

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1929

Breakstones In Annual Meeting Honor Forbear

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NORTH WHITE LAKE, N. Y., Sept. 10.—(INS)—About 120 years ago, Napoleon Bonaparte publicly acknowledged that he owed his life to the daring and sagacity of a humble Jewish peasant, named Breakstone, who lived near the Neman River in Russia. Later the "Little Corporal" rewarded the peasant by giving him a duchy.

In North White Lake, recently, more than 300 descendants of that Breakstone gathered in annual reunion to pay homage to the memory of that daring peasant and to keep alive the spirit that made it possible for him to save the life of the Emperor of France.

The archives of the Breakstone Family Association record that Napoleon, hard pressed by the Russians on his famous retreat, stopped at the Breakstone cottage and asked for succor. He was taken in, hidden in safety until the pursuing force swept on and then was led to a more friendly region from where he was able to escape to his own lines.

Breakstones are spread all over the globe with about 1,800 on the association rolls. The name was adopted more than 200 years ago in Lithuania and today there are many variations in the spelling of the name, but all are Breakstones.

Breakstones from 14 states and three countries were registered at the 1929 reunion. Among those registered were Etienne Bregstein, Amsterdam, Holland, the Hoover of Holland during the World War, and his wife; Abraham Brekstone, prominent New York attorney; Sam Brackstone, alderman of Corinth, Miss.; Jerome S. Breakstone, cheese manufacturer, New York; Dr. Benjamin Breakstone, chief surgeon of the West West End Hospital, Chicago; Joe Browning, well-known comedian of the stage; Nathan Brickstein, U. S. Customs officer, New York, and Dr. David M. Levy, chief of the Institute for Child Guidance, New York.

The Breakstone Family Association meets annually, but there are nine state associations, which hold reunions several times during the year.

Officers of the national association are: President, Mrs. Sarah A. Levy, Scranton, Pa.; Honorary President, Dr. Benjamin Breakstone, Chicago; vice president, Abe Brekstone, New York; honorary vice presidents, Jerome S. Breakstone and Judge Philip P. Bregstone, both of Chicago; Henry Bregstone, Danville, Ill.; treasurer, Isaac Breakstone, New York; secretary, Miss Beatrice E. Gordon, New York; chairman executive committee, Mrs. Fannie Breakstone, New York City.

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