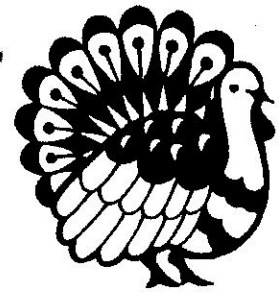




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
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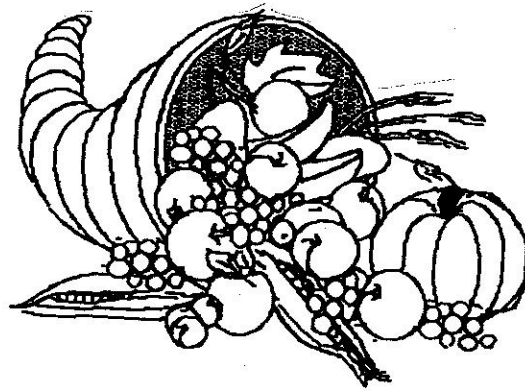


Nov 9, 2015 at 7 PM

Meet at Keene Memorial Library 1030 North Broad Fremont NE

Tour of Genealogy Resources by Barb Bandlow

Browse Night Nov 23, 2015 Mares meeting room 7 PM



Richard Kirch contributed a history of his Great Great Grandparent's journey to Cuming County, Nebraska.

(Due to space limitations, the article has been condensed.)

Robert Raabe and Wilhelmine Wreege Raabe and their two small children were living in Germany where Robert worked as a tanner of leather. Wilhelmine had received a small legacy from her parents of around \$700.00 which her husband borrowed from her and invested in hides. The hides he had procured were conditioning in the river when a severe flood swept them away. Robert was so concerned about losing his wife's legacy that he promised her he would take the family to America. Germany, at the time, was a country under turmoil, and efforts to unify the land often ended in bloodshed and instability.

Therefore, on March 14, 1857 Robert and his family of three - wife, Minna; son Otto G., age three; daughter Ida, age one; and one on the way (August, their third child was born December 1857) sailed from Zehden in Brandenburg to Hamburg, walked up the gangway on to a ship named *Doctor Barth*, to walk up the gangway in a different continent, in New York a little over two months later.

The family traveled to Dodge County, Wisconsin and stayed until 1864 when Robert Raabe and his brother August Rabe (Robert chose to change his name to "Raabe" and August continued using the surname "Rabe") heard about the opportunities for land out west. In the Spring of 1864, the group gathered all their earthly belongings and headed for the flat, trackless and treeless reaches of the Nebraska Territory. The trip took six weeks and was made in a covered lumber wagon drawn by oxen, with three milk cows, two young oxen calves and one sheep walking alongside. Son Otto, age ten, walked the entire distance from Hustisford, Wisconsin to Nebraska, driving the three cows that provided the milk for the milk soup which "with bread and occasionally a little meat" was their only fare.

The group crossed the Missouri River at Council Bluffs and headed south to Nebraska City where they found a bustling town and land mostly spoken for. They returned to inquire at the Omaha Land Office and from there pointed their wagons northwest toward Cuming County where they heard land was plentiful. In June, 1864 they arrived in West Point, appropriately named because it was the most westerly point of settlement at that time. Robert and August scouted nearby land finally settling on two adjoining plats five miles southeast of what would become Wisner, on the Elkhorn River, in

Beemer Township. They chose an elongated quarter-mile wide and mile long tract that included 40 acres of timber, 80 acres of good bottom land and 40 acres of upland never in danger of flooding. One of the tracts had a lake for fishing which was named Rabe Lake. The pioneers came up with a scheme to share the wealth of the valley as they desired the timber for fuel and building, the water resources provided by the river, and the rich farmland on higher ground during wet years when the bottom land might remain too wet to work.

The first year the brothers were unable to get in much of a crop. They planted a few garden vegetables and a little wheat which they harvested with a butcher knife. In the fall of 1864, Robert was hired by the Government to survey the western counties of Nebraska, earning much needed income, enabling them to move from the dugout to a log cabin. The two brothers built homes a quarter mile apart - their long journey now complete.

Robert Rabe & Wife to Otto Rabe

Know all men by these presents, that Robert Rabe and Wilhelmina Rabe, his wife, of the County of Cuming and State of Nebraska, for the consideration herein after mentioned, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell, Convey and Confirm unto Otto Rabe of the County of Cuming and State of Nebraska, the following described Real Estate, situated in the County of Cuming and State of Nebraska to wit: The South West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Nineteen (19) Township Twenty Three (23) Range five (5) East and the North West quarter of the North West quarter of Section Thirty Two (32) and the West half of the South West quarter and the South West quarter of the North West quarter of Section Twenty Nine (29) all in Township Twenty Three (23) Range five (5) East, also the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section Thirty Six (36) Township Twenty Three (23) Range Four (4) East. The last description subject to Balance of purchase money due the State of Nebraska, which the said Otto Rabe assumes and agrees to pay to the said Robert Rabe and Wilhelmina Rabe or either survivor of them during their natural lives, yearly, the sum of fifty dollars cash and shall also furnish to the said Robert Rabe and Wilhelmine Rabe or either survivor, yearly, five cords cotton woods, ten bushels good potatoes, four hundred pounds wheat flour, four hundred pounds rye flour, two fat hogs weighing together not less than four hundred pounds, ten gallons good syrup, one hundred pounds corn meal, ten bushels good corn, twenty five pounds good soap, and in addition thereto when either of the said Robert Rabe or Wilhelmina Rabe shall be feeble or sick the said Otto Rabe shall furnish them free washing and nursing and also one pound of butter per week, also during each year of their natural lives one half barrel salt all of which said articles and things shall be delivered or caused to be delivered by the said Otto Rabe at their place of residence as part of the consideration for the above described premises. The said Otto Rabe shall also provide a decent burial for the said Robert and Wilhelmina Rabe at their death and shall as a further consideration pay to Franz A. Rabe the sum of one thousand dollars, five hundred dollars payable four years after date and five hundred dollars payable five years after date, without interest. All of which articles, moneys and things above named shall be a lien upon said premises until furnished and performed and when the said Otto Rabe shall have paid, furnished and performed the conditions upon which this conveyance is made, he shall take a good and absolute title to said premises, but if he fails to perform the conditions herein named then this conveyance shall be void.

To have and to hold the above described premises, together with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances there to belonging, subject to the conditions herein contained, and I, the said Robert Rabe do hereby covenant with the said Otto Rabe, his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized of said premises, that they are free from incumbrances, except that herein created, that I have good right and lawful authority to sell the same and I do hereby covenant to warrant and defend the title against the lawful claims of all persons whomever except those herein contained, and the said Wilhelmina Rabe has relinquished all her right of dower in and to the above described premises in consideration that the said Otto Rabe shall perform the conditions of this deed. Given under our hand this 12th Day of April A.D. 1883. *Robert Rabe, Wilhelmina Rabe.*

