

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
504 N. Buxton Apt. #7, Indianola, Iowa
June 1980 Newsletter
Officers 1980-1981

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Meetings

Monthly on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Trihity Presbyterian Church in Indianola.

Dues

Membership dues (including newsletter) of \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family are are payable April 1 of each year. If your dues are not received during June your monthly newsletter will be discontinued.

Next WCGS Meeting

July 21st at 7:00 we will meet for a workshop. Bring your scissors.

FORT WAYNE INDIANA LIBRARY TOUR

Seven members of the Warren County Genealogical Society went to Chariton very early on the morning of June 8 to join 31 other eager family searchers on a chartered bus tour to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Those members who went were: Pauline Baxendale, Ruth Hall, Doris Lawson, Louise Pilmer, Maude Wilkins, Barbara Rasko and Roberta Smith. Doris's husband, Walter and two Des Moines friends of Roberta's, Violet Sherwood and Wanda Smith, also joined us.

We left Chariton at 7:00 a.m. for a twelve-hour ride to Fort Wayne. The weather, the fellowship, and the general "atmosphere" of the tour were excellent. We stayed at the Ramada Inn on Highway 24 on the west edge of Fort Wayne and about five miles from the center of the town.

Each day we were transported by our bus to the library by 9:00 a.m. and stayed until either the 5:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m. pickup by our bus. The majority of the group stayed until the 9:00 bus back to the motel. Our bus driver was very accommodating and a cheerful person we will remember for a long time. Karen Holder of Chariton arranged a very pleasant tour for us.

Following are some observations pertinent to the Fort Wayne Genealogical Library:

Pauline Baxendale: The library has a wealth of material located in a pleasant comfortable area. The library workers are prompt and pleasant.

Ruth Hall: The new (12 years old) building is spacious and affords space for lobby displays showing that it was carefully designed to really be a library.

Doris Lawson: The three types of card index known as the blue, the white and the pink indexes are excellent. The blue index of family surnames is very useful for family researchers. Walter found the newspaper clippings from Toronto Star newspaper and other sources valuable in Canadian searching.

Louise Pilmer: I was impressed by small details that give comfort to the user of the library. Location of a good Travelodge Motel two blocks east and two blocks south of the library is very convenient for those who drive their own cars to Ft. Wayne. The car may be left in a good parking lot at the Travelodge and save additional parking hassle and expense. One may even walk back to the motel during the day to rest and "freshen-up."

The chairs in the genealogical library are comfortably padded and are of bright, pleasant colors. The work tables with four numbered places on each

side along the length of the tables are of good height to match the chairs.

Microfilm readers are the type that are used by looking down as one would read a book on a table. Its not necessary to tilt the head back and read up for long, straining hours resulting in a "kinked-neck", headache and eyestrain.

Young workers give very efficient, speedy service for requested books from the closed stacks.

The soundex of the 1880 census is a very helpful addition not usually found in smaller libraries.

Barbara Rasko: The library contains a fine collection of genealogical periodicals and quaker records. Other strong sections include the Pennsylvania records and the Vermont vital records.

Roberta Smith: The easy access to the second floor where the genealogical library is located by either easy stairsteps or elevators is a bonus to the researcher.

I was impressed by how "safe" it was to leave one's materials on the table while I searched in various areas of the library or went out of the library for lunch or dinner.

Maude Wilkins: Ft. Wayne Public Library's Genealogical Library has a wonderful source of information on the Indiana area. It is arranged into county, township and town sections making it easy for most of us who had Indiana ancestors to locate the information we need.

The manner in which microfilms are requested and put on and off the readers conserves time for the searcher. The request slips are returned to the researcher along with the requested book, pamphlet, chart, etc. These slips may be kept and filed by the searcher which makes a fine record of materials used. Notes telling what was or was not found in that source may be written on the back of each slip.

The library keeps a supply of change so the copy machines can be used without going out to hunt change at some sandwich shop, corner drugstore, etc. Copy machines cost 20¢-25¢ per sheet.

A microfilm copying machine is used right near the readers to copy any census or microfilm material for the searcher.

Copies of books 40 years or older may be completely made at 5¢ per page, plus \$3.50 for stapling and binding and \$1.50 postage. It may take six weeks to two months waiting but would be well worth the wait and the fee.

In fact, the whole genealogical library seems to have been designed and is operated with the comfort and convenience of the searcher in mind.

EARLY COUNTY NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS

Correspondents used pen names such as AWLSPICE, HORSERADISH, PEPPERSAUCE and kept readers stirred up about the current issues. Palmyra correspondent, Awlspice, writing in the July 10, 1873 County Leader assured everyone that the new north-south railroad through Warren County would travel from Carlisle to Palmyra to Sandyville to Belmont township and thence to Lacona. We now see that Palmyra and Sandyville didn't get the railroad and both towns died back in size, industry and population because they were left out.

Many "filler articles" were used such as "How to win a Wife", "English Millionaires", "Work of the Grange", "Gypsies as Child Snatchers". The gypsies were upbraided for having stolen garden produce, eggs, hens of the nest -- "and now our children!"

Many horse and buggy accidents and runaways were reported then. Reports of charivari for the newlyweds made great news. The destructive storms through the county were covered such as the great July 1873 storm which traveled St. Charles eastward through to the Ackworth area.

And, Warren County "jailbirds" were escaping back then, too. One such escapee who eluded his pursuits had been charged with cattle stealing and counterfeit money operations.

Horse stealings and cattle stealings were prevalent crimes of the 1870s.

In 1870s the township of White Oak started a fair. Little machinery was displayed. There was adequate though not large displays of agricultural produce. The stock show was perhaps most outstanding. The grounds were beautifully located and decorated. Many good basket-lunches were eaten and much visiting and reminiscing took place.

A.F. and A.M.

At the regular Hartford, Iowa Lodge No. 83 held in Hartford on Thursday April 30, 1874 the following officers were chosen for the following year:

S.R. Cain - W.M.
W.M. Richards - S.W.
W. Spain - J.W.
C. Shank - Treasurer
A.J. Duncan - Secretary
N. Corzat - S.D.
W.S. Hull - J.D.
E.N. Fisher - Steward
S. Fetters - Steward
L.B. Munnely - Tyler
H.C. Wasson - Chaplin

Indianola Square Surfaced

At 5:00 P.M. Tuesday June 7, 1904 the last shovel of asphalt was laid on the Indianola Square. The entire square is now paved. The east side of the square was first to be completed.

Hartford-Indianola Sunday Baseball

The Indianola team went to Hartford to play the Hartford team, Sunday June 30, 1924. However, Hartford authorities would not consent to a game in Hartford and they were compelled to go down by Ford across the line into Polk County to play the game!

What's in a Name

or

Are You a "Monkey"?

Monkey wrenches were named for a London blacksmith, Charles Monche and later misspelled.