society

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