

CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Notes from LaVon

My paternal grandmother, Mary Pollat Morrow, was the oldest child of Josephine and John Pollat. She was born in 1887. She married William Morrow and had eleven children. They all survived to adulthood. She lived in a "soddie" in the sand hills of Nebraska during growing up years. In her married life she lived in Nebraska, Colorado and California. There was a move to Canada for a short time in 1930 to find a better life.

Mary's mother, Josephine (Josefa) Vorel came to the United States from Sedlec, Czech Republic. Various records show her being 16 or 17 arriving alone or with a companion in 1882 or 1885. She was among the poorest of the poor on the steerage deck where it was over crowded, unventilated and unsanitary. Many did not survive.

Life on the Nebraska prairie was not easy. She married John Pollat in 1886. They had 12 children. Mary was the first in 1887.

One of the stories told about my grandmother Mary when she was a girl is that Buffalo Bill Cody visited their home because her father boarded horses. It was expected after a long journey that food would be provided.

Buffalo Bill let down his snow-white hair and it fell clear to his hips. He sat down to lunch and ate an entire bowl of freshly shelled peas. It was intended for the whole family. She was not happy about that. She also said that she was really afraid of him.

An interesting guest speaker is expected at the next Cass County Genealogical Society meeting on March 28, 1 pm at Atlantic Public Library. Amelia Bloomer will be telling her experiences. You may remember that Amelia suggested women change their style of dress wearing looser tops (no corsets) and skirts that stopped at the knee with "bloomers" underneath. She lived in Council Bluffs from 1853 until her death in 1894. She said, "Let men be compelled to wear our dress for a while and we should soon hear them advocating a change."

Message from the Executive Director – Mary Hoegh

Just a little recap of the year 2018. Our volunteers logged 1,197 hours in the genealogy room which includes those who have attended our monthly meetings. Many times hours aren't even recorded so there probably were more. You might ask what in the world do you do to volunteer so many hours. Well, that is a good question. The door isn't open unless there is a volunteer in the room. So someone needs to be here just to have the door open and the room available to the public. We keep the obituaries up to date, do research requested in person, over the phone and by email. Update old files, scan old fragile records to be saved onto the computer. We also partner with ARISE by scanning military records we have and putting that information into three ring binders for them. We made several notebooks with information of the men who were prisoners of war during WW II. They were from CO K a National Guard unit out of Atlantic.

The remainder of the newspapers that had not been previously digitized can now be accessed through the Atlantic Library Home page. Just go to online tools and then digital research. If you haven't used the digitized newspapers before you will need to set up a free account to use the newspaper archives link. It isn't necessary to set up an account to use the Advantage Preservation Archives link.

We have some Osborn Funeral Home records that date from Sept 9, 1885. They are very interesting. They give the name of the deceased, ordered by, who was paying, their residence, where they were buried, the size and style of the casket and the price. These funeral home records have helped establish relationships and where the deceased was buried when many times there is no stone.

We have some duplicate books for sale: Adair County History 1976 By Adair County Historical Society; History of Audubon Iowa 1878-1978 (2); History of Brayton Iowa 1878-1978; A Century of Memories Cumberland, Iowa 1884-1984; One Hundred Years of Pioneering and Progress Atlantic, Iowa 1868-1968; Pictorial Atlas of Cass County Iowa 1978. Please contact CCGS if you are interested in any of these books.

Regular meetings are the fourth Thursday each month 1 pm at the Atlantic Public Library. Occasionally the time, place and date may change. One reason to be a member is to receive the monthly newsletter with meeting notices as well as minutes. We want to keep you informed even if you live afar and will not be attending meetings. All will be sent by e-mail.

If you have not already done so please complete your membership information and mail it with \$15 to: Cass County Genealogical Society, %Atlantic Public Library, 507 Poplar Street, ATLANTIC IA 50022.

Membership New _____ **Renewal** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip code** _____

Preferred Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Comments or questions can be sent to casscgs@gmail.com

The **program** on February 28 will be given by Cindy Sievers about writing family stories based on a family history. It will be given after a brief business meeting.

Mary Hoegh shows off a display in the lobby of Atlantic Public Library entitled “Is 2019 The Year to Write Your Family History?” It includes family history books and other history items available in the Genealogy Room.

Photo in Atlantic News Telegraph by Jennifer Nichols

