



Warren Genealogical Society

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April 1988

Issue 4

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: May 16, 1988. The program will be "genealogical helps found in the County Treasurer's Office. April roll call will be: Have you been to the new Historical Library and what impressed you most?"

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, for copy send SASE to 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.

Help Wanted

Loren Horton, State Historical Society of Iowa, is involved in a project to find all of the white bronze grave markers in the cemeteries of Iowa.

What are white bronze grave markers? They are the very old, metal, foursided markers whose panels are bolted together. These markers are most likely to be found in the oldest sections of the cemetery.

Will you aid Mr. Horton in his project? Visit a cemetery, find the white bronze markers and copy down the name of the cemetery, the surnames of the people whose names appear on the marker, the death dates and the name of the manufacturer.

Send this information to me and I will forward it on to Mr. Horton. His aim is to photograph each marker and then publish a book.

A Reminder

Our tour of the new State Historical Library is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, with cars leaving the Presbyterian Church parking lot at 11:30.

And the society's annual pilgrimage to Iowa City is April 26 - 27, (Tuesday and Wednesday). Reservations have been made at the Downtown Holiday Inn (only two blocks from the Old Capital). Rates are \$73 per room, occupancy of four.

Call Elaine at 961-4471 to confirm times, drivers, and meeting places for Des Moines and Iowa City.

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CALENDAR

* April 21 - Tour of State His- *
 * torical Library - Des Moines *
 * April 26 - 27 - Trip to His- *
 * torical Library - Iowa City *
 * May 10 - Executive Board Mtg, *
 * 4:30 p.m., Library *
 * * * * *

Happy Birthday WCGS

April 16, 1973, the Warren County Genealogical Society became a reality. The 1973 - 74 listed the names of 39 charter members.

Throughout the years the meetings of the society have been held at the Northwestern Bell Community Room, Simpson College's Dunn Library, the Indianola Public Library, and the Presbyterian Church.

Projects have included: reprinting the 1872 and 1887 Atlases, the publication of Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Birth Records of Warren County, Iowa Through 1920, Marriage Records of Warren County (in cooperation with IGS), and the Warren County History, 1987.

Also genealogy workshops, displays at the Warren County Fair, and volunteering at the Iowa Genealogy Society Library.

Alot of accomplishments for only a teenager!

The charter members and officers were:

Charles and Alice Beam
Kendall and Lois Strong
Robert and Rose Bowery
Sterl and Edith Conn
Janice Burton
Charlotte Hardin
Helen Schooler
Marjorie Daleske
William John Hare
Julia Lind
Ruth Hall
Kate Kauzlarich
Mrs. Robert Brinkman
Doyle Woods
John and Pauline Boss
Leota Barber

Beulah Wilson
Sue Curtis
Bertine Davis
Marjorie Kline
Louise Pilmer
Ron McDole
Ethel Peterson
Bob Geiber
Maude Wilkins
Pauline Baxendale
Guy and Helen Lester
Harry Art
Roberta Smith
Roland Abell
Sandi Bellman
Rich and Charlene McCoy

President - Rose Bowery
Vice President - William John Hare
Corresponding Secretary - Helen Schooler
Secretary - Louise Pilmer
Treasurer - Doyle Woods
Registrar - Charlotte Hardin
Librarian - Marj Kline
Historian - Ron McDole
Parliamentarian - Robert Bowery
Editor - Pauline Baxendale

Boldface names are active members in 1988.

Newest Members

New members for 1988 include:

Chris Hamilton, 38 Woodland Circle, Manalapan, NJ 07736
Michael D. Hamersky, P.O. Box 3939, Chula Vista, CA 92011-0261
Neva McCoy, 301 S. Kenwood, Indianola, Iowa 50125
Alberta Bousha, RR 1, Waucoma, Iowa 52171

A Poet, Musician, Laborer, Father

On his accession to the throne on January 20, 1936, Edward VIII hoped to make the public image of the monarchy accord with his view of changed social attitudes. He became estranged with Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and other Conservatives because of his indifference to court ceremony, his outspoken sympathy with coal miners and other impoverished laborers, and his alleged sympathy with Nazi Germany. His association with Wallis Warfield Simpson, a divorced and remarried woman, whom he had married in June 1937, evoked lurid comment in U.S. and continental European newspapers, which for some time were censored in the United Kingdom.

The Indianola Herald, dated December 17, 1937 printed the following sonnet written by John Baxendale, an Englishman residing northeast of Indianola:

Edward and Wally should now fly away
To some deserted lovely island home
Where no one can his promised wife betray,
To live in blissful solitude alone.
The price he paid should buy her for himself
But twice before she promised not to sue;
The other men were fine and had much wealth
But no one less than king it seems would do.
Thirteen million square miles of rich domain,
Five hundred million loyal hearts and hands
For one twice-wed wife; he must be insane.
When he could pick the best in all the lands;
The throne, the crown, the robes of sixty kings
He valued less than her to whom he clings.
- John Baxendale

John Baxendale only child of William and Alice Smith Baxendale, was born in Dangerous Corner, Lincashire, England, February 1856.

His parents were silk weavers and had looms in their home, where they wove the silk patterns for the mill owners.

During the Civil War the mills were closed so his father started hauling coal for five shillings a day for 12 hours work; a shilling was worth about 14 cents, making his wages less than 75 cents a day.

Coal mining was the main source of income in that area; the work was hard and wages very low.

There was no public school in John's village, but he was eager for learning, so walked two miles to a week day school in Hindley Green. This he attended for three years at a cost of three pence for the teacher.

While playing in the school yard a boy stabbed a feather in his left ear, making him deaf in that ear for life.

Many people were very poor and lived on oatmeal porridge and potatoes.

John tried to earn a few pennies a day by helping a neighbor with his chores.

When he was nine years old he began working in a bolt factory, earning five shilling plus five pence a week, or about 75 cents.

At the age of ten, he started working in the mine where his father was employed for a shilling a day. The work was hard and he did not see the sun except on Sundays.

His father died when John was 12 years old leaving them with little income, his mother continued with her weaving.

In about a year she married a Mr. Potter, a widower with four young

daughters. Mr. Potter was very kind to John and treated him as a son. They moved to Hindley Green where Mr. Potter had a good job working in a mine. He took John to work with him, The mines were very gassy and dangerous.

One day John's Davey light went out and they had to be hauled to the surface for another light.

There was a big explosion and great volumes of smoke and dust came from the mine. Seventy-two men and boys were killed instantly; also the twenty ponies used to haul the coal.

Mr. Potter was not injured but stayed to help bring out the bodies. John ran home to assure his mother they were safe.

John was always interested in learning and music. His father had been a self taught musician and led a band.

He was able to attend night school for four years, walking three miles. When he was 18 he went with a Literary Club to Wales to visit the famous Mr. Gladstone. In his speech he advised all who would to emigrate to the colonies or the U.S. - as labor conditions in England were so terrible.

At the age of 19 he married Mary Ann Roper of Standish. At 21 he became a mine foreman earning six shillings a day.

In 1880 despite their low income they managed to find passage to America. He soon found work as a mine in Illinois. While there he took out naturalization papers about 1887. He learned of a mine foreman's job in Des Moines, Iowa and later moved to Summerset (Warren County) where he was foreman for three years until the mine played out.

He was able to purchase a farm in the North River area where he move his family; the now had three boys - John, Tom and Albert, two daughters - Elizabeth and Alice.

Summerset was a thriving little town with two stores, a mill, hotel, two churches and a depot; the Rock Island line connected Summerset with Indianola and Carlisle; much freight came from Des Moines.

John purchased one of the stores and operated it for 15 years. During this time he was appointed Postmaster under the Cleveland Administration.

He and his wife Mary were instrumental in starting and organizing the North River Church which the family attended faithfully.

Mrs. Baxendale died in 1917 and John decided to turn the farm over to his son Tom. He purchased an 80 acre farm east of Indianola so Albert could attend High School.

John was much interested in national and international affairs. He wrote many poems and newspaper articles which were published. One sonnet he sent to Queen Mary and another to King Edward VIII concerning the death of King George the Vth. He was very proud of the answers he received from her Majesty and King Edward's secretary.

John loved music and played many opera records on his Victrola, he could not understand the languages but was thrilled with the concerts.

The Baxendales raised fine Jersey cattle. One day while working in a field close to the house, John was attacked and gored to death by a young bull.


It was such a tragic death for an 83 year old man who loved his farm and animals so much. Certainly no one had experienced a more interesting life. He was buried in the North River Cemetery beside his wife and mother.

Pauline Baxendale
wife of Albert Baxendale

A SONNET


Old England's sixty-second King is crowned,
George Sixth and Queen Elizabeth hand in hand
Rule an Empire which rings the world around
With thirteen million square miles of fertile land;
A hundred million loyal hearts and hands
Pledge them their support, their fealty and
prayers

All ready to obey their royal commands
And to guard them through life's intervening
years;
They know their majesties will never fail
To hold their people's happiness most dear,
They know that peace and justice will prevail
Throughout their vast dominions without fear;
God bless, long live the Empire's King and Queen;
The English-speaking peoples will yet reign su-
preme.
—John Baxendale.

 BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Private Secretary
to Queen Mary is commanded to thank
Mr. John Baxendale
for his kind ^{tribute} letter of sympathy
with Her Majesty in her great sorrow.
April 2nd 1936.

Reduced
from
original

 BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Private Secretary is
commanded by His Majesty The King
to thank *Mr. John Baxendale*
for his letter of May 13th.

28th May 1937.

Indianola Advocate — Tribune

April 26, 1888

SUMMERSET

Rain need badly.
Dr. Hooper Sundayed with his
brother at Lacona.
Farmers all through sowing small
grain and almost ready to plant

CORN.

Ella King has been quite sick
the past few days but is better at
his writing.
Betha Brown commenced a term of
school at Butcher Creek last

Monday.

M. Gilman has rented his farm and moved to Des Moines to leave a retired life.

The young folks enjoyed a masquerade part at Mr. McClintic's Thursday evening.

Taffy pulling at Mr. Houghtaling's one night last week. All report a good time.

Our millers have the mill in good running order and grind Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Summerset in the place to get groceries cheap as we have four groceries, which causes considerable competition. Give them a call.

W.W. Marshall has returned from a trip in Nebraska. He was in the railroad wreck that occurred near Creston on the 15th, but luckily was not hurt.

NEW VIRGINIA

Billy Keiser will soon have his house ready to occupy.

Protracted meetings at the Baptist church this week.

G.N. Beymer is attending court at Indianola this week.

D.S. Endland contemplates a business trip to Chicago soon.

Farmers are mostly done seeding. Oats coming up nicely.

Mrs. Huckleby, who had her ankle broken recently, is recovering.

Mr. Burns and family, of Osceola, visited in this place over Sunday.

Pay car was out last Friday, which made all feel happy who were concerned.

H.C. Vanscoy has been beautifying his residence by building a new fence around same.

Elsworth Butler will start west next week, in accordance with Horace Greely's advice.

Mrs. Boon has been quite sick but at present writing, am glad to say, she is improving.

Mr. Hoagland is still out west with a lot of horses which he took from this place to sell.

Mr. Reed, of Osceola, now runs a grocery store in this city. Success to all who may come.

Elwood and Prentice Wilson started for Plattsmouth Monday. Hope the boys will strike a good job.

H.C. Vanscoy and D. Adams are building additions on their houses, which furnish work for all the carpenters in town.

SCOTCH RIDGE

Miss Luella Weede has charge of Mt. Olive school.

Nettie Hastie is teaching the spring term of the Clarkson school.

Rev. Warnock, of Ohio, is the U.P. preacher in this place, at present.

Flora Utterson goes to Indianola once a week to take lessons in drawing.

Will Moore goes to Des Moines this week to work at the carpenter

trade.

Jacob Piffer is attending court at Indianola. He is one of the petit jurors.

Small grain is doing well, considering the dry, cool weather during the past week.

Although the soil is dry, it is yet too cold to plant corn.

Farmers be patient and wait until the leaves of the oak are as large as a squirrel's ears.

SWAN

The Whitebreast company will go into partnership with the Flagler company on the first of May and by fall they expect to take out about seventy-five cars of coal per day.

Hartford has a well equipped and well drilled brass band, and while they have this they also have a band of would-be toughs who will some day run across the wrong customer.

A couple of law suits this week resulting from whisky.

The polish peddlers of Muscatine are doing quite a traffic among other things in old bone, which are shipped away to mucilage and chewing gum factories. They are said to make a fine quality of gum.