

ANNUAL REUNION OF BREAKSTONE CLAN NOTABLE

Representatives From Many States
Gather in Chicago—Dis-
tinguished Members.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—There will be a remarkable family gathering here today when the greater part of the 750 known members of the Breakstone clan gather in a family reunion. Representatives of the clan have come from New York, Pennsylvania, Iowa, District of Columbia, Ohio, West Virginia, Mississippi, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, New Jersey and Canada.

The clan springs from a common ancestor bearing the name of Bregstone.

The Breakstone-Bregstone family traces its origin to a small town founded by the clan in Lithuania, called Ponlemon. The family name was adopted in the early part of the nineteenth century, following an edict of Nicholas the First of Russia compelling every family head to assume a surname, a practice theretofore unknown in that part of the world.

A remarkable thing stamps this family in that five brothers and two sisters, all married and with families of their own, found shelter under the same roof in Ponlemon, all living in a patriarchal state similar to that known to biblical times. They occupied a large estate still known as the "Bregstone Estate," each member of the family enjoying it as if he owned it all, yet possessing nothing, the eldest brother being the patriarch of the clan. His word was law, although he ruled by persuasion and inherent leadership rather than domination.

Were Pioneers.

With empire-taking its course westward, the tide found with it many members of this pioneering family. There are about 750 of them in the United States. The father of the five brothers and sisters, named Beryl, was the first to assume the family name. Of those living now in this country, Irving Breakstone is serving a second term as state's attorney for the county of Oconto, Wisconsin; Philip P. Bregstone recently completed a term on the bench in the probate court in Chicago; Dr. Benjamin H. Breakstone is the surgeon who came into international prominence when he was called in to perform the operation upon the famous Siamese twins; Abraham Breakstone is attorney to the sheriff of New York county; Isadore Levy, nephew of Dr. Breakstone, won a scholarship abroad, having had one of his paintings exhibited in the Paris Salon. One Etienne Bregstone of Amsterdam, Holland, bought all the wheat for Holland during the World war, holding a position similar to that held by Herbert Hoover in this country.

The family contributed 75 members of the A. E. F. during the late war, more than 25 per cent of whom were commissioned, and all of whom were in combatant branches of the service. In the World war members of the clan were fighting on every battlefield, according to Jerome S. Breakstone, chairman of the family reunion.