COX CLAN NEWSLETTER

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TRUMAN FREELAND ISSUE

Last winter, Jan Hunt, daughter of Ruth Anna Hicks, forwarded a folder of material Ruth Anna had pertaining to Truman Freeland (1852-1938; #75 in the Cox Book). Included are some of his own writings and letters he and his mother, Mary (Cox) Freeland (1824-1909; #17; see Newsletter #33 for photo) had received from other family members. Truman already received more than his share of attention in the Cox Book, as we included C.J. Tetschner's narrative reshaping of Truman's diary entries from 1870 to 1873, beginning when Truman secretly set off to walk from Illinois to Nebraska, as well as Truman's "Incidents of Pioneer Life," concerning the life of the early settlers of Garfield County, Nebraska, of which he was the second settler. However, the many interesting events of Truman's life, as well as the effort he took to record them and the effort he and his mother took to correspond with their relatives, particularly among the Kirby family, which had gone to California in 1855, justifies further attention.

Truman returned to Illinois to marry Almira Jane Russell (1841-1906) in February 1874. They had no children of their own, but adopted two: Vina and Earl Hodge, in 1899. Earl joined the army and died in the 1918 influenza epidemic. Jane died in 1906 and Truman married, second, Mrs. Ida (Rasmussen) White in 1908. They had two children, Elmer and Jesse, but divorced by 1920. Truman lived to be an old man, dying at Burwell, Nebraska in September 1938, at the age of 86. He remained vigorous and interested in the world around him. Mr. Tetschner, who, as a child, was a neighbor of Truman's, remembers Truman stopping neighbors and friends passing his house in cars or wagons to "borrow a match." Truman did not need a match, but he did need to talk to other people. This tendency is evident in his diaries, as he always commented on any period in which he was forced to live alone.

Truman was the eldest of three children; his sisters were Maria (1854-1884), who married Gustaf Johnson, and Ellen (1858-1925), who married Alexander Zeigler. Both were married in 1876. In 1884, Mary (Cox) Freeland was divorced from Truman's father, William Calvin Freeland. That same year, Truman's sister Maria died and at about that time, Truman's mother Mary came to live near him in Nebraska. She lived in Nebraska until her death in 1909.

1872 Letter from Mary Cox Freeland Letter to Truman

Rapids City Ill
July the 21st 1872

Dear Truman I am seated once more to write a few lines to you. Although I do not know how long it may be before they reach your kind hand. Or are procured on silently read by one that my heart holds dear though time and distance seperates us for a while our love care and Affection for you is still [un__] still the same as in days passed and gone [] that we never can deface what memory [ ] rather long and lonesome as I have here at home all day and no one came in except Mrs Long and Abby a few minutes after meeting Maria went to meeting, Ella has a sore eye and she would not go. your Father stayed at home all day untill four oclock then went to Suydam. it is now half past six the girls are gone to Docks for a walk and I [*p. 2*] thought I would pen a few silent thoughts to you the evening is pleasant, the shades begin to thicken about the yard. the little bird chirping a sweet song in the crabAple tree by the door, and a little humming bird is busy among the flowers. every thing about looks quiet just now all the doors about the house are open old witch laying on the porch to guard me while I write but still a lovely feeling steels over me as [I] look around, and think that I am talking to [one] that I cant see, but this must not make you [ ] for while you are reading these lines, no doubt I am thinking of you with peaceful hope that all is well with you, and sending a fervent prayer to the good being for your safety and protection from all evil. I hope you are a good boy and walking in the [ ] of the book that will be a lamp to your feet and a light to your pathway. If you will be a good boy, and take good care of your self and remember me, I will be content untill circumstances will permit us to meet again I want to here from you as often as possible all the news that you know I would like to hear I suppose you are far away from home now I wish I could hear from you. I think all the time I [*p.3*] will get a letter this week. now if I dont hear till you get this I hope to hear some good news then. Now I must stop for this time, will write more soon I am going to feed the ducks and geese and help Ella pick up the eggs and milk the cows red, browny and Felex's little cow that we wintered Maria is getting supper good night Truman bless you.

(Monday noon) Now I write some more we are all in usual health it is raining they went to the bluff to cut some oats, they cut the wheat in that place one week ago. the wheat was better than last year. the wheat and oats on this place is waiting to be harvested. Mr Dow is cutting their grain. the [corn] looks well now we are buying corn at 35 cts flour at 2.10 per sack, new potatoes sell for 25 cts butter 15 Eggs 10 cts we sold 2 bushels of apples off of the tree by the ash hopper for 50 cts per bu.
Truman I often think of you when I see the [sist] eating the nice apples, and wish you had some of them have you and Hawkins set out any fruit trees you must take all sorts of good care of what you have set out and in a few years you will have plenty of fruit. I would like to see your place. I see some familiar names there I hope they are good folks how does you and Hawkins and family get along

[*p. 4*] August 25th six oclock

Dear Truman, I again take my pen to write a word or two we are all in usual health and hope this may find enjoying the same good blessing I red your kind favor of Aug. 16th this morning before breakfast. How glad I was to hear that you was alive and well, and to hear of your success in your affair. give my thanks to James Scott for his compliment

May the blessing of God hover around both and the wings of angles overshadow your lonely dwellings

Sept the 1st Now another busy week is past and we are still among the living. Though hurried along by the many busy cares and ocupations of this fast fleeting life days weeks and months pass away and soon a year is gone and soon like them we will be gone And forgotten, except by a few dear friends will stay a little longer. but there is resting by and by where friends shall meet at Jesus feet, shall meet to part no more I received both your letters with joy and redd them with pleasure. I suppose you are seeing a great deal of the country and many curiosities, and if you have your heath, and good luck getting your pay, the trip will be of some advantage to you, as well as interesting. Truman I would like to be at your house to over haul your things to sun and dry and air every thing in your trunk & boxes to wash and mend your clothes, and also to see what you need in the way of clothes. also to cook you a good supper, now I am going to get dinner to fry some fish. you see I am out of paper and have soon to say goodby. but I am

going to write some more you see I have got some new ink but my pen is as bad as ever Maria got a letter this morning from cousin Sammy Cox they are all well he was nine months in nebraska last year he says he likes the country as well as this but there is not enough of timber where he was I am going to hunt some more paper and write more soon this is a pleasant day after several big rains and big loss of hay to some goodby for this time

Truman Freeland's Diary Entries for His Wedding in February 1874

1 Went to Canoecreek with Lyman and Jane Russell. Got dinner at Lib. Walkers, where we met mother.

2 Getting ready for the wedding tomorrow.

3 Jane Russell and I were married today by Rev. Hershie of Canoecreek, at his residence. At five Oclock in the evening we left Portbyron for Belvadeer Illinois, but had to stay over night at Freeport to get a train to Belvadeer.

4 Got to Belvadeer and hired a liveryman to take us to Andrew Codhrans; on the way one runner of the cutter broke through a drift we were crossing and threw us out in the snow.

Excerpts from Truman Freeland's Incidents of 1882, 1884 and 1885

Incidents of 1882

My sisters Mariah, and Ellen, from Illinois, came and visited me ten days in July. I never saw my sister Mariah again, as she died leaving two small children, a son and daughter, Elmer, and Ella. Elmer made his home with us for almost four years, and after his marriage, came back and lived near us, and that was where his two children were born.

1884

I built a frame house for Mother this year on her homestead on the hills a mile north of our house. In November a prairie fire in the canyon back of the house threw flames over the roof, but did not set it afire.

1885

On December 19, Charlie Lawrence and family took the train at North Loup for California. We had been neighbors for eleven years. Together we had shared the privations of frontier life, often had divided our meager store of provisions; together had shared the thrill of the chase on our many hunting expeditions, and had slept under our wagon, on our many trips to the railroad and land-office. Our friendship was like that of David and Jonathan. With a heavy heart I returned to my home, passing their empty cabin; we never met again.

1887 Letter from William Calvin Freeland to Truman

Rapids City Dec 14th 1887
State of Illinois

Well Truman
it has Been a long time since I have written you a line now I can say nothing more than common to you in answer to your last letter there has been some changes of great importance to me Some for me & some against me But I have stood up to them all with a fortitude that surprises myself I am well strong and active does whatever I undertake without any worry more than when you was here although my Hair & Beard is as white as snow I fair [*letter worn through at crease*] [sumptiously and is cared for] By the

woman that keeps house for me as well as I could ask I am not lonesome as you thought I would Be after the Death of Nancy Freeland although a good friend is gone & I feel her Loss like other losses But has quietly kept my place & waited for others to fill the place which is well done [ ] far we have [plenty] to eat and wear and health & streangth to enjoy it I am getting my affairs Pretty well settled up and will not have much left times has been awful close Property of all kinds is very Low there is not any trade or speculation in anything here so I am entirely still

[*p. 2*] I can't tell when the times will Change I see By your Co Paper that Burwell is getting a Boom and all the Rail Roads I hope you will hold on to the land that you have there and farm it [*crease*: B____ Cattle Hogs] & other stock I see that there was some 50 Wagon Loads of Hogs shipped from Burwell in one day since the Rail Road got there at about the same price as we get Here I will come to see you and the place some of these times I am ever so much oblige to you & family with martha Freeland included for the invitation given to me Backed with the promise of a Rail Road ticket I hope you will all Be as Resolute to stick to your homes as you have been to Locate them for that will make you independent & happy I suppose Elmer Johnson is there as I was down to see his folks the day after he started tell him I would like to see him & learn him how to Build Prairie Chicken traps tell him to feed them well and make them tame so I can shoot them when I get there I was over to the old place the other day the old place Looks very natural some of the old apple trees are still standing the old

[*p. 3*] [Lottman] Sweet that stood over the wood pile and the Sheep noses that stood along the path to the shop all stand there yet and I all most fancied I could see my own Childrens Bare foot tracks in the dust and afterwards the grand children though I was alone there no Relation or old neighbor near some in foreign places and some in the grave the walnut trees that was planted with my own hand grown to Large trees [loaded] with walnuts [*crease*: ____s _____ pick]

[Ol_____d; *Alexander?*] Zeigler I suppose have Retired from Business to the City Proud of their ill gotten Riches I suppose they want to get where they will not have to Bake warm Bread & make Strong Coffee for me as they did [once when ___ I ___] was out to see you and visit and I went over there for a meal once in a while and was Blufly asked each time to Deed him the place (the first Rong Step financially that I ever made) Your Father

Wm C. Freeland

Passing of Wife 1906

Born in the forest clad hills of Vermont, she came to the broad rolling prairies of northern Illinois with her parents, settling near the South-Kishwanke river. There were but few settlers there, and many Indians. The Black Hawk war was over and the Indians, while not hostile, were very annoying – begging and stealing.

One of their chiefs (Big Thunder) is buried near the North Kishkee river in the village of Belvideere, near her fathers first residence where she spent her girlhood days; later moving to Rock Island county, Illinois, where we were married. She came with me to my dugout, twelve by fourteen feet square, with dirt walls and floor, one window twenty four inches square, and with one door made of thin slabs from a cedar log. Our meals were cooked over a fireplace in the back of the room.

In this humble house she stayed alone sometimes as long as six weeks while I was away on a buffalo hunt. Three years we lived in the dugout, and moved into a log house in the cedar canyon. From this cabin she walked two miles to her school of five pupils during a three month term (being the first school held in what is now Garfield county) Nebraska.

Her next residence was a frame house, sixteen by eighteen, and her last dwelling a sod house, with a sod roof. From this house she passed to that bourn from which "no traveler returns." More than thirty years we had together, experienced the joys and sorrows common to all on the journey of life.

Her form and her face
Are ever with me,
No matter the place-
That face I can see.

Mothers Departure 1909

I had bathed her feet and while covering them again she spoke in a low, but audible voice, "Poor boy." These were her last words. Realizing her departure was near I was seated near her bed a few moments later and noticed her eyes were partly closed. Bending over her i found she had passed away.

Those last words are coming more audible to me today a quarter of a century farther down the stream of time the last expression of a Mother's love.

The lovers

'Twas in the summer of 'sixty nine,
When first you pledged your love to me,
"Twas then you first accepted mine –
Friend and lover ever to be.

Hand-in-hand we often walked
To the church-house on the hill;
Arm-in-arm we often talked
Of our heavenly Father's will.

I, a boy of scarcely twenty,
With friends as few as foes;
You a lady past your twenty's
Loved me more than other beau's.

You frankly told me that you loved me
With all the fervor of your heart –
That you n'er had loved an other,
That I the first had won your heart.

Misfortune turned my hopes to fears
And cast me out upon the world;
Hear and there I roamed for years,
My cares alone to you unfurled.

Born in a log cabin in a frontier settlement of Indiana, she came with her parents to a frontier settlement on the banks of the Mississippi River in the north western part of Illinois. Soon after the "Black Hawk" war, here she grew to womanhood was married and became the mother of four children.

She came to a frontier settlement in central Nebraska and departed for the "Great Unknown" in a sod house under a sod roof. She met with many thrilling incidents of pioneer life, saw many sad scenes during the Civil war, where confederate soldier bones were buried at the arsenal near her home, exciting scenes of armed men (many of them boys) marched away to war. All the incidents of married life rearing a family of four children, burying one in infancy, and one, the Mother of two.

How often joy and sorrow have succeeded each other in the drama of life, how often broke and despair and the final of it all REST.

The story of a life has been told
Inanimate dust returned to mold.

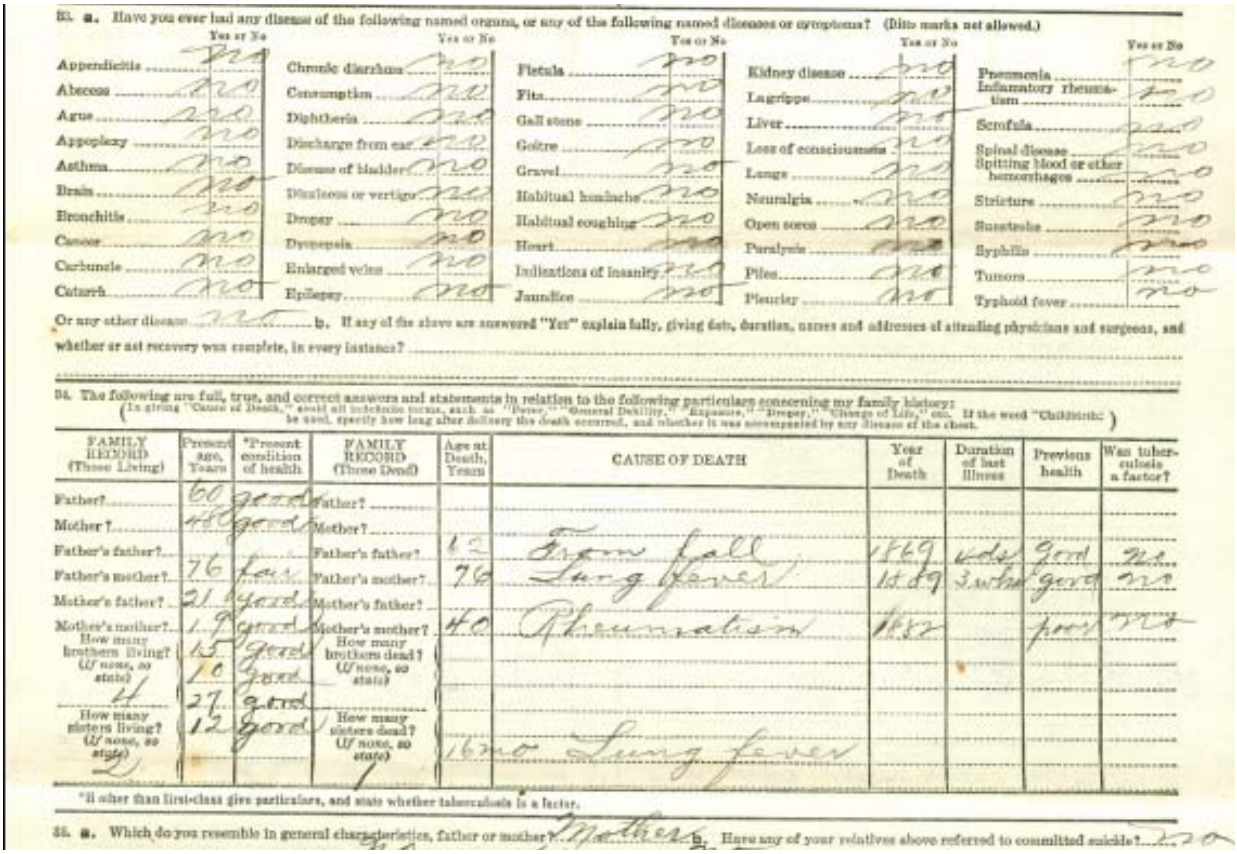
Excerpt from Autobiography of Truman Freeland

Of all the sad events of my life (death of my former wife, death of my mother, death of my father, death of the boy we raised from infancy, death of my two sisters, death of my son, in the world war) none have so distressed me, as the divorce decreed by the court seperating the Mother of our two children from me. Charity forbids further mention of this sad affair: however it is only right that I should state that the mother of our children has proved a Mother's love for her children: and the reader of this biography will understand why I have mentioned this affair; -- the leading events of a life should be in its biography.

FRANK COX LIFE INSURANCE APPLICATION

My uncle Tom Cox of Aurora, Nebraska recently sent me my grandparents' lockbox, which contained various old papers, mostly of a legal or financial nature. Included was the March 25, 1909 application by Frank R. Cox, my grandfather's brother (Cox book #138), for membership in Camp No. 1338 of the Modern Woodmen of America ("MWA"), located in Burchard, Nebraska. The chief benefit of membership in the MWA was a $1,000 life insurance policy, which remained in force so long as the member paid his assessments.

Frank was then single and he listed his mother as his beneficiary. He gave his occupation as "editor" and his business as self-employed printer. In 1910, he was a newspaper printer living with his parents; I think he was publishing the *Burchard Times*. Included in the application is interesting personal information both about Frank's own health and that of his family, including the causes of his grandparents' deaths, information he presumably obtained from his parents. His grandfather, John Washington Cox (#10), is described as having died "From fall," not the "paralysis" given by Eliza (Cox) Henderson.



33. a. Have you ever had any disease of the following named organs, or any of the following named diseases or symptoms? (Ditto marks not allowed.)

	Yes or No		Yes or No		Yes or No		Yes or No
Appendicitis	no	Chronic diarrhœa	no	Fistula	no	Kidney disease	no
Abscess	no	Consumption	no	Fits	no	Lagrippe	no
Ague	no	Diphtheria	no	Gall stone	no	Liver	no
Apoplexy	no	Discharge from ear	no	Goitre	no	Loss of consciousness	no
Asthma	no	Disease of bladder	no	Gravel	no	Lungs	no
Brain	no	Dizziness or vertigo	no	Habitual headache	no	Neuralgia	no
Bronchitis	no	Dropsy	no	Habitual coughing	no	Open sores	no
Cancer	no	Dyspepsia	no	Heart	no	Paralysis	
Carbuncle	no	Enlarged veins	no	Indications of insanity	no	Piles	no
Catarrh	no	Epilepsy	no	Jaundice	no	Pleurisy	no

	Yes or No
Pneumonia	no
Inflamatory rheumatism	no
Scrofula	no
Spinal disease	no
Spitting blood or other hemorrhages	no
Stricture	no
Sunstroke	no
Syphilis	no
Tumors	no
Typhoid fever	no

Or any other disease no b. If any of the above are answered "Yes" explain fully, giving date, duration, names and addresses of attending physicians and surgeons, and whether or not recovery was complete, in every instance?

34. The following are full, true, and correct answers and statements in relation to the following particulars concerning my family history: (In giving "Cause of Death," avoid all indefinite terms, such as "Fever," "General Debility," "Exposure," "Decay," "Change of Life," etc. If the word "Childbirth" be used, specify how long after delivery the death occurred, and whether it was accompanied by any disease of the chest.)

FAMILY RECORD (Those Living)	Present age, Years	*Present condition of health	FAMILY RECORD (Those Dead)	Age at Death, Years	CAUSE OF DEATH	Year of Death	Duration of last Illness	Previous health	Was tuberculosis a factor?
Father?	60	good	Father?						
Mother?	48	good	Mother?						
Father's father?			Father's father?	12	From fall	1869	4 days	good	no
Father's mother?	76	fair	Father's mother?	76	Lung fever	1st 69	3 wks	good	no
Mother's father?	21	good	Mother's father?						
Mother's mother?	19	good	Mother's mother?	40	Rheumatism	1882		poor	yes
How many brothers living? (If none, so state)	15	good	How many brothers dead? (If none, so state)						
	10	good							
	27	good							
How many sisters living? (If none, so state)	12	good	How many sisters dead? (If none, so state)						
				16 mo	Lung fever				

*If other than first-class give particulars, and state whether tuberculosis is a factor.

35. a. Which do you resemble in general characteristics, father or mother? Mothers b. Have any of your relatives above referred to committed suicide? no

Many of the diseases mentioned go by different names now. Catarrh referred to symptoms of a cold or allergy. Consumption is the old word for tuberculosis. Dyspepsis could be indigestion, heartburn or symptoms of a heart attack. Lagrippe was influenza. Pleurisy was pain in the chest with every breath. Scrofula was tuberculosis of the neck lymph glands. Lung fever was pneumonia.

The Modern Woodmen of America still exist as a fraternal benefit society and are to be distinguished from the Modern Woodmen of the World. The MWA was founded by Joseph Cullen Root in 1883. After a controversy over false beneficiary claims, he left to found the MWW in 1890, which is headquartered in Omaha. The MWW, in particular, often have gravestones in the form of a tree stump.

SAM COX REUNION, BURCHARD, NE (July 20-22, 2007) [it was a lot hotter than it looks] **Front row**: Elizabeth Cox, Trey Cox, Sam Wendte, Shannon Hicks; **Second row**: Kaitlin Scott, Kendra Bunke, Mary Utermohlen, Michaela Bunke, Noah Scott, Kristen Wendte, Sam Hicks, Seth Hicks, Ben Welsch, Jenni Welsch, Rebecca Welsch, Micah Scott; **Third row**: Tom Cox, Sandy Cox, Bob Utermohlen, George Cox, Leone Cox, Doug Hicks, Deb Hicks, Mark Welsch, Sam Welsch, Gene Welsch, Louise Welsch, Matthew Steuk; **Fourth row**: Scott Bunke, Troy Eppert, Kari Eppert, Bill Utermohlen, Alison Utermohlen, Paul Scott, Kim Scott, Doris Freeman, Ken Linstrom, Martha Linstrom, Larry Walrath, Lois Walrath; **Fifth row**: Brandon Hastings, Chase Placzek, Tom Cox, Barb Cox, Tammy Hastings, Harold Hastings, Terry Bunke, Luke Cox, Robin Cox, Mary Jane Hall, Mary Wiese, Deb Welsch, Dave Welsch, Mike Wiese; **Back row**: Denny Placzek, Kassandra Hastings, Amy Placzek, Lydia Placzek, Briannon Scott, Erinn Scott, Ryan Bunke, Jacob Hicks, Ken Hicks, Lora Hicks, Lance __ (Jenny's boyfriend), Jennifer Hicks, Dick Hall, Nate Hunt, Charli McGinn (Nate's girlfriend), Amelia Hunt, Louise Leitschuck, Bud Leitschuck, Joe Hunt, Ruth Anna Hicks, Jan Hunt

Ruth Anna Hicks was in the hospital for ten days in May with pneumonia and pulmonary edema. She is back home and recovering.

Lucille Cox, wife of Bob Cox, had a heart attack on June 16, but is now home and resting.

FAMILY UPDATES:

Ceden J. Fleischman, b. 2 Oct 2007, parents: Jeff & Whitney (Cox) Fleischman
Tyler Gramm Connolly, b. 16 May 2008, Florida, son of Jamie and Sarah (Cox) Connolly
Willow Cox m. Steven Burke 17 Nov 2007; living Kansas City, MO
Molly (Love) Linstrom, wife of Steve Linstrom of Marshall, MN, d. 10 Oct 2007
Maxine Dian (Funk) Peterson Cook, d. Oct 2007
Jack Logan, husband of Bobby (Cox) Logan, d. 13 Jul 2008, Cody, Wyoming, age 98

REDUCED PRICE FOR FAMILY BOOK

ORDER FORM

for *Descendants of John Cox of Abington, Indiana and Joseph Cox of Hampton, Illinois*

I would like to order _____ copies of the book at $50 per copy (inc. P & H) _____

Please ship my copy to: Name: _____

Do you want an autograph? Y N Address: _____

_____

Mail with payment to: **William J. Utermohlen, 1916 Windsor Road, Alexandria, VA 22307**

Those interested in the Cox Book who have not yet purchased a copy may review one at any of the following libraries (copies may also be at the Denver Public Library & Genealogical Forum of Oregon):

New England Historic & Geneal. Society
Boston, Massachusetts

NY Genealogical &
Biographical Society
New York, New York

New York Public Library
New York, NY

Library of Congress
Washington, DC

DAR Library
Washington, D.C.

Allen County Public Library
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Earlham College
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Rock Island, IL

Scott Co. Geneal. Soc.
Davenport, IA

NGS Collection
St. Louis County Library
St. Louis, MO

State Hist. Soc. of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Nebraska Historical Society
Lincoln, NE

Pawnee County Library
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Bountiful, UT

Genealogical Society of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT