



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

504 North Buxton Apt. #7  
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Vol. 12

JUNE 1986 NEWSLETTER

Number 6

MEETINGS: The third Monday of each month except August and December at the Indianola Public Library, 207 North B.

NEXT MEETING: July 21, 1986. (Program book date in error) Meeting time is 6:30 with a potluck supper and workshop following. Roll call is Share a Prized Genealogical Possession.

NEWSLETTER: Published each month, except August and December. Queries Welomed.

Editor: Molly Bowlin, 802 Kennedy St., Rt. 2, Indianola, IA 50125

DUES: \$5. single and \$7.50 family membership. Dues are collected for the upcoming year between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31 and are payable to our Registrar: Mary Lou Parks, 2003 West 4th, Apt.9D, Indianola, IA 50125. New members will receive back issues of the newsletter for the current year.

COUNTY FAIR REGISTRATION will be held at the Warren County Extension Office located at 1202 E. 2nd, Indianola June 27 - July 3. Monday through Friday they will be open 9am-Noon and 1pm-5pm. Saturday 9am-noon.

PROJECTS MUST BE REGISTERED AT THIS TIME TO SHOW AT THE FAIR! Don't forget to get your projects entered!!

Registration fees are \$1.50 for four entries or less and \$2.00 for more than four entries. You will receive your entry tags and an entry number at this time. You do not need to take your entry with you at this time, just know which divisions and classes you want to enter.

Program books are ready now and you may pick yours up at the Extension Office or at one of the local banks.

If you are going to have a problem with registering on these dates, please let Sheryl (287-1675) or Molly (961-2797) know and make arrangements to get your projects entered.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW MEMBER: Please add to your program book new member Joanne Beck, 11 S. 452 Book Road, Naperville, IL 60565. WELCOME!

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWSLETTER NOTE: Due to heavy History Book schedule our July and September newsletters will be combined and issued at our September meeting.

REGULAR PROOFING WORKSHOPS have now been set up to proof stories as they come back from Dallas after keyboarding. We need people to read while another proofs. CAN YOU HELP?? We will be meeting at the Indianola Library each Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 1:00. If you can help, just come on in! Bring a red pencil!

This proofing may also be done in your home if you can arrange a pardner to work with you!

Proofing is a very large and time consuming project and we need everyone's help to get the book ready for Christmas delivery. VOLUNTEER NOW!!

If you have any questions or want to proof at home, give Barb (961-6758) or Molly (961-2797) a call and we will get material to you right away!

\* \* \* \* \*

HISTORY BOOK SALES: Sheryl reports that 485 books have now been sold. You may still order your book at the early sales price of \$45. plus \$1.80 sales tax for IA residents and \$3.50 if you want it mailed to you. Send to: Sheryl Ledlie, 3005 SE 72nd Ave, Rt. 2, Des Moines, IA 50320.

The History Book will make a very special Christmas gift for someone you know this Holiday season. Be sure to get your order in while the price is lowest. It will soon be going up to the \$60 price.

\* \* \* \* \*

More on History Book--next page

HISTORY BOOK REPORT: We have now received nearly 1,100 family stories. Over 800 of these have been sent to Dallas for key-boarding and many are back for proofing. If you haven't submitted your stories yet, they will still be accepted, though time is very limited!! Get them in to Sheryl NOW.

Work is still progressing with the community section. Your old pictures of community interest are still needed. Barb needs someone to help write several community stories, mainly by abstracting from old newspaper articles. Can You Help?? Give her a call!

There are a number of businesses that need to be contacted for their stories. A questionnaire is available to help gather this information. Would you be able to help with this phase of the book?

\* \* \* \* \*

The new address of the Methodist Archives is: General Commission on Archives & History, Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940

\* \* \* \* \*

"Man who say it cannot be done should not interrupt man doing it." Old Chinese Proverb??

\* \* \* \* \*

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHER AND "THE BLACK SHEEP". . The children of a very prominent family decided they would like to give their father a book of the family's history for a birthday present. They commissioned a professional biographer to do the work. As they were talking to the biographer, they warned him of a "black sheep" in the family who was Uncle George. Seems Uncle George was executed in the electric chair for murder and maybe he should avoid mentioning him. But the biographer said, "Oh, I'll merely write that Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. And then I'll say that he was attached to his position by the strongest ties and that death came as a real shock!"

The above is from the Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society newsletter for May 1986. See our newsletter file for the complete issue.

From the CASS COUNTY, IA newsletter for May 1986:

#### RECIPES FROM YESTERYEAR

STICKY FLY PAPER: 1 lb. resin.  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint castor oil. Heat together until mixture resembles molasses. With paint brush spread while hot on any kind of paper.

HINT FOR COOKING GREENS: A crust of bread added to the water when cooking spinach, beet tops, dandelion greens etc. not only prevents a disagreeable odor from arising, but imparts an added delicacy to the vegetable.

\* \* \* \* \*

MISSOURI STATE GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Co-hosted by the Joplin Genealogy Society of Family Researchers will be held August 8 & 9, 1986. Write: MoSGA Conference Chairman, P.O. Box 12, Joplin, MO 64802 for more information.

\* \* \* \* \*

CEDAR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY is publishing a volume on the cemeteries of Cedar County. \$30. For more information contact Edith Ford, Rt. 2, Tipton, IA 52772

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWSPAPERS: When reading old newspapers, "inst." means in the present month, "ult." means in the previous month. The early newspapers printed a sign at the top of the first page that indicated the points of the compass. It implied the information came from the north, east, west and south. It later was simplified to N-E-W-S. SACOG 7/2 & Central IA Gen. Soc.

\* \* \* \* \*

QUERY QUERY QUERY QUERY QUERY QUERY

CORBETT Wanting information on Ruby B. HENDERSON CORBETT who was born Dec. 1897 to William and Della (HENDERSON) Corbett. In 1917 she was living with her parents at 1405 Maple St. in Des Moines, IA and working at Tuttle's Letter Shop. Contact Mrs. Emily Schaumburg, 743 34th Place, West Des Moines, IA 50265

\* \* \* \* \*

HARDIN COUNTY will have a Genealogy Division at their county fair this year similar to ours!

Warren County members, please check your address label to see if I have your new addresses correct. Let me know if there needs to be a change. Thank You! Molly.

Early information on Lincoln township by Edith Conn.

Lincoln township is near the center of the county. The area of this township was originally Washington township and was the largest township of the county. It contained about 72 sections of land. It was later changed to Lincoln township and divided into East Lincoln and West Lincoln, surrounding the area of Washington township which now constitutes the city of Indianola.

Early settlements were made in East Lincoln in the vicinity of Ackworth. Ackworth was on the Middle River known until about 1868 as Westford. When the railroad came through, Michael Gilman laid out the town of Summerset in 1872. Summerset was an important place for many years. It was quite a good shipping point for livestock, grain and coal.

Mills played an important part in the early days of this township. Ackworth had the Haworth, Chapman, Bundy and Pritchard mills. At Summerset were the Mills of Gilman, John Polly, Beach, Parmalee and Watts, Brazelton and Thurston, the Davis Mill, Baxendale and Hastie. Dr. John J. Baker and Abel Edwards owned a mill at Summerset.

Dr. Baker practiced medicine extensively in and around Summerset. Some of the others who practiced medicine in Lincoln township were Shank, Chance, Chapman, Cooper, Kern, Flynn, Judkins and Maulsby.

Schools of the township were: Ackworth, Centerville, Craven, Ginder, Greenleaf, Jacoby, Maple Grove, Moore, Mount Hope, Oak Grove, Ogden, Summerset and Whitman.

The township is drained by South River and Middle River and their branches known as Plug Run in the vicinity of Summerset and Short Creek, north and east of Ackworth.

The churches past and present were Baptist and Methodist Episcopal of Summerset. The Free Methodist, Friends and Conservative Quakers of Ackworth, as well as Farmer's Chapel and Center Chapel.

The township has two burial places. The Ackworth cemetery and the old Laverty cemetery also known as Peck and Epps cemetery.

Coal was mined for many years in the township. Summerset was a coal mining area as well as many mines in the Ackworth area and the northern part of West Lincoln. It is impossible to mention the many coal mines but the Lumsden mine and the Bennum mine were among the largest. Their size and length of operation were due, of course, to the thick vein of good grade coal in the area. We are reminded of the past grandeur of the coal mining industry within this township only when we pass by such excavations as the Banner Recreational area that once represented jobs, fuel, and capital to many men. By the 1870's Warren county mines were attracting miners from Wales, England, Scotland and eastern coal mining states. The peak of production was reached in 1918 during World War I when mine operators were even able to sell the slag piles because of the desperate need for fuel. The last spurts of activity were halted by the "Great Depression" so that after about 1935 the coal mines were no longer an important factor. It was also about this time that natural gas lines began coming into Warren county.

Earth for the manufacture of brick could be found in many portions of this township. Several brick kilns were in operation in Lincoln township in pioneer days, especially in the 1870's. It was about this time when building was at its peak when brick buildings were replacing the log and frame buildings put up by the first settlers of the county.

---

From the Patron's Directory in the 1887 Warren County Atlas: UNION TOWNSHIP

Bassett, Henry	Farmer and Graded Stock Breeder, Maple Grove Stock Farm. Township Trustee.	Sandyville	26
Gillaspie, David	Farmer and Breeder of Thoroughbred Graded Stock. "Elm Grove Stock & Dairy Farm"	Sandyville	24
Moorman, C. F.	Farmer and Graded Stock Breeder. Director and Secretary of Mount Ayer School. TWP Assessor	Sandyville	35
Reeves, Levi	Farmer and Breeder of Graded Stock. "Pleasant Valley Stock and Dairy Farm." Ex-Co. Surveyor	Sandyville	22
Sinnard, Philip	Farmer and Breeder of "Thoroughbred and Graded Stock. Owner of Thoroughbred Bull, short horn. Registered Clear Spring Stock Farm	Sandyville	11

# CALCULATING A BIRTHDATE FROM TOMBSTONE INFORMATION

*This arithmetic exercise is little understood by most family historians. It is reproduced here from Marshall County Roots & Branches for October, 1985.*

The following is offered as a simple method of calculating the date of a person's birth using the date of death and the age at death. This doesn't sound like a difficult task and it isn't if you keep a few rules of thumb in mind. It is just a matter of subtraction once the numbers are placed so that those with the greatest value are at the left. Suppose a child died at the age of 1 year, 3 months, and 11 days: date of death is recorded as July 26, 1871. Your numbers would be arranged as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{(year, month, and date of death)} \quad 1871 \quad 7 \quad 26 \\
 \text{(age)} \quad - \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 11 \\
 \text{(birthdate: April 15, 1870)} \quad 1870 \quad 4 \quad 15
 \end{array}$$

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Whenever it isn't a matter of simple arithmetic with the lower number smaller than the one it is being subtracted from, you must borrow from the number to the left. However, you must remember to change the month you are borrowing into days and the year you must borrow into months (12). The number of days would depend on the number of days in the month preceeding (30,31,28, or even 29 in the event of a leap-year February). If the child in the example above had died at age 1 year, 3 months, and 29 days, the calculations would appear as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{(30 days of June were borrowed)} \quad 1871 \quad 6 \quad 56 \\
 \text{(birthdate: March 27, 1870)} \quad - \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 29 \\
 \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 1870 \quad 3 \quad 27
 \end{array}$$

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(This may not seem correct but look at it this way, if you did not begin numbering July at "1" again July 26th would be June 56.) Suppose this child died at the age of 1 year, 9 months, & 11 days. The example would now appear as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{(12 months are borrowed from 1871)} \quad 1870 \quad 19 \\
 \text{(birthdate: October 15, 1869)} \quad - \quad 1 \quad 9 \quad 11 \\
 \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 1869 \quad 10 \quad 15
 \end{array}$$

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Just for fun, let's try a more complex example. Suppose the person who died was 75 years, 6 months, and 21 days old when he died on the 1st of March in 1912.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{(12 months were borrowed from 1912)} \quad 1911 \quad 14 \\
 \text{(29 days were borrowed from leap-year Feb.)} \quad - \quad 75 \quad 6 \quad 21 \\
 \text{(birthdate: August 9, 1836)} \quad 1836 \quad 8 \quad 9
 \end{array}$$

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Your calculations may not agree to the day with known birthdates because we have no way of being certain whether the person doing the original calculating used this method or one that assumed all months to contain 30 days. If the latter was the custom, your figures would be 1 (or 2) days off.

Early information on Linn township by Edith Conn.

This township located in the extreme northwest corner of the county, lies on the ridge between the Raccoon river of Polk county and the North river, so is drained by both these rivers and Middle Branch.

The early settlers of the township were Samuel Crow and his wife who came to Warren county in February 1846. They lived in a bark house built by the Indians near North River. In April 1846, they moved into their log cabin, 12x14.

Mr. Crow was elected Justice of Peace under the territorial law of 1843. He had no Code of Laws of the State of Iowa so went to the Polk County Clerk to know what to do. The clerk had two copies of the Code so gave him one of them. Mr. Crow held the first court at Linn Grove. He officiated at most of the weddings in the area in the early days.

Samuel Snyder erected a log house in 1852 in what is now Norwalk. A few years later George Swan built a hotel. The post office was established under the name of Pyra with Mr. Blaze as postmaster. The name was changed to Norwalk in honor of Norwalk, Ohio, Mr. Swan's former home. Also, Mr. Swan was born at Norwalk, Connecticut. He laid out Norwalk of Warren County, Iowa in 1856.

The Andrew Snyder family were also early settlers of this area. They came from Missouri in 1846 when there were only two families living north of North River. These families were the Joseph Young family and son-in-law, Samuel Crow. The Snyders found Warren county so unsettled and Indians roaming about and felt this made security and protection uncertain, so soon moved to old Fort Des Moines. They later returned to land they purchased about where Norwalk is now located. It had a 18x20' cabin on it, with puncheon floor and door, and greased paper windows. (One definition of "puncheon": A split log or heavy slab with the face smoothed.) Twelve persons lived in this cabin one winter. One of the sons, Samuel Snyder, carried the mail to Winterset. His salary was \$100.00 a year. Some days the mail consisted of only two letters.

The first entry of land in Linn township, according to the Register of the State Land Office was by John C. Hempstead on November 13, 1848.

The rural schools of this township were: Barkley, Centennial, Excelsior, Grove, Hayes, Lang, Linn Center, North River, Osage and Ryan, with the village schools at Cumming and Norwalk.

The cemeteries of the township are St. Johns, Pleasant Ridge and Linn Grove.

The former towns and post offices of this township were: Pyra, changed to Norwalk; Orilla, a station on the Chicago Great Western Railroad; Lida, also a station on the Chicago Great Western; Cumming, on the Chicago Great Western. I also find a post office in January 1886 called Economy with Thomas Barkley as postmaster. This seemed to be in the vicinity of Orilla and Pleasant Ridge. (One of the present residents of Cumming has asked help in finding how Cumming got its name. If you can help, give us a call.) The town of Norwalk had the C B and Q Railroad.

The churches were the Methodist of Pleasant Ridge at Orilla; Catholic, Friends and Methodist at Cumming; Christian, Methodist and now a Lutheran at Norwalk. Cumming now has a Community church.

William Crow was probably the first-born white child, as he was born May 6, 1846.

---

ATTENTION OF A GENEALOGIST: A good genealogist has an innate pride in family and country, and recognizes his duty to search out and record the truth. He becomes, first of all, a full-time detective, a thorough historian, an inveterate snoop, and at the same time, a confirmed diplomat, a keen observer, a hardened skeptic, an apt biographer, a qualified linguist, a part-time lawyer combined with quite a lot of district attorney, a studious sociologist, and ---- above all, an accurate reporter. "Know Your Ancestors"

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRTH RECORDS OF WARREN COUNTY, IOWA, THROUGH 1920 a 300 page hardbound volume is still available for your Library! The information in the book was compiled from county courthouse records from 1880-1920 and is alphabetized and indexed by the mother's maiden name. The following data is provided (when it was recorded): Name of child, sex, date and order of birth, place of birth, parent's names, place of birth and age at time of birth and father's occupation. Price is \$25. plus \$1.00 sales tax for Iowa residents and \$3.00 for mailing. Order from Sheryl Ledlie, 3005 SE 72nd Ave, Rt. 2, Des Moines, IA 50320.

Indianola, IA 50125

1533 Newbold St.

Thelma Peterson

Indianola, IA 50125

Route 2

802 Kennedy St.

W.C.G.S.

From the Aug. '85 IGS Newsletter:

The following is from the Chickasaw County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol.2, No. 3  
Summer 1985: Quoting Francis Duval, from his book "Early America Gravestone Art" (Dover  
1978) giving the meaning of the following gravestone symbols:

ANCHORS AND SHIPS	the seafaring profession
ARCHES	victory in death
ARROWS	mortality
BOUQUETS	condolences, grief
BUDS	renewal of life
BUGLES	the resurrection and the military profession
CANDLE BEING SNUFFED	time, mortality
COFFINS	mortality
CROSSED SWORDS	high-ranking military person
DARTS	mortality
DOVES	the soul, purity
FATHER TIME	mortality, the Grim Reaper
FLOWERS	brevity of early existence, sorrow
FLYING BIRDS	flight of the soul
FRUITS	eternal plenty
GARLANDS	victory in death
IMPS	mortality
HAND OF GOD CHOPPING	sudden death
HANDSHAKES	farewell to earthly existence
HEARTS	the soul in bliss, love of Christ
HORNS	the resurrection
HOURLASS	swiftness of time
LAMBS	innocence
PICKS AND SHOVELS	mortality
PORTALS	passageway to the eternal journey
ROSES	the brevity of earthly existence
SHEAVES OF WHEAT	time, the divine harvest
SHELLS	the pilgrimage of life
SUNS	the resurrection
THISTLES	remembrance
TOMBS	mortality
TREES	life
TRUMPETERS	heralds of the resurrection
WILLOWS	earthly sorrow
WINGED DEATH'S HEADS	mortality
WINGED EFFIGIES	the flight of the soul