

## NOTABLE REUNION OF THE ANCIENT BREAKSTONE CLAN

Direct Descendants of the Bregstone  
Family of Russia

CHICAGO, Aug. 27.—There was a remarkable family gathering here when the greater part of the 750 known members of the Breakstone clan gathered in a family reunion.

Representatives of the clan came 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.

### Edict of Nicholas

The Breakstone-Bregstone family traces its origin to a small town founded by the clan in Lithuania, called Poniermon. 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.

### Patriarchal State

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 Poniermon, 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.

### 750 in U. S.

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 Bery, was the first to assume the family name. Of those living now in the country Irving Breakstone is serving a second term as State's Attorney for the County of Oconto, Wisconsin.

### On the Bench

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 Starbuck twins. Abraham Breakstone is attorney to the sheriff of New York County; Isadora Levy, nephew of J. Breakstone won a scholarship abroad having had one of his paintings exhibited in the Paris Salon. One Eugene Breakstone 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.