LLCGS NEWSLETTER

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President’s Corner

By Teresa Shane

November brings Veterans Day, a time when we pause to recognize the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. As both a veteran and a genealogist, I've been thinking about what it means to honor their service and, perhaps more importantly, to understand the people behind the uniforms.



Kuwait City in April 1991. The war was over.

I joined the military at 17, following a family tradition of service. My grandfather, father, brother, and other members of my family served in various capacities. Military service wasn't something we talked about as an extraordinary calling. It was demonstrated through the lives of the people around me.

As a young JROTC cadet, I discovered opportunities to lead and mentors who recognized abilities I hadn't yet discovered in myself. Those experiences helped shape the direction of my life. I remained in the military until I was nearly 40, serving through some of the most formative years of my adulthood, including a deployment to combat.

Looking back, I realize how profoundly those years influenced the person I became. Military service gave me opportunities, friendships, responsibilities, and experiences that have stayed with me throughout my life.

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It also demanded things of me that I didn't fully understand until many years later. Some experiences are difficult to explain, even to ourselves.

Perhaps that's why veterans don't always tell their stories.

There's a particular camaraderie among those who have served. We share a language, an understanding, and experiences that don't always translate easily into civilian life. Sometimes we talk about those experiences. Other times, we simply enjoy being among people who understand without requiring an explanation.

My grandfather loved people. When he accompanied me to JROTC banquets and events, I used to say he was "working the room." He seemed to know everyone, and I loved watching him reconnect with his fellow veterans. I didn't fully appreciate the significance of those relationships then, but I certainly do now.

As genealogists, we search for military records, unit histories, photographs, medals, and accounts of battles and campaigns. These records help us reconstruct where our ancestors served and what they experienced. But they cannot always tell us how military service changed them or how those experiences influenced the families and communities to which they returned.

We also need to remember that most veterans don't see themselves as heroes. They were ordinary men and women who volunteered or were drafted when their country called. They accepted responsibilities and faced circumstances they could scarcely have imagined beforehand. We understood the assignment, and we did our part.

When we place veterans on pedestals, however well-intentioned, we sometimes make it more difficult to see them as they saw themselves. Their stories are not always about extraordinary acts of bravery. They are also about friendships, uncertainty, humor, hardship, responsibility, and the ordinary business of living.

If you have veterans in your family, spend time with them. Ask about the people they served with, the friendships they made, and the experiences they remember. If they belong to a veterans' organization, consider attending an event with them. You may discover a side of your loved one that you've never seen before.

And if they choose not to talk about certain things, respect that silence. Sometimes the most meaningful gift we can offer is simply our willingness to listen without judgment or expectation.

As I've grown older, I've come to look at the veterans in my own family with greater understanding and grace. I recognize that there are parts of their experiences I may never fully understand, just as there are parts of my own service that I've only recently begun to put into words.

This Veterans Day, I hope we will honor those who served not by making them something they never claimed to be, but by remembering them as the complex, ordinary, remarkable human beings they were.

Their service is part of their story. Our responsibility as family historians is to remember the whole person.

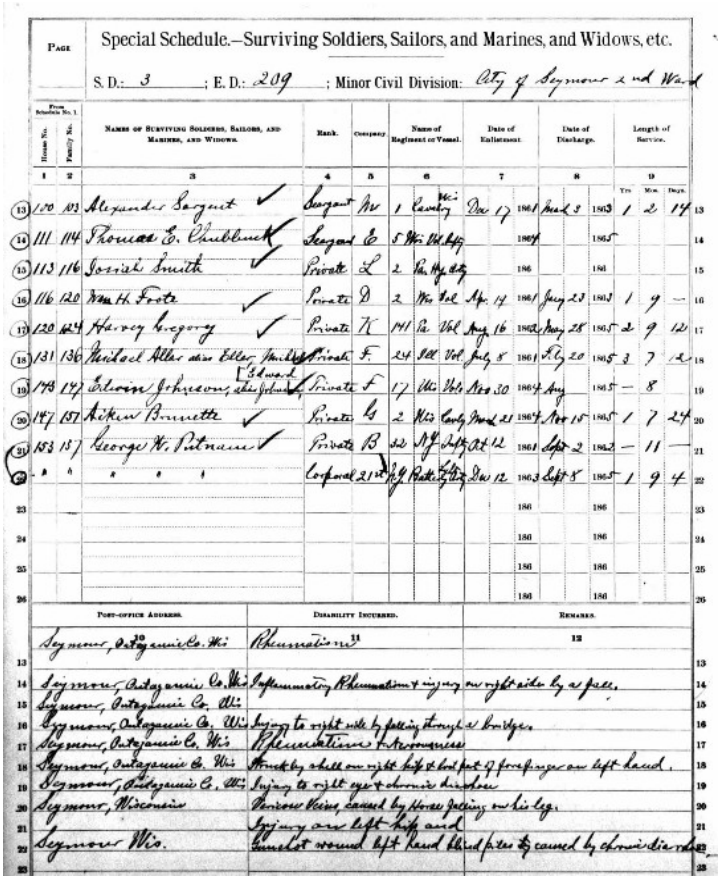
Don’t Give Up on 1890

Mention the 1890 federal census to a genealogist and you are likely to hear a groan. Most of the population schedules were destroyed following a 1921 fire at the Commerce Department building, leaving a frustrating twenty-year gap between the 1880 and 1900 censuses.

But before you write off 1890 completely, there is another record set worth checking: the **1890 Special Schedule of Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War**.

For some families, it may provide exactly the clue you need.

What Was the Veterans Schedule?


Special Schedule.—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.

S. D.: 3 ; E. D.: 209 ; Minor Civil Division: City of Seymour 2nd Ward

Page	Name of Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows	Rank	Company	Name of Regiment or Vessel	Date of Enlistment	Date of Discharge	Length of Service	Post-office Address	Disability Incurred	Remarks
13	Alexander Sargent	Sergeant	M	1 Cavalry Wis	Dec 17 1861	Feb 3 1865	1 2 14	Seymour, Outagamie Co. Wis	Rheumatism	
14	Thomas E. Chubbuck	Sergeant	E	5 Wis Vol Inf	1864	1865		Seymour, Outagamie Co. Wis	Inflammatory Rheumatism + injury on right side by a fall.	
15	Josiah Smith	Private	L	2 Pa Hy Art	186	186		Seymour, Outagamie Co. Wis	Injury to right side by falling through a bridge.	
16	Wm H. Foote	Private	D	2 Wis Vol Inf	Apr 17 1861	June 23 1865	1 9 —	Seymour, Outagamie Co. Wis	Rheumatism + Neuralgia	
17	Harvey Gregory	Private	K	14 Pa Vol Inf	Aug 16 1862	May 28 1865	2 9 12	Seymour, Outagamie Co. Wis	Struck by shell on right hip & lost part of fore finger on left hand.	
18	Theodore Allen alias Edwards	Private	F	24 Wis Vol Inf	July 8 1861	Aug 20 1865	3 7 12	Seymour, Outagamie C. Wis	Injury to right eye & chronic diarrhea	
19	Edwin Johnson, alias Johnson	Private	F	17 Wis Vols	Nov 30 1864	Aug 1865	— 8	Seymour, Wisconsin	Varicose Veins, caused by Horse Jacking on his leg.	
20	Aiken Brunette	Private	G	2 Wis Cavy	Mar 21 1864	Nov 15 1865	1 7 24	Seymour Wis.	Injury on left hip and	
21	George W. Putnam	Private	B	32 N.Y. Inf	Aug 12 1861	Sept 2 1862	— 11 —		Lumbar wound left hand Chronic diarrhea & caused by chronic dia	
22	* * * *	Corporal	21st N.Y. Battery Lt. Art		Dec 12 1863	Sept 5 1865	1 9 4			
23					186	186				
24					186	186				
25					186	186				
26					186	186				

As part of the 1890 federal census, enumerators were instructed to identify Union veterans of the Civil War and the widows of Union veterans.

The schedule can include:

- Name of the veteran or widow
- Rank
- Company
- Regiment or vessel
- Date of enlistment
- Date of discharge
- Length of service
- Post office address
- Disability incurred during service
- Remarks about the veteran or his military service

Those details can do much more than simply confirm that someone served. A company and regiment can help distinguish between men with the same name. Enlistment and discharge dates can point toward military service records. A widow's entry may identify a husband who died before 1890.

And the remarks column can contain information you won't find anywhere else on the schedule.

Who Should You Look For?

Don't limit your search to an ancestor you already know was a Civil War veteran.

Look at the entire family.

Was a widow living with one of her adult children in 1890? Was an elderly father, uncle, brother, or father-in-law still alive? Did someone marry the widow of a veteran?

Because the regular 1890 population census is largely gone, these schedules can sometimes place a person in a particular community during a year for which we otherwise have very little federal census evidence.

That makes the schedule useful even when the veteran himself isn't your primary research target.

Don’t Assume “Civil War Veteran” Means He’ll Be There

Despite the schedule's official purpose of enumerating **Union** veterans and their widows, researchers occasionally find Confederate veterans recorded as well.

Enumerators did not always follow the instructions consistently. Some Confederate veterans were entered and later crossed out; others remained on the schedules.

At the same time, the absence of a veteran does not prove that he didn't serve. As with any census record, people were missed, information was misunderstood, and instructions were applied inconsistently.

Treat the schedule as evidence—not as the final word.

The Bad News: Some of This Census Is Gone, Too

Unfortunately, the veterans schedules did not escape the losses that affected the rest of the 1890 census.

Most surviving federal schedules cover states beginning alphabetically with Kentucky and continuing through Wyoming, along with the District of Columbia and some U.S. territories. Most schedules for Alabama through Kansas were destroyed.

There are exceptions and fragments, so don't rely solely on that alphabetical rule to decide whether a search is worthwhile. Check the catalog or collection description for the locality you are researching.

Use It as a Road Map

Finding your veteran on the schedule shouldn't be the end of your search.

It should be the beginning of the next one.

A regiment, company, enlistment date, discharge date, disability, or widow's name can lead you toward compiled military service records, pension files, unit histories, soldiers' homes, GAR records, local newspapers, county histories, cemetery records, and other sources.

Pay particular attention to discrepancies. If the dates on the veterans schedule don't match another record, don't automatically decide that one of them is wrong and move on. Investigate the difference.

Conflicting evidence is often where the interesting research begins.

Mine Your Tree

Here's the part we sometimes forget: **you don't have to wait until you encounter a new research problem to use a new record collection.**

Open your family tree and look for people who were alive in 1890 and old enough to have served during the Civil War. Look at their wives and widows. Look at siblings, in-laws, and other relatives.

Then ask a simple question:

Have I checked the 1890 Veterans Schedule for this family?

You may discover information about someone you've been researching for years simply because you never thought to look.

The 1890 census may largely be gone.

But 1890 isn't.

Source note: The 1890 Special Schedule of Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans is held by the National Archives and Records Administration in Record Group 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Researchers should examine the original schedule image whenever possible rather than relying solely on an index or transcription.

Resources / Learn More

National Archives — 1890 Census Records
Background on the surviving 1890 census records and veterans schedules.

FamilySearch — United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890
Searchable collection and digitized images.

CivilWarRecords.com
Additional resources for researching Civil War military service and records.

Disclosure: LLCGS may receive a commission when purchases are made through the CivilWarRecords.com affiliate link, at no additional cost to you.



COMING IN DECEMBER

Was there someone in your family who seemed to disappear from the household - a child, parent, sibling, or other relative you later discovered was living somewhere unexpected?

Perhaps you found them in a hospital, orphanage, poor farm, soldiers' home, prison, boarding school, or another institution. Maybe the breakthrough came through an institutional census schedule, admission or discharge register, annual report, county record, state archive, newspaper, or cemetery record.

Tell us about the person who was missing—and the record that helped you find them.

Send us a short story and image(s) before December 20 to newsletter@llcgs.info.



Generations answer higher calling

By Shirley Ritter

My husband, Verle, was a veteran of the Korean War and his home town is Norton, Kansas.

His niece and nephew helped me last year to obtain a banner in his honor that is part of the town's Hometown Heroes celebration. This intersection where his picture was posted is a busy one that intersects Federal Hwy 36 and Norton's Main Street.

You can see that directions to Araphoe, NE are on the green sign as Norton is only 12 miles from the KS/NE border. Additionally, they have a brick program at a Veterans' Circle where we were able to place his information. I also placed a brick for him (and my son) in the Lincoln Veterans' Garden.

I was happy to honor Verle in his hometown even though he left there as a resident at the age of 21. Many knew him as a high school athlete in several sports. This was a higher calling when he answered his country's needs.

Our family has several military veterans dating back to the Civil War. My father and uncles served in WWII, another in WWI and my son had the longest enlistment in the U. S. Navy for the Mideast conflicts.

The Soldier Who Came Home Quiet

Remembering Willard Henry Schelbitzki

By Sinda Dux

Note by author: Our president Teresa Shane's name will be mentioned in this article because she spent hours helping me do research.

This is the World War II story of my father, Willard Henry Schelbitzki, a Fillmore County, Nebraska farm boy.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 28, 1942 at the age of 22. He was sent by train first to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, then for Basic Training to Camp Wolters, Texas, then to Camp Roberts in California. It was in California that he saw his sister in Los Angeles and got to see some tourist sights such as Graumann's Chinese Theater.



Christmas 1943 in snowy Aleutians, my dad, Willard Schelbitzki, is on the right

Next to a staging area at Ft. Lawton, Washington from July 9-July 30 where Willard was assigned to Company "H" 37th Infantry (in other words, cannon fodder). Then this Nebraska farm boy, high school-educated, boarded a troop ship in Seattle with thousands of men, never even having been in a rowboat before. What his thoughts must have been!!

Typical of the armed services, the men had been trained for desert fighting, had anti-malarial vaccinations, and had completely inadequate equipment and clothing for being stationed close to the Arctic Circle.

The ship landed August 13 at Ft. Greely, Alaska, then to Kodiak Island in Alaska, and finally to the island of Attu, Aleutian Islands which were then and are still considered American soil, so Willard didn't qualify for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Aleutian Islands Campaign against the Japanese lasted from 3 June 1942 to 24 August 1943 with 144,000 on the American side. The war cost about 550 American killed in action (KIA) and deaths from exposure and accidents including friendly fire, and 2,470 Japanese KIA out of 2,500 troops. It is recorded that the US Army buried the Japanese with care, set up a memorial, and recorded names of the dead, if possible.

The forced "evacuation" of the Aleut natives is a sad story. The Japanese invaded two of the Aleutian Islands, Kiska and Attu. There were only 40 Aleuts on Attu and they were forcibly taken to Japan where 16 (40% of the total) died of disease and starvation. The remaining Aleuts were never brought back to Attu; the US Army said it would be "too expensive."

> *The U.S. Army displaced nearly 900 Aleuts from their homes, leading to years of suffering in overcrowded, unsanitary internment camps across Southeast Alaska. U.S. authorities moved these individuals into neglected, decaying structures that lacked basic infrastructure, resulting in high mortality rates from disease and exposure. While these families struggled for survival in Southeast Alaska, the U.S. military—under a scorched-earth policy—destroyed their original villages to prevent Japanese forces from utilizing them, leaving the returning Aleuts with little to nothing of their previous lives when the war finally concluded.*

Willard rose from private to corporal to sergeant, which Teresa says were positions he earned, not just given. A miracle happened and my father was never even wounded. He earned two Good Conduct Medals, which were awarded to tens of thousands other servicemen. But, I'm proud of Dad for following the discipline and standards of the Army. He also earned a Bronze Star medal for the Aleutians Islands Campaign, an Asian Pacific Campaign medal, American Defense Service medal, and three overseas bars. I had to replace some of his uniform insignia and USAMM.com, USAMM LLC, the Armed forces superstore, is THE place to go to get every insignia, medal, or ribbon you need for any of the armed services.

Willard left Amchitka, Alaska on March 7, 1944 and arrived back in Seattle on March 18. He was then sent to Camp Wolters in April 1944 and Camp Howze in July 1945, both in Texas. Then to Camp Adair, Oregon, in August 1945, and to the Separation Center at Camp Beale, California on October 31, 1945 where he was demobilized and honorable discharged.



Willard's dress uniform jacket with insignia and Memorial Day poppy. Not all of this insignia would have been on his uniform at one time.

This soldier came back to his father's Strang, Nebraska farm after not seeing his parents and girlfriend for 3 ½ years. No cell phones or Skype or Zoom or internet then.

He returned with his dress uniform(jacket, shirt, tie, belt, pants, dress cap), 100% wool overcoat, 100% wool army blanket, cot, first-aid kit, three blue grenades, and his 1903 Springfield .30 caliber rifle which he used to shoot raccoons and possums trying to get at my mom's chickens and to be part of the seven-man Honor Guard at the Ohiowa Public Cemetery every Memorial Day. The overcoat is so thick and so heavy, I don't know how Willard ever managed to carry his rifle and equipment pack!

Willard's sister said he had changed after he came back and was much quieter. That's the main thing I remember about my dad…he hardly ever spoke. I remember many times when I was growing up when I would hear him tell my mom that he had a bad dream about a man with a gun chasing him. Then in 1973 he suddenly became even quieter, couldn't concentrate, and had a pickup truck accident. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traveled to the Veteran's Administration here in Lincoln for group therapy; I don't know if anything helped him. These things weren't spoken about in our home.

Willard loved his Ohiowa American Legion post, served as Sergeant-at-Arms for years and years, always winning a gold pin for 100% membership retention, pins proudly worn on his Legion cap. He subscribed to the Legion magazine and read every page, went to every Legion meeting and Legion birthday party celebration, and was part of the Honor Guard whenever asked.

My dad came back, resumed farming which he loved, raised a family, went to church, joined the National Farmers Organization (NFO) and his local American Legion post. He passed away in 1994 and was given full military honors at his gravesite and my mother was given the flag which draped his coffin.

Teresa also helped me with information about my dad's cousin, Frank Schelbitzki, who was killed at St. Lo, Normandy, France. I always wondered what his cause of death was and Teresa found that he was shot by the enemy. He entered France on July 2 1944 and was killed 12 days later, just 10 days before St. Lo was liberated by the U.S. Army. Those two facts have always made me sad.

The Military History of the James and Agnes Hogshead Bells of Long Glade

By Ruth van Gerpen

James Bell, the patriarch of the Bells of Long Glade, came from Ireland, settling on Long Glade, Augusta, about 1740. He built the framework of civil order as one of the county's earliest magistrates in 1745, utilizing his skills as a scrivener and surveyor to secure the futures of his neighbors. Alongside his wife, Agnes Hogshead, James raised a family deeply anchored in the Presbyterian faith, bound to the historic soil of the Shenandoah Valley.

Yet, the ultimate legacy of this frontier clan lies not in their early peacetime industry, but in the overwhelming sacrifices made by their descendants generations later. When the storm of the Civil War tore through Virginia in 1861, the family answered the call from the valley fields to the bloodiest battlegrounds of a divided nation.

Their children:

I. **William Bell**, born 5 October 1753, in Long Glade, Augusta, Virginia. He served under Captain William Herbert. He is recorded on the official Fincastle County pay lists. He served in the Fincastle County Militia during Lord Dunmore's War, killed in action at the Battle of Point Pleasant on 10 October 1774. He died unmarried prior to the drafting of his father's 1782 will, thus was not named in the will.

II. **John Bell**, born 4 September 1755, in Long Glade, Augusta, Virginia. He was married three times. He married his first wife, Margaret Young, a widow of John Young, on 27 December 1787. He married his second, Esther Gamble (sister of Colonel Robert Gamble) on 28 July 1800. Neither of his first two wives had any children. He married his third wife, Elizabeth Griffith**,** daughter of Abel Griffith, on 1 December 1812. Elizabeth was born 16 September 1791 and died 23 July 1840. They had six sons and two daughters. He served two "tours" during the Revolution.

Late in September 1780, John Bell served three months as an Ensign under Capt. Thomas Smith. Marched from rendezvous at Col. Esam's to just below Richmond, where he remained till discharged. In January 1781, he entered service as a Private and a substitute for his younger brother Francis, thinking the latter was too young to bear the fatigue. Served under Capt. Joseph Patterson, Lt. Andrew Anderson, and Ensign James Poage. Marched to Dismal Swamp, where he was discharged in April. In June 1781, served 20 days as Ensign under Captain John Dickey and Lieutenant Robert Campbell. Engaged in the Battle of Jamestown alongside his relative, Samuel Bell. Granted a federal pension on 22 December 1834, while a resident of Long Glade, VA. John Bell died 17 October 1842.

The children of John and Elizabeth were:

1. Nancy Bell, born on 16 October 1815.
2. Abel G. Bell, born 1 August 1816. Migrated to McLean County, IL. Married Louisa Virginia Xaupi in 1846 in Long Glade.

3. James R. Bell, born 3 November 1818. Served in the Confederate Army, Fifth Virginia Infantry. Fell ill at Swift Run Gap and died in 1862. His son, Brownlee Bell, served in the 25th Virginia Infantry, was captured, and died at Fort Delaware in 1863.
4. Rebecca Bell, born 1 April 1820.
5. William Bell, born 10 June 1823.
6. John Hendren Bell, born 8 January 1826, died 28 July 1830.
7. David Bell, born 19 September 1828, died 1 August 1830.
8. Francis Bell, born 8 April 1831.

III. **Agnes (Agnis) Nancy Bell**, born 31 October 1757, married Major Samuel Bell, of North Mountain, on 20 June 1786. They had 3 children: Sarah, James, a captain in War of 1812, and Nancy.

IV. **Francis Bell**, born in 1762 in Long Glade, Augusta, Virginia. He was protected from early Revolutionary War hardships by his older brother John, who took his place as a substitute private in 1781. Married Polly Erwin. Francis died in 1834.

V. **James Bell**, born 9 September 1763 in Long Glade, Augusta, Virginia; served as a Revolutionary War Patriot. In 1793, he married Elenor Henderson, born in 1776. They migrated to the western frontier and raised 11 children: Elizabeth, James H., Sarah, Henderson, Samuel, Mary Ann, Lucinda, Francis, John Gray, Archibald, and Eleanor. James died 6 January 1844, and was buried in Valley Graveyard, Graham Twp.

A letter from James to his brother John, dated 10 May 1793 reported "wee are well".

"Dear brother . . . I have just dun planting my corn I have about two ac(res) of wheat groing and as much rye & planty of old Corn . . . I have about fifteen acors clard and wold have had a good deal more by this time if I had bean able to work last winter But my reason of a pain in my stomach which I am very much afflicted with I could do nothing all winter. . . This indeans have bean troblesome this spring on our fruntears the have taken morgans station on slats thare was about twenty-two kild & taken mostly women and children. . . No more at present but remains your brother. James Bell"

VI. **David Bell**, born in 1765 in Augusta, Virginia; served as a Captain during the War of 1812. He married Mary Christian, daughter of Patrick Christian, on 19 February 1796. They had five children, two of whom died young. David died on 1 February 1845 in Augusta, Virginia. The other three children were:

1. James Bell and Sarah Coyner had seven sons, six of whom served in the Confederate Army (Company C, 5th Virginia Infantry),

- Alexander Bell: died of disease contracted in the army.
- Addison Bell: killed at Chancellorsville, 1863.
- Luther Bell: served in the 52nd Virginia Infantry; died of disease in 1862.
- William Bell: served in the “Liberty Hall” Company (4th Virginia Infantry); severely wounded at Kernstown, March 1862.

- Daniel: wounded at Gettysburg, survived the war.
- Frank: wounded during war, survived.
- Samuel: Youngest son; did not serve due to age.

2. John Bell: married Sophia Ervin; raised seven sons and two daughters:
    - David: served in Co. C., 5th Virginia Infantry, died at a military hospital in Lynchburg on 24 June 1863.
    - Elisha: served in Carpenter's Battery, wounded at Antietam.
    - William: served in Co. C., 5th Virginia Infantry; wounded at Cedar Creek in 1864.
    - Alexander: served in Co. C., 5th Virginia Infantry; captured at Antietam and died at Fort Delaware on 24 September 1863.
    - Hendren: Served in Co. C., 5th Virginia Infantry; severely wounded at Gettysburg and later served as a courier for General John B. Gordon.
    - John: survived the war to practice medicine in Chicago.
    - Samuel: practiced medicine in Long Glade.
    - Mary: married George H. Ervin.
    - Margaret: remained unmarried at the time of the family record publication.
3. Betsy, daughter of David Bell, married Bethuel Herring.

VII. Sarah "Sally" Bell, born 1 January 1766 in Augusta County, Virginia; married Francis Bell, of North Mountain, on 22 April 1795. A son, James, died in youth. Sally died 19 December 1852 in Augusta County, Virginia.

VIII. Rebecca Bell, born on 26 April 1770, in Augusta Co., Virginia; married John McFarland, born 28 February 1764, in Bedford Co., Virginia, on 20 July 1786 in Montgomery Co., Virginia. They had 10 children. Rebecca died 14 September 1816 in Kentucky enroute to Missouri.

IX. Thomas Bell, born 8 April 1772 in Augusta, Virginia; married Rebecca Robertson, of Botetourt on 26 November 1799 in Amelia County, Virginia, settling in Augusta County area. They had one child, James, born about 1806. James married Annie Blair, and had seven children: Thomas M., Company C, Fifth regiment, mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, 3 May 1863; James A., Company C, Fifth regiment, severely wounded at Kernstown and died in consequence. The remaining children of James and Annie Bell are daughters, all single. Following Rebecca's death around 1817, he married Mary and they had three sons:

1. Alexander R. married Clara Hogshead and had two sons and five daughters. His son, Thomas A., Fifth regiment, killed at Spotsylvania Courthouse in 1864. His son, James F., and three daughters survived.
2. Samuel married Sarah Eidson and had seven children. His son, Thomas P., sergeant of Company C., Fifth regiment, was mortally wounded at Hatcher's Creek, Dinwiddie County, February 1865. Another son, John V, served in Fitz. Lee's cavalry. Four sons and one daughter survived.

3. Joseph was born 18 August 1833. Joseph would have been roughly 28 years old at the outbreak of the war in 1861. Local militia and enlistment rolls for Augusta County do not show him suffering the same tragic fate as his nephews, indicating he likely survived the conflict or served in a non-combat/local defense capacity.

The *1850 U.S. Census*, records Thomas as a widower, living on the family's inherited farm with his son Samuel in Augusta Parish, Augusta County, VA. Samuel, age 37, a farmer; Sarah, age 35, Samuel's wife; Thomas, age 78 (no occupation listed); James W., age 8, grandson; Mary A., age 5, granddaughter; and Thos. M., age 2, grandson. Thomas inherited his father's homestead, the present Dudley farm, and died on 12 December 1854 in Augusta, Virginia, at 82 years. His death record confirmed his surviving wife was Mary. His son Samuel Bell was the informant.

X. Samuel Bell, born before 1782 in Augusta County, VA**;** no extensive individual military or marriage records survive. His historical existence is verified by his inclusion in his father's 1782 Long Glade will.

The toll exacted upon the Bells of Long Glade stands as a poignant testament to the devastating reality of the American Civil War. Out of this single family line, nineteen young men marched away from the Shenandoah Valley; over half of them would never return to see the peace for which they fought. Five fell directly to enemy fire or died of their wounds on historic fields, while another six succumbed to the unrelenting diseases of camp life and the harsh confines of northern prison depots like Fort Delaware. Nearly every surviving brother or cousin bore the physical scars of Minié balls or shrapnel carried home from Kernstown, Antietam and Gettysburg.

- *Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana*. Published by Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, 1938).
- *Kentucky Historical Register,* Vol. 23, p. 67.

Chaplain serves in two world wars

By Becky Hillman Martin



Frank Almaron Wilder was born October 24, 1897, on the family farm near Ladora, Iowa to Edward and Elizabeth (Randolph) Wilder. Frank graduated from Ladora High School in 1914. Siblings to Frank were Alice (Walter), Anna (Duncan), James, Rex, Winifred (Beardshear), Wilfred, Victor, and Elizabeth (Lindsay).

During World War I, Frank, along with brothers Victor, and Wilfred (Bill) served their county overseas. Frank was a private in the Army at the beginning of WWI and was promoted to sergeant by the end of the war. Frank continued to be active in the reserves.

Frank married Margaret Catherine Jacobs on October 2, 1919 at the Methodist Parsonage in Marengo, Iowa. Margaret was born November 13, 1900 to John and Mary (Wahner) Jacobs. Frank was working at Brown's Hardware in Marengo as a salesman at the time of their marriage. He also did some work for the Marengo Republican and was an editor briefly for the Ladora newspaper.

Frank then began his career in the ministry. In 1922, Frank attended Iowa Wesleyan at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He was assigned to several churches during his education at Mt. Pleasant. He graduated in 1927. After graduation, Frank attended the Garrett Biblical Institute, Chicago, receiving his divinity degree in 1929. While at Garrett, he served the Methodist Church in Crete, Illinois.



Frank then served Methodist Churches in Delta, Moulton, and Centerville, Iowa thru 1935. Frank and Margaret had three children: Keith, Almaron, and Beverly. The family then moved to serve the Oklahoma conference at Lawton and Norman until Frank was called from the reserves as chaplain at Randolph Field Texas.



From Randolph he served at Enid Air Force Base briefly returning to Randolph as head chaplain of the Gulf Coast area. Col. Frank Wilder was later sent overseas to the South Pacific as 13th Air Force Head Chaplain under General MacArthur for WWII. During the war his wife and children lived in Marengo to be near family. In World War II, son Keith, who was born in Marengo, also served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Keith was in the Burma, India area.

Frank was injured during WWII which included losing quite a bit of his hearing due to a bomb explosion. He was sent back to the states to

heal, and the Army Air Corps taught him how to read lips. In those days, his loss of hearing meant the Methodist Church didn't allow him to be a preacher.

After the war, Frank worked with Nebraska Wesleyan at Lincoln, Nebraska as a fundraiser. He also worked with Green Furnace and Plumbing in Lincoln selling furnaces. Margaret and Frank moved to California in 1955 with Frank going into real estate until his retirement. They moved back to Lincoln in 1972 due to health issues so they could be near family.

Margaret and Frank kept their faith and were active in the church in each community they lived. Margaret died August 11, 1982 and Frank died February 5, 1987, both in Lincoln, Nebraska. Daughter Beverly loaned his military vestments to the Iowa County Historical Society where they are displayed.

Three brothers, one war

By Jenny Watton

Aloysius Krebsbach, my maternal grandfather, served during World War II and was stationed in Hilo, Hawaii. He served in the South Pacific Theater and was wounded in action during the Battle of Saipan. In June of 1944, his mother received a telegram letting her know that her son had been wounded in action.



Al was the youngest child of Fred Krebsbach and Katharina Reining, who lived in rural Webster County, Nebraska, near present-day Rosemont.

Al and two of his older brothers, Nub and Herman, all served during WWII. His brother Nub served in France and in the Panama Canal Zone, while Herman served somewhere in Europe, although I am not sure which country. Before his service in WWII, Al also served with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

My grandfather was honorably discharged from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in November of 1945. He had been inducted into service in October of 1941 at Fort Crook in Sarpy County, Nebraska, which is now known as Offutt Air Force Base. After leaving the service, he worked for a rural electric company, helping farmers in Kansas get electricity. After marrying my grandmother, Lucille Reiman, in January of 1951, he began working for Goodyear here in Lincoln, where he stayed for the next 30 years. He retired in October of 1981.

One fun side note: his retirement party was held at my parents' house. I was used as the "decoy" to get him over there by telling him he was coming to babysit me!



Honoring Our Veterans, Preserving Their Stories

By Jenny Watton

Every town I have visited for genealogy research has honored its veterans in some way, shape, or form. My maternal grandparent's hometown has a veteran's memorial wall right as you come into town off Hwy 4 in Lawrence, Nebraska.

The wall has bricks honoring people from the community who served. The bricks list the conflict they were part of or the years they served, and they also recognize those who were wounded in action.

My grandfather's name is on that very wall, along with the names of his two older brothers. My grandfather, Aloysius Krebsbach, also has his name on the Veterans Gardens memorial at Antelope Park here in Lincoln. He is the only veteran in my immediate family, besides a great-great-uncle who is honored on that same memorial wall here in Lincoln and in Lawrence, Nebraska. These towns and cities created these memorials to honor their veterans and recognize their service to our country during times of need.

If you ever have the chance to visit a museum dedicated to one of our wars, I would encourage you to go. Kansas City, Missouri, has the World War I Museum. New Orleans, Louisiana, has the World War II Museum, which is huge and includes several buildings to explore. I have been to this one myself. Fredericksburg, Texas, has the Pacific Combat Zone War Museum, and there are many other wonderful museums across the United States. Another one I cannot forget is the Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Nebraska City, Nebraska, also known as the Civil War Veterans Museum.

Please take the time to honor our veterans and, whenever possible, let them share their stories with you. I never had the opportunity to hear my grandfather's stories because he passed away before I turned three.

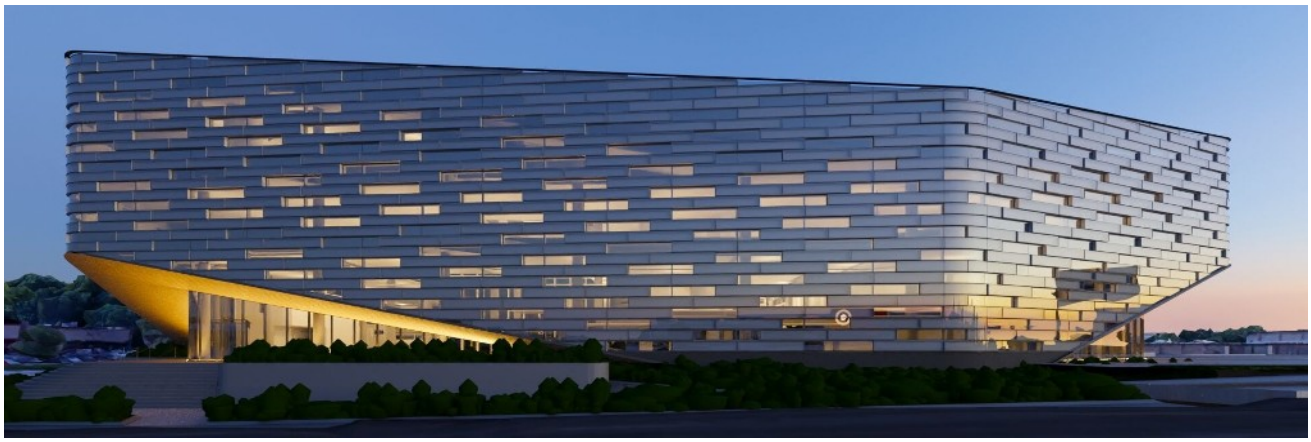
In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By John McCrae



Omaha Central Library Features Robotic Retrieval System

A look inside the new library

By Sinda Dux | Photos by Sinda Dux and Becky Martin

City directories and county histories and genealogical help books…oh my!!

That's a little of what 19 LLCGS members encountered on their tour and study time at the gorgeous Omaha Central Library. Martha Grenzeback, Genealogy & Local History Librarian and LLCGS member, gave us a fascinating and all-encompassing tour of the building. We then had access to the library catalog kiosks and shelved materials.

The building, which cost $158 million to build, opened in April.





LLCGS members were fascinated by the Automated Storage & Retrieval System (ASRS) - This high-tech system stores items from the Omaha Public Library system's large collection, allowing library branches to utilize more space for neighborhood-driven programming while still providing an abundance of books and materials for patrons to discover and enjoy. The three-story system, made up of stacks of metal bins, can store more than 600,000 books, music and other items, allowing the library to expand its collection without being limited by shelf space in branches.

The system uses robots to retrieve bins containing requested items. A staff member then selects the item from the bin and places it on a system of conveyor belts that carry it to its destination, whether that's the library's front desk or a vehicle bound for another branch.

"What a wonderful building. It was interesting that for the most part one doesn't find the books on shelves but they are retrieved with their robot. Now the genealogy section on the 3rd floor is all right there so one can just look at books on the shelf. Of note that they have a large table in the genealogy area that converts old film, tapes, etc. to digital. They also have a couple of "dressers" that contain seed packets that one can check out for planting. Also, they have many meeting rooms one can reserve. The Do-Space was very interesting as to all one can "DO" there. All of this for no charge. Very beautifully-designed space with much lighting and artwork."

- VP for Programming and Education Becky Martin

Next a short journey to the Brazen Head Irish Pub, a wonderful place full of antiques and Guinness pennants. We dined on genuine Irish food such as bangers and mash, fish and chips, and boxtys which are Irish potato pancakes stuffed with meats and vegetables. All were yummy.



Everyone who attended thanked Becky for arranging this trip and I think the future will see many returning to the Omaha Central Library.

Tour participants: Eva Bachman, Joan Clare, Cindy Cochran, John Dietrich, Sinda Dux, Mary Eichmeier, Ruth van Gerpen, Dan and Diane Hopmann, Steve Hunt, Corinne Jacox, Marion Malone, Becky and Garry Martin, Prudence Sadler, Sue Schlichting, Claudia Severin, Teresa Shane, and Marcia Stewart.

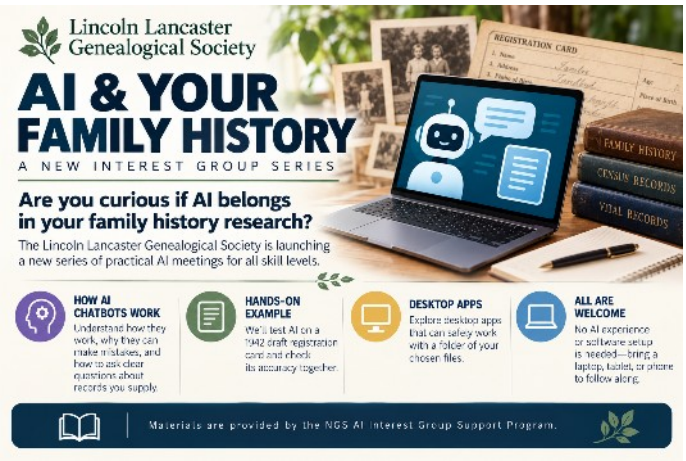
AI Interest Group Launch

Are you curious if AI belongs in your family history research? The **Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society** is launching a new series of practical AI meetings for all skill levels.

Following our next all-member business meeting on Sunday, November 15, we will explore how AI chatbots work, why they can make mistakes, and how to ask clear questions about records you supply. We will test AI on a 1942 draft registration card and check its accuracy together.

No AI experience or software setup is needed—bring a laptop, tablet, or phone to follow along.

Materials are provided by the National Genealogical Society AI Interest Group Support Program.



In the Stacks

News, resources, and discoveries from the library

Cindy Cochran - Librarian

The American Battlefield Trust has issued a new app available for free from either the App Store or Google Play. It is titled “Battle Maps: America’s Wars” and features 150 maps from the Revolution, Civil, and 1812 wars along with links to other resources.

Do you need a different type of Christmas gift? Consider a yearbook from our used book sale – UNL, Lincoln High, etc.

The well-known German genealogy researcher, James. M. Beidler, writes a monthly column for “German Life” magazine. He recently wrote about German archives and the different places you might find them, depending on the governing body.
Stadt – a municipality, city or town with a Stadtarchiv
Dorf – a village primarily agricultural, dependent to a lord or monastery
Staat – a state or larger area with its own Staatarchiv

***Notice the pesky similarity between Stadt and Staat.**

LINKS:
American Battlefield Trust website:
American Battlefield Trust

German Life Magazine
German Life

Announcements from the Board of Directors

Multi-year Membership Renewals

By Sinda Dux

Vice President for Membership

By now you know that we have a new Membership Record system. You and I both have had to learn new ways of doing things.

Some of you have asked that the system include Lifetime Memberships to make remembering to pay your dues easier. Although the board decided not to pursue life memberships at this time, multi-year memberships are now available in the Membership Records that I control.

Your membership can be renewed by logging in to your profile at llcgs.info or by writing a check to LLCGS for either $20 per year for individual or $25 a year for a household.

Your on-line renewal offers you an opportunity to pay for multiple years at one time by choosing how many years you want to pay in advance and then paying that amount. $40 for two years, $60 for three years etc. Writing a check is the same way, multiply $20 by how many years and write LLCGS a check for that amount. Your membership length will then be that many years.

Audit Committee

LLCGS needs two or three people to conduct the society audit for 2025-2026. Please email president@llcgs.info expressing your interest in this committee.

By-laws require one each year.

Best Choice UPC Challenge

By Connie Jean Hulinsky

Help support the LLCGS library by saving Best Choice UPC bar codes from products purchased at Super Saver and Russ's.

We receive $30 for every 1,000 UPC codes collected. Our goal is to collect 10,000 codes by **December 31, 2027**, earning $300. Better yet, 20,000 codes would earn $600!

Remove the entire product label or cut out the UPC bar code beginning with 700. Drop your collections in the container at the LLCGS library. If you have a large collection and cannot deliver it, email contact@llcgs.info and Connie Jean will arrange to pick up the labels.

Every UPC code counts!

Financial Report as of October 2026	
Balance Forward	$5,263.88
Current Month's Income	$1,960.00
Current Month's Expenses	$2,221.74
Checking Account Ending Balance	$5,002.14
Savings Account Ending Balance	$20,844.34
CD-22 Month Matures [11/27]	$9,382.62
CD-13 Month Matures [6/27]	$8,921.93

Membership
Annual Dues:
$20 Individuals
$25 Family
Queries: Printed FREE for members;
$1 per surname for non-members

LLCGS Newsletter

A monthly publication of the
Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society
2900 0 St., STE LL2
Lincoln, NE 68510-1485
Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 20th of each month.
Send items for the newsletter to newsletter@llcgs.info
Material from this newsletter may be reprinted without permission provided this source is cited.

Our Vision
● Discover, preserve, and share genealogical information for future generations.

Our Mission
● Utilize, demonstrate, and provide access to traditional and evolving resources and research methods for a diverse audience of varied ages, gender, and ethnicities.

Our Goals
♦ Promote genealogy.
♦ Preserve and share records.
♦ Engage members.
♦ Educate and inform members and non-members.

LLCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Teresa Shane
Vice President for Programs & Education – Becky Martin
Vice President for Membership – Sinda Dux
Secretary – Barb Smith
Treasurer – Linda Taborek
Director – Diane Hopmann
Interim Editorial Committee – Teresa Shane, Claudia Severin, Marcia Stewart
Member of the Board Technology – Dan Hopmann

Coming Events

Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to noon, Family Tree Maker User Group, Zoom only

Nov. 16, 2 to 4 p.m., Member Quarterly Meeting, Hybrid meeting. Program: AI Interest Group by members Mark Birdsall and MaryLou Andersen