

PREFACE

I was born in Dalton, Nebraska in 1936, the son of Clifford Martin, and the grandson of Herman Martin—a grandfather I never knew in person, because he died a little more than two years before my birth. But, I have come to know him and about him through newspaper accounts, photographs, and stories and recollections passed on by my parents, Martin aunts and uncles, and cousins. I am fortunate to have many of those items of our family history and heritage available to me.

Our grandparents, Herman and Mary Martin were the first generation born in the United States. Their parents came to this country from Germany and Denmark, respectively. We have some interesting stories and information about them and their parents, particularly our first Martin ancestor in America: John Martin.

Herman and Mary Martin were the parents of our parents. As a result of Herman and Mary moving to Dalton in 1908, all of their children grew up or were born and grew to adulthood in Dalton. Many of my cousins, like me were born in Dalton, although most of us moved from Dalton during the 1940s. Because Dalton was the home of our parents and their parents, Dalton, Nebraska is a part of our family hometown heritage.

The blacksmith trade is important to our family heritage. Herman Martin was a blacksmith and when he came to Dalton, he established the first blacksmith business in the community. It sustained him and his family, he quickly gained a reputation as a respected businessman, and the Martin Blacksmith Shop served the Dalton and surrounding community for thirty-seven years. The family business also served to provide Herman and Mary Martin's children with examples of responsible work ethic, fair dealings, and positive personal relationships. Music was also part of the wholesome, fun-loving Martin family whose members worked and played together. Their children benefitted from the personal values and character traits of their parents, and we, in turn, have benefitted from those Martin characteristics as they have helped to shape us.

Where we come from is a great determinant of who we are collectively as members of the Martin family and as individuals. By better understanding our parents, their siblings, and their family origins, as well as the place and the times in which they grew into adulthood, we can better understand much about ourselves. Hopefully, this little booklet will help to further a better understanding of our Martin family heritage for ourselves and our offspring. Much of the information in this booklet has previously appeared in our *Cousins Communicator* newsletter. However, the articles in this booklet have been updated and expanded with new information and photographs.

Each cousin participated in the preparation of this booklet by supplying photographs, information, and stories. This booklet is an attempt to capture bits of our Martin family heritage in such a way that it might be preserved and passed on to subsequent generations.



Larry Clifford Martin, Lincoln City, Oregon, 2005

