



Warren County Genealogical Society

306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

Volume 14

February 1988

Issue 2

MEETINGS: The third Monday of each month, except August and December, at the Indianola Public Library. Visitors are welcome. Coffee 6:45, meeting at 7 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 21 1988. The program will be "The History of Indians of Warren County" - Dick Currier. February roll call will be: What are your genealogical goals for 1988?

NEWSLETTER: Published each month except August and December. We encourage our members to send queries and articles for publication. Indexes in the March, July and December issues. Editor: Cathy Ayers, 607 East First Avenue, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

DUES: \$5 single and \$7.50 family membership. Dues are payable to our Registrar: Molly Bowlin, 802 Kennedy Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

What's Inside

It was "covered with white shirred crepe paper, then decorated with red hearts cut from construction paper".

What could it be but the valentine box.

Bertine Davis tells us about Valentine's Day in the country Schools. page 2

"Dr. Hooper made a business trip to Des Moines Tuesday."

Read the gleanings from the February 16, 1888 Indianola Advocate - Tribune. page 2

New Arrival

The newest member of the WCGS is Helen Nernes, 818 Mayflower, Apt.4, Monrobia, California 91016.

We now have 80 members. If you would like to join the Warren County Genealogical Society contact Molly Bowlin at the above address.

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*          CALENDAR          *
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* Feb. 16 - Executive Board Mtg*
*           Library, 4:30 p.m. *
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* Feb. 22 - Workshop, Library, *
*           6:45 p.m.          *
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* Feb. 23 - Workshop, Library, *
*           1:00 p.m.         *
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Burr....

The temperature is hovering near zero, you don't even want to hear the wind chill, and your car is up to it's door handles in snow.

It's time to snuggle up close to the fire and read a good book - the History of Warren County and Birth Records of Warren County, 1880 - 1920.

If these books are not part of your collection contact Sheryl at 3005 SE 72nd Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50320.

Valentine's Day in the Country School

During the bleak winters in the first half of the twentieth century Valentines day marked a festive day when lovers told their love by giving valentines, cards, candy or flowers. We are not sure who St. Valentine was but at least we know that he embodied the spirit of love.

I started my education at a country school, North Lincoln (now moved to the State Fairground for preservation), located about six miles southeast of Indianola, during the school year of 1911-1912 and continued going to that school eight years.

Most of the pupils were small, and since the school year was divided into terms, often with a different teacher each term, some years we did not have school during January and February but kept school open until the middle of June.

The few times I was in school on February 14 were really red letter days. Times were hard, transportation consisted of a horse and buggy and the stores nearby did not at that time sell numerous items like commercial valentines suitable for children. We had plenty of pencils and lined paper but nothing beautiful. Then wonderful of wonderfuls! The County Superintendent, Walter McGee, provided our school with some beautiful red and white paper embossed with leaves and suggested that the teacher spend a Friday afternoon helping the pupils make home made valentines.

The paper was limited but we each came up with four to six valentines (quite beautiful in our eyes) each saying "To My Valentine" or "I Love You". We did not have an exchange as we did not have enough.

Later when red and white construction paper was included in our school supplies we were given enough paper to cut out red heart valentines so that we could decorate a box for the valentine and have a valentine exchange with our schoolmates. Some of the mothers made cookies in the shape of hearts or decorated cupcakes and we really had a party.

The teacher really made a contribution to this day. She tried to instill in us a love for color, tidiness, a desire to be kind, not selfish and I'm sure she dipped into her meager salary more than once so that each pupil should have a memento of a delightful day.

My fourth grade teacher is still living in Indianola, Mrs. Bessie Sill, 92 years old. Another teacher was Olive Ogan Criswell. Another, Lenore Wagner Bishop -- all of them were wonderful, kind, intelligent people.

"Store bought" valentines were in vogue when my younger brothers and sisters went to McClelland school and since I was working, I tried to see that each of them had a "commercial" valentine for each

of their schoolmates.

The Valentine box was a very important item for a successful valentine Day observance. It was usually covered with white shirred crepe paper,

then decorated with red hearts cut from construction paper. A slot was cut in the top where the valentines could be slipped into the box to await the day of opening. All of the boxes that I remember were beautiful, but I suppose some were more so than others. The decoration of the box was usually undertaken by the older students.

The teacher made a school party out of it and I am sure they enjoyed even making a few. Some time during the last years of the country school, parents were invited in, a short program was given, refreshments were served along with the dispensation of the valentines.

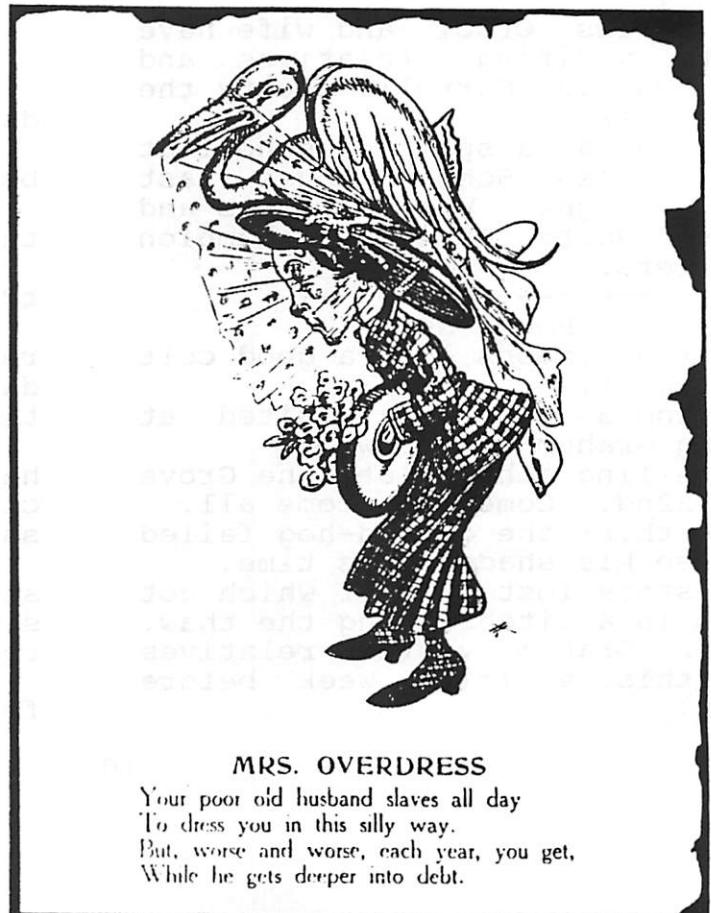
During the twenties, comic valentines were all the rage. During my first year of teaching I received one that I laugh about even yet. It was printed on cheap newsprint and was the picture of the ugliest old maid school teacher I have ever seen. The picture was of an old lady (I was 22) so I didn't mind because it said "To My Valentine."

Those days are long gone, but the stores are still overflowing with valentines, candy, etc. However the satisfaction that came from those Friday afternoon efforts to show our love will never be forgotten.

by Bertine Van Syoc Davis



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MRS. OVERDRESS

Your poor old husband slaves all day
To dress you in this silly way.
But, worse and worse, each year, you get,
While he gets deeper into debt.

Indianola Advocate - Tribune

February 16, 1888

WEST PALMYRA

Monday's thaw ended sleighing. Atha Barnett made a trip to Milo one day last week.

Joe Hall was in Otter township on business last Saturday.

Mrs. Willis Eicher, of Dallas county, is visiting relatives here this week.

Mrs. Miller Wilson returned home last week from a visit in Marion county.

Joshua Hinshaw and family, of Indianola, spent Saturday at William Morgan's.

ST. MARYS

Mary Lippold, of Des Moines, is visiting her mother at this place.

Henry Lippold, of Shelby county, is visiting his mother, Mary Lippold.

Joe Pitzelberger, who has been visiting friends in this vicinity, returned home last Friday.

Nicholas Crool and wife have been visiting relatives and friends in Carroll county the past week.

There was a spelling school at the Barnes School house last Friday night. Winnie Davis and Jesse Hufty were the champion spellers.

ROUND GROVE

Chris Simmons lost a good colt last week.

Grandma Reynolds visited at Enoch Graham's last week.

Spelling school at the Grove the 22nd. Come one, come all.

We think the ground-hog failed to see his shadow this time.

Lesters lost a calf which got down in a ditch during the thaw.

Lon Graham visited relatives in this vicinity week before last.

Nearly all the men in the neighborhood attended the Botorff sale and report things selling pretty well.

HIGH SCHOOL ZEPHYRS Lackadaisical.

The high school will have a crack ball team this spring.

Prof. pats juber while the Seniors march out of his room.

Some of the scholars can stand all the burnt taffy that the Cook(e) supplies.

We shall publish the names of those persons who disturb our society again.

We wish to inform the female members of the Excelsior society that the Periclesian society will survive without any of their nursing.

The river Jordan, a Cowhorn and a public Park are about the only subjects which the editor of the Excelsior Star can find to joke about.

SUMMERSET

Did you get a valentine? Moving is the order of the day.

Mr. Ash's little girl has been quite sick.

The thaw Monday spoiled the sleighing.

Dr. Hooper made a business trip to Des Moines Tuesday.

The wagon bridge is being repaired. It has been in a dangerous condition for some time.

John Ash, our merchant, has employed a Mr. Anderson to clerk for him the coming summer.

Mr. Merideth is able to be seen out of doors again. His sickness has been such that he required the best of attention.

Quite a number of young folks from this place attended

1987 ANNUAL REPORT FOR
WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1987

INCOME

DUES	\$470.00
XEROXING.....	20.20
ATLAS SALES.....	56.80
FORM SALES	16.30
FAIR.....	39.94
DONATIONS.....	48.24
IGS PROFIT SHARING.....	13.20
BIRTH BOOK SALES.....	275.00
POSTAGE (BIRTH BOOK & ATLAS)..	22.00
MISC.....	755.30
SALES TAX.....	4.16

TOTAL INCOME \$1,721.04

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION.....	\$256.72
NEWSLETTER.....	343.28
LIBRARY.....	53.00
COPY MACHINE.....	274.74
FORMS-COUNTY FAIR.....	50.19
SALES TAX.....	8.68
TRANSFERS TO HISTORY BOOK.....	750.00
POSTAGE.....	3.75

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,740.36

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

JANUARY 1, 1987.....	\$ 261.79
INCOME.....	1,721.04
EXPENSES.....	1,740.36
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	
DECEMBER 31, 1987.....	\$ 242.47

BANK BALANCE 12/31/87.....	\$258.59
OUTSTANDING CHECKS	
CK #441.....	15.00
CK #446.....	1.12
BALANCE ON HAND	
JANUARY 1, 1988.....	\$ 242.47

the party at Mr. Silcott's Friday evening. All report a good time.

Mrs. Bishop and family and James Earl and family will start for California this week. May success follow them, is the wish of the community.

ST. CHARLES

John Byers is sick.
Propsects for an early spring.
Hay and straw scarce and high.
This is the time for croup among children.
Ernie, second daughter of Rev. Baldrige, is sick with croup.
Mr. Rhyno is giving general satisfaction as principal of our schools.

Tom Martin and family contemplate moving to Nebraska in the spring.

Rev. Plumb will soon commence a series of religious meeting at the M.E. church.

Rev. W. B. Baldrige will preach at Pleasant alley, Sabbath night, Feb. 26. There mby be preaching two or three nights.

ACKWORTH

How many valentines did you get?

Willis Kenoyer made a flying visit to Des Moines, Saturday.

Rev. Chas. Hutchison, of Des Moines, preached here last Sunday.

The sick folks of this community are all improving at this writing.

A few of the young folks attended the I.O.G.T. lodge Friday evening.

The Ackworth lodge was bisited by a party of young folks from Milo Saturday evening.

Isaah Frazier, in company with some young folks, attended church at Palmyra Sunday, Rev. Flazier filling the pulpit there in the morning.

We noticed a mistake in our items last week in regard to the entertainments. The last one is on Friday, the 24th, instead of

the evening following the Washington entertainment.

PALMYRA

Rev. Frasier of Ackworth, preached at the M.E. church last Sunday.

John Lindsay and wife, of Newton, visited last week with J.M. Goldizen.

Rev. Cronk has been holding a series of meeting at Union school house.

C.S. Parker, of Indianola, has been visiting friends at Palmyra the past week.

P.R. Bruce and D.L. Onstott went to Chicago last week with five car loads of stock.

Samuel Hooper will move in a few weeks to a farm six miles south of Des Moines.

John Morris of Palmyra township, was 76 years old last Thursday. He was born in the state of Virginia, in 1812. When a young man he went to Indiana, where he resided until 1852, when he came to Palmyra and settled on the farm where he now lives, surrounded with all the comforts of life. For forty years he has been a member of the M.E. church, of which he is a regular attender, rarely missing a meeting. With the exception of a few rheumatic paines, Uncle John is hale and hearty, and bids fair to reach the four score mile post.

MILO
(Motor)

Without exception the most jovial crowd that ever left Indianola consisted of lee Armstrong and wife, Walt Richey and wife, Wils. McCoy and wife, J.M. Harlan and Miss Laura Spray, who atteded the Overvay farewell last Tuesday evening. They were joined by several couple of Milo's fun loving people, and the time they had was really great, and long to be remembered.

M. Tussing, our shoemaker failed last week, with liabilities reaching near \$2000. His stock invoice near \$1000, which was grabbed by a Des Moines firm who paid off a mortgage of over \$300, and before the Des Moines firm could get the goods they were taken by an Ottumwa firm. A compromise was made by paying the Ottumwa firm 50 cents on the dollar. The Des Moines firm has the stock but most people think they paid dear for it.

SCHOOL REPORT

Monthly Report of Middle Valley School for the month ending February 10.

Number enrolled, 31; average attendance, 27; total days present, 529; total days absent, 44; total times tardy, 10.

Those who were neither tardy or absent are Carrie Stevens, Aggie Gavin, Oak Leggett, Lawrence Miller, Pearley Stevens, William Banks, Wm Powers, John Miller and Laverna Forbs.

Average result of examination: Oak Leggett and Carrie Stevens, 95 per cent, each; Burt and

Stella Leggett, Mertis and Laverna Forbs, Bennie Stevens and Donnie Forbs, 90 each; Freddie Wonderlin, James and Pearley Stevens, Wm. Banks, Wm Powers and Ella and Aggie Gavin, 85 each; Isabella Banks, Emily Bowlin and Barbary Miller, 80 each.

Carrie Stevens, Verna Forbs and Aggie Gavin stand highest in Physiology; Bennie Stevens and Oak Leggett in Arithmetic, and Oak and Stella, Carrie Connie, Vernie and Aggie in Language.

R.M. Fantz, Teacher

LETTERS LIST

List of letters remaining in the post office at Indianola, Iowa, February 15, 1888, and uncalled for:

A.T. Aster E.A. Elsworth
A.R. Gilchrist S.J. Stockton
Mrs. Jane Shaver G.W. Williams

DROP LETTERS

Edward Darhuy E.J. Owen
Robert Stewart John Wilson

OFFICIAL LETTERS

W.H. Douglass

SUEL J. SPAULDING, P.M.

Cathy J. Ayers
607 East First Avenue
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Thelma Pehrson
306 West Salem
Indianola, Iowa 50125