

Marcelle

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
504 N. Buxton, Apt. #7
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Volume 10

October 1984 Newsletter

Number 6

MEETINGS: Monthly, third Monday at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Presbyterian Church
NEXT MEETING: November 19, 1984: "Swedish Research" by Enola Disbrow

HELP NEEDED!!!!!! Volunteers to help with the Genealogical Research Workshop to be held Tues., Oct. 30 and Thurs., Nov. 1 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Presbyterian Church. If you can help, contact Molly or Barb.

Add the following members to the list of members in your program booklets:

JoAnn Harvey	287-1090	Olive W. O'Neal
1301 S. W. McKinley		P. O. Box 237
Des Moines, IA 50315		Westmorland, CA 92281

Phyllis M. Long	Evelyn Witt
Box 773	881 West Breeze
Palmer, Alaska 99645	Merced, CA 95340

New books added to our library:

1. Descendants of Roger Alling, and John Alling, Sen.
2. Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives
3. Truro Centennial Book 1884-1984
4. Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in USA and Canada, 1984 Edition

The new Madison County History has been ordered.

The By-Laws Review Committee has met and revision has been accomplished. If approved, the business year will be Jan 1 thru Dec 31. The annual meeting will be in November with election of officers at that time. This is the same arrangement as I.G.S.

DON'T FORGET!!! IGS Annual Conference in Ames Oct 27-28 with some very well known speakers. Try to attend!!! Contact Molly for further information.

When writing to a courthouse for information, ask for a "probate packet" instead of a will. You will often find what you are seeking because sometimes an individual died without leaving a will, but did leave property. --Ancestors Unlimited, M-June 1984

"Tracing Your Ancestors" is a free booklet giving research tips for searching in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and is available from: The British Tourist Authority, John Hancock Center, Suite 2450, 875 Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 --Clark Co. (WA) Genealogical Society Newsletter, Sept 1984

The Lufthansa Airlines is offering a booklet on the history of Germans in America, which provides guidance in genealogical research. To obtain a copy, on "The German Connection" write to: Lufthansa, Dept. U.S. 12, 1640 Hampstead Turnpike, East Meadow, N.Y. 11554.

WARREN COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

<u>Name of Pioneer</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Death</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>Year settled in Warren Co.</u>
Anderson, Joseph B.	1819	VA	1890	IA	Orpha Coles	1856
Bishop, Jonathan J.	1811	TN	1884	IA	Lucy J. Foust	1848
Bowlin, Franklin P.	1849	IL	1921	IA	Mary E. Kyler	ca 1855
Bryant, John T.	1815	IN	1893	IA	Margaret Stierwalt	1850
Bryant, Thomas J.	1849	IN	1902	IA	Margaret A. Chamber	1849
Burson, Benjamin			1855	IA	Mary Thomas	1853
Cox, Nobel (Noble)	1797	PA	1849	IA	(2) Mary Blake	1849
Embree, Joseph	ca 1790	VA			Mary Morris	1850
Etherington, Robert J.	1850	IA	1914	WA	Martha S. Emerson	1850
Farley, Thomas J. K.	1824	WV	1879	IA	Lucinda Hedrick	1846
Fetters, Henry	1825	OH	1912	IA	Catherine Allen	1854
Freel, Wesley H.	1814	IN	1857	IA	Nancy (Perkins Boston)	ca 1840
Gates, Cyrus	1822	OH	1873	IA	Mary Ann Monasmith	1855
Griffith, John M.	1826	OH	1893	IA	Mary Moore	1853
Hasby, Josiah	1815	PA	1895	IA	Elizabeth Vance	1853
Henson, Benjamin F.	1823	KY	1890	IA	Nancy Hutt	1853
Hicks, George A.	ca 1792	NC	1855	IA	Elizabeth	1855
Hunt, Hiram (Myrum)	1798	NC	1855	IA	Sally Cook	ca 1850
Jolly, Dr. Lafayette	1827	OH	1909	IA	Elizabeth Rhodes	ca 1854
Jones, Edmond	1804	PA	1854	IA	Rachel Hartman	1854
Jones, James	1814	TN	1887	MO	(1) Susan Russell (2) Mary Sipes	ca 1850
Keller, Allen B.	1833	VA	1919	CA	Elizabeth Harsh	1854
Kimzey, Robert W.	1832	IL	1821	IA	Iackie Goode	1853
Lewis, Charles V.	1835	IA	1894	IA	Louisa Smith	1835
McLain, Nathaniel	1822	VA	1896	IA	(1) Elizabeth Rickabaugh (2) Mary Neely	1853
McGinnis, James Y.	1856	IA	1933	IA	Jemima Johnston	1856
McPherson, John T.	1813	NC		IA	Sibino Holiday	ca 1842
Mendenhall, Anna (Horton)	1822	CT	1861	IA	Joseph Mendenhall	1854
Mendenhall, Dayton	1849	IN	1914	IA	Rachel Davis	1854
Mendenhall, Joseph	1820	OH	1911	IA	Anna Horton	1854
Montgomery, Thomas	1814	OH	1903	IA	(1) Sarah Brand (2) Sarah Wilson	1852
Owen, Jr., Samuel	1806	OH	1881	IA	Ruth Vestal	1850
Pendry, Thomas	1816	OH	1886	IA	Rachel Stitt	1850
Reeves, Solomon	1805	OH	1876	IA	Elizabeth Reeves	1850
Roberts, Thomas	1783	TN	1866	IA	(1) Mary Camer (2) Polly Conklin	1852
Scott, Isaac	1844	IL	1885	OR	Susan Campston	1850
Sever, Allen	1825	OH	1906	OK	(1) Silvia Talbott (2) Ann Hurst	1856
Smith, Israel	1825	OH	1859	IA	Margaret Smith	1856
Smith, Nancy E. (Sever)	1856	IN	1932	IA	James Smith	1856
Spry, John	1799	NY	1856	IA	Catherine Wren	1854
Starbuck, Benjamin B.	1827	NC	1876	IA	Cynthia Shaw	1853
Strable, Sylvester	1834	Germany	1905	IA	Lucinda Marks	1853
Westerfield, Samuel	1820		1889	IA	Nancy Heflin	1855
Wilson, Mary (Freel)	1798	OH	1878	IA	Joseph Wilson	1854
Wright, Martha C. (Vernon)	1856	IA	1933	IA	William Wright	1856
Young, James M	1828	IN	1907	IA	Margaret Lemon	1855
Zarley, Robert	1824	PA	1905	IA	Eliza Lake	1856

TOMBSTONE RUBBING

by
Kay Kudlinski

Gravestone rubbing is fun, easy, and inexpensive. It is also important. Through natural weathering, neglect, and vandalism, our heritage is being lost—and the loss is accelerating. These irreplaceable stones are now bathed in dilute acid with every rainfall. Our rubbings may soon be the only evidence left of our ancestors' markers and some of the finest folk art of historic America.

Proper rubbing methods and materials and good graveyard manners will encourage cemeteries to remain open to tombstone rubbing for those of us who want to preserve the records of our past as well as the wit and workmanship of the early stone carvers.

METHOD

1. Locate your cemetery. Through the local Chamber of Commerce or county extension service, obtain a topographical map published by the U.S. Geological Survey. These large scale plats will help you pinpoint tiny family plots in rural areas. Whenever possible seek in advance for permission to rub, and identify yourself to the attendant at the site. Your courtesy will mean the continued welcome of tombstone rubbers in the cemetery.

2. Consider the stone. The pressure of your rubbing may destroy an inscription that has begun to crumble. John D. Gifford's "Coffee Break" article in the September 1981 *Scribe* highlights the materials used for grave markers. The smooth surfaces of old slates, for instance, usually produce even rubbings. Don't overlook the amusing or poignant epitaph, interesting design, or stone cutter's signature. Mr. Gifford's article "Tombstone Art" in the June 1982 *Car-Del Digest*, gives some idea of the history and symbolism of these decorative details. However, stones carved with three-dimensional or bas-relief designs are very difficult and best left to the professionals.

3. Prepare the stone. Dust the stone off, brushing away only surface dirt, not lichens or flakes of the rock itself. Use a cloth or soft tooth- or vegetable brush. Clip the grass at the base of the stone and, since many old stones have settled into the ground, you may have to spoon away some of the dirt to reveal hidden inscriptions. If the stone has fallen face down, always lift it towards yourself so that anything lurking beneath it will scurry away from you, not towards you.

4. Wrap the stone. Wrap the paper (see "Materials" below) over the top and sides of the stone and tape it securely on the back side. If your paper can shift even slightly, the rubbing will be blurry or show a double-image.

5. Rubbing. First rub over the paper with your fingers to locate the relief pattern on the stone beneath so you do not accidentally rub wax into an area that should be white. Begin to shade over the design lightly, then darken it with the side of your crayon. Make your strokes consistent—circular or all in one direction—and pour on the elbow grease. You may wish to leave some areas lighter to add interest to your rubbing. Now use the edge of the wax to sharpen details and clarify lettering.

6. Check the rubbing. Back up and look from a distance. Check for even tones in your dark areas and crisp edges in the stone's details. Touch up your rubbing now: once the paper has been moved, it is impossible to replace it precisely, and you will never be able to duplicate the texture at home.

7. Finishing. Rubbing the waxed surface on your rubbing with a paper towel or cloth may produce a richer, more even tone. Take care not to rip the paper. You may wish to give the rubbing a final spray with art fixative to keep the wax from smudging in transit.

8. Clean up. Be sure all the tape has been removed from the stone. Not only is leftover tape unsightly, it will damage the stone, for it acts as a tiny catch basin, holding acid rain against the marker. Replace any soil you moved, and pick up any litter you see, whether you dropped it or not, so you and other tombstone rubbing artists will be welcomed back.

9. Recording. In a notebook or on the margin of the rubbing, note the stone's position in the cemetery and the location of the graveyard itself. Record the entire inscription if you rubbed only a detail, and note any other items which may be of interest later as you remember the fun you had making the rubbing.

MATERIALS

While you are first learning the techniques of tombstone rubbing, Crayolas or chalk on shelf paper are all you need, but they can only produce student-quality rubbings. The results are short-lived, for chalk smears, and cheap papers yellow. No matter how much time or care you've put into the rubbing, it will be a disappointment.

Better materials make better rubbings. Lumber crayons from a hardware store are less likely to smear, but they lack the convenient flat surface and intense colors of the wax blocks made for tombstone rubbings. These sell for well under \$5 and last through many rubbings.

Newsprint and shelf paper are inflexible, so they can't produce the crisp edges or fine detail of a top quality rubbing. Rice paper is perfect and is sold in sheets or rolls at a variety of price levels. A synthetic rice paper, AQABA, is designed for rubbing and is reasonably priced. Pelon, the felt interfacing sold by the yard in fabric shops produces a magnificent rubbing, but is fairly expensive.

Don't forget the other essentials: masking tape, paper tubes for carrying finished rubbings, scissors, a ground cloth, a digging spoon, soft brush, notebook and pencil, and a garbage sack for meticulous clean-up. Bug spray and fixative can be tossed into your "rubbing bag," too, ready for every excursion.

Look for these materials in hardware, hobby, and art stores. Local merchants can order them for you from Oldstone Enterprises, 77 Summer Street, Boston MA 02110.

MANNERS

The future of gravestone rubbing is in the hands of its hobbyists. Rubbing has been banned in some cemeteries because of the damage, litter, and disrespectful behavior of a very few. Don't be one of those who is ruining it for all the rest through ignorance of basic graveyard etiquette.

Always get permission before rubbing. If you cannot find a number in the phone book, and no caretaker is on hand, ask the local police or town hall for information about whom to contact.

Be courteous to other visitors at the graveyard. Since rubbing is unusual, be willing to explain what you are doing and why. If a funeral is underway, leave quietly in consideration for the grief of others. The stones will still be there in a few hours for your leisurely rubbing.

Do not lean heavily on the stones or try to change their positions. While you may press the grass aside at the base of gravestones, never harm memorial plantings. Report any vandalism you find to a caretaker.

Picnicing is not encouraged, simply because there are no refuse binds for the inevitable litter. Be sure you clean up any trash or your own and triple check for fragments of tape or smudges of wax left on the markers.

To paraphrase an old axiom: Take nothing but rubbings; leave nothing but footprints.