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Warren County Genealogical Society

306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

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Issue 5

MEETINGS: The third Monday of each month except August & December at the Indianola Public Library. Visitors are welcome. Coffee 6:45, meeting at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 20, 1988, "Life in Warren County in 1850. May Roll Call Will Be: Has any branch of your family been researched?"

NEWSLETTER: Published each month except August and December. We encourage our members to send queries and articles for publication. Indexes in 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 before January 1 to our Registrar: Molly Bowlin, 802 Kennedy Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125

Be A Part of It

It's annual meeting time again and this year the State Historical Society of Iowa is trying something new and exciting. The Iowa Local Historical and Museum Assoc. (ILHMA), the Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) and the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks (ISPHL) are joining the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) in planning this year's meeting and they are calling it the 1988 Congress of Historical Organizations. The agenda includes seventeen workshop choices, behind-the-scenes tours, children's activities, tours of the new Historical Building, a luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Don W. Wilson, United States Archivist, National Archives, Washington, D.C., and an evening banquet with guest speaker Dr.

Willard L. Boyd, President, Field Museum, Chicago. Circle June 10 and 11, 1988, on you calendar and come join the 1988 Congress of Historical Organizations at the new Historical building, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines, Iowa.

Some of the workshop choices include : Copying Old Family Photographs. Learn about duplication procedures, surveying collection needs and collection security.

Family History: It's for Everyone (beginner's course).

Introduction to basic family research.

Family History: It's for Everyone (case study). One person's family research experience. Howard Sneed, member, IGS.

For more information contact our IGS liaison, Louise Pilmer at 961-4805.

The Diphtheria Tragedy

In 1949 Indianola was celebrating its Centennial observance with contest of various sorts, costumes, beards and family participation.

Don Berry was conducting a contest in the Record and Tribune for the best story written about pioneer days. Pauline wrote about the diphtheria epidemic in which her father's parents lost six children within a week.

Pauline won first prize with the following story.

Spring means housecleaning time and clean papers in old boxes and trunks. While I am resting from my work in the attic I pick up a paper and read the headlines about the Centennial-whiskers; summer round-ups with parents urged to vaccinate their children and give them diphtheria inoculation.

Inoculation! What a wonderful advance in medical science is involved in that one word.

I glance at the old wooden cradle in the corner of the attic and think of what a heartbreaking story it could tell if only it could speak

Pennsylvania Cabinet Maker

It was made by Grandfather W.A. Eberman in Pennsylvania, who was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. About 1858 he and his wife Mary, with their five children, came to Iowa and settled in White Oak township.

Those were hard and vigorous times, but the little family prospered even though the cabin was small and contacts with the outside world were few.

But tragedy struck in the fall of 1863 when seven-year-old Mary became sick and died, Sept. 22. Within a few days another daughter, Jane, age 12, became ill. Dr. Kern, a kindly doctor in the neighborhood, was summoned and pronounced it diphtheria.

Terror came to the whole Hoosier Row settlement as word got around that "the Eberman children had a dreadful sickness and you must not go near the place." On Sept. 29 Jane died and was buried in Hewitt's graveyard beside her sister.

Mother Hutt to the Rescue

Three more children became ill and Mrs. Eberman was overwhelmed with the fear of what might be ahead. She was then in her early thirties and quite short and stout. Nevertheless she ran all the way up hill to the nearest farm where Mr. and Mrs. William Hutt and their four children lived.

"Oh! please come and help me" she begged. "My children are so sick and I don't know what to do."

Mother Hutt could not refuse her neighbor's plea for help. Leaving her small children in the care of their 13-year-old sister Sarah, she returned home with Mrs. Eberman only to find they were too late. Two of the children were black in the face and strangling to death. Four-year-old Kate died that night (Oct. 1) and two-year-old Orion the next day, Oct 2.

Oct. 5 George, almost 13, was taken. The three children lay unburied

until Mr. Eberman could cut native timber and make their coffins.

No Funeral Service

Sympathetic and sorrowful neighbors came to help with the outside work and to bury the dead. No funeral services were held then, as everyone was too afraid of the disease. Finally on Oct. 8, William, age six, died, leaving only Frank, a small baby, for the grief-stricken parents to love and cherish.

Who can know the anguish and despair of these parents as they watched their children taken from them one by one and were helpless to prevent it?

Pioneer Fumigation

Mother Hutt was the only one who had the courage to go in and care for the sick children. She made daily trips to the Eberman home even though she feared for the lives of her own children.

Realizing she must do something for protection she instructed her daughter Sarah to bring her some clean clothes and sulphur out to the "meat house." There she made a fire in the stone pit used for smoking meat, and burned the sulphur.

She would hang her outer garments on a clothes line, put on her clean clothes, and while the sulphur was burning she kept her clothes over her face so she could breathe.

Thus she fumigated herself as best she could before going in to her own family.

Each day after her mother left, Sarah saw to it that the fire was laid in the pit and the clean clothes and a bucket of water were ready for her mother's return. None of the Hutt children took the disease, nor did any one else in the neighborhood. But the two families, who had shared this tragedy together, always remained close friends.

Something of her mother's kindly spirit was instilled in small Sarah, for may will remember Aunt Sally Hutt (as she was later called) as one who was always ready to help care for a sick or needy one.

Can anyone realize the loneliness of my Grandmother Eberman as she rock her small bay and wondered why this dreadful experience had happened to them?

Another Family Comes

Grandfather continued with his work of improving his farm and following his trade. He walked many mile, carrying his tools, to build school houses, the first Pleasant Hill Church, and also one at St. Charles.

But "planned parenthood" was as unknown in those days as was diphtheria inoculation. Soon another family of four children was born to bring cheer to this lonely couple. They will be remembered as Laura, Joe, Wilbur and Branch. All lived and made home in Warren County.

Yes, the old cradle could tell quite a story. For 20 years it rocked the Eberman babies, sometimes two at a time.

But it has been empty now for almost 70 years. Time moves on with advance and progress in every year.

Inoculation! What a wonderful contribution to the lives of our children.

Pauline Eberman Baxendale

Indianola Advocate - Tribune

May 21, 1888

SUMMERSET

Fine growing weather and farmers rejoicing.

Tom Hastie is back from a trip in western Kansas.

H.C. Clark, of Milo, was in our burg Monday and Tuesday.

Little Frank Ash has been suffering a very severe attack of follicular tonsillitis, but is better at this writing.

PRIMROSE

Mrs. Edgar is in very poor health.

Mrs. G.W. Judkins is lying very sick.

Mrs. Annie Young, of Chariton, is visiting at Mr. McClane's.

This section of country has been blessed with good showers this spring, so that our small grain and gardens are in a flourishing condition.

The neighbors of G.W. Judkins did him a good deed last week, by going and putting in his corn crop, he being unable to attend to it on account of the extreme illness of his wife.

ROUND GROVE

Plenty of rain for our present needs.

John Lester sold two horses to the horse buyer last week.

We understand J.F. Lester and W.O. McGuire each lost a yearling calf last week. Cause unknown.

Decoration day will be generally attended by the people in this neighborhood, if the weather is favorable.

A good many of the farmers in this vicinity had to plant their first corn over again on account of cold and wet weather.

John Coffin, of Lindon, Guthrie

County, who is visiting his son Thomas, held three meetings at the Brown's school house during his stay.

Mrs. C.A. Starbuck, of McCook, Nebraska, arrived here last Saturday morning and expects to spend the summer with her children. She reports McCook on a boom on account of the machine shops being located there.

NEW VIRGINIA

(Delayed Correspondence)

F. Beymer has returned to Missouri.

Clay Beymer is sick with the measles.

Mrs. C. Read is visiting friends in Osceola.

Mrs. Gaumer, of Osceola, has been visiting relatives in this community during the week.

Dell Butler is confined to the house with the mumps.

H. Hamilton has been on the sick list but is convalescent.

Ten cars of stock were billed from New Virginia last Monday.

D.S. England and wife were visiting in Osceola the first of the week.

New Virginia has three or four gossips who can beat any in the State, I think.

Frank Hurst says he has paid out nearly \$1000 for grain during the past week.

Z.F. Phillips' brother from Madison and Adams counties and a niece from Ohio are visiting with him.

PALMYRA

Mrs. Thornburg, of Highland, Ohio is visiting her sister, M. Smith Parker.

Mrs. N. Bernard has been quite

sick for some time. Her recovery is doubtful.

Charlie and Katie Flesher made a visit with friends at St. Mary's last Saturday and Sunday.

Harvey Farley, and old time Palmyrian but now a resident of Creston, is visiting friends at Palmyra.

The Merchant's Band of Palmyra has been re-organized and three new members added to their number. They will assist Carlisle on Decoration day.

The corn is nearly all planted. Most of those who planted early had to plant the second time. The soil is in a good condition and we had another fine rain last Saturday. Wheat, oats, meadows and pastures are looking well.

G.M. Bartholonew is preparing to set out hedge plants this spring. This is a move in the right direction. Palmyra township has a great deal of hedge fence, but we need more of it, for if properly cared for it is the cheapest and best fence a man can make. The damage to horses from the use of barbed wire as a fence is great.

SOCIAL PLAINS

George Silcott is some better at this writing.

Some of the farmers had to plant the second time.

Otter Township has bought a fine road scraper and so has Squaw township.

Church Services were not very well attended Sunday on account of the rain.

James Williams and wife were stornstaid in town Saturday and had to stay over night.

Some scoundrels cut Tilman Edgerton's wire fence in several places. There is some prospect of the perpetrators being caught.

Relatives and friends gave Mr. Alfrey and wife a grand surprise

Friday evening, it being Mrs. Alfrey's birthday. The friends brought in baskets of good things to fill the inner man and had an enjoyable time.

Jimmy Tharpe had his left hand taken off last Thursday, between the wrist and elbow. Drs. McCleary and Surber performed the operation. There was something growing on the wrist which seemed to affect his arm. He is getting along very well. Our sympathies are with the afflicted family.

WEST PALMYRA

Linn Grove has Sabbath school every Sunday now.

Farmers are still planting corn (over) in this part of the west.

Vint Haworth visited with friends at Liberty Center last Sunday.

The "kids" at Linn Grove are quite enterprising at least one would judge they were from the way they carry grubbing hoes and spades to school.

Two bull dogs met in the back yard. One winked and looked crosseyed. The other blinked and looked walleyed. Then both growled. Then they went about their business.

Steve Wilson told us the other day that he, "Blaine," "Logan" and "Crooked Leg" had harrowed 550 acres of ground this spring, all by themselves. Steve can get a move on himself once in a while.

Haworth and Bales went to Des Moines last Saturday for repairs for their threshing machine. From what we can hear they intend to begin threshing old straw stacks and manure pile for practice. By next September George and link may think they will be able to thresh fence posts out of old elm and oak logs and make tooth picks out of plum trees.

Queries

TURNIPSEED

Information on Warren County TURNIPSEEDS.
Merle E. Turnipseed, 804 S. 13th Ave, Washington,
Iowa 52353

NEW
MORRIS
HOHL
COLEGROVE
HALL
TURNIPSEED

Great grandparents were Fannie NEW and William E. MORRIS (descended from Mercer MORRIS) and George E. HOHL and Lydia J. COLEGROVE. Would like to hear from others of those families. Father, Ernest H. HOHL (later changed to HALL) was born in Milo, IA. His older brother James was buried (not sure where) the day Ernest was born, March 7, 1901. Grandfather's name was Frederick E. HOHL. His sister married William TURNIPSEED.
Marjorie J. Merryman, Route 1 Box 24, Mizpah, MN 56660

BAIRD
SILVERSIDES
PRICES

Great grandfather Chancy BAIRD (b. 1825, NY) and his wife Martha SILVERSIDES BAIRD (b. 1829, Steuben Co., NY). 1860 Dallas Co., IA census shows children Alan W., Charles W., Chancy C., and Mary L. BAIRD PRICES. Am looking for deaths of Chancy and Martha and grandmother Mary L. BAIRD PRICES. Also parents of Chauncy and Martha.
Edna Novinger, 2034 - 45.5 Road, De Beque, CO 81630

WALK
SCHURMAN(N)
RENNENGER
PUTZ
BAUER
ZIMMERMAN
WALK
SCHURMANN
RENNENGER
HINEN
RIPPERGER
DITTMER
ENDRES
FRUEH
STEGER
RIBPERGER
BUER
GEIS
FUSSNER
FISCHER
RENNENGER

Interested in these main lines represented in our Family Newsletter on families from Warren Co. IA: WALK, SCHURMAN(N), RENNENGER. Also interested in later descendants who went to Nemana Co, KA from Warren Co.

Need family background history on following Warren Co families who married into The WALK/SCHURMANN/RENNENGER families of the area. Those collateral DITTMER, families are: KUHN, HINEN, RIPPERGER, ENDRES, PUTZ, BAUER, ZIMMERMAN, FRUEH, &STEGER.

Working on the following families who came from St. Peter, Franklin Co, IN to Warren Co.:RIPPERGER, RIBPERGER, BUER, GEIS, FUSSNER, FISCHER & RENNENGER.

Willing to share results of our 9 years of research. Michael D. Hamersky, Editor/Hamersky & A.F. Newsletter, PO Box 3939, Chula Vista, CA 92011