

# Warren County Genealogical Society

306 Arst Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

**VOLUME 15** 

SEPTEMBER 1989

ISSUE 8

MEETINGS: 7:00 P.M. the third Monday of each month, except August and December, at the Indianola Public Library at 207 North B. Visitors are welcome.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: October 16, 1989 "Print Resources to Help our Research" by Pat
Hailey

<u>NEWSLETTER:</u> Published each month except August and December. We encourage members to send queries and articles for publication. Editor: Marieta Grissom.

 $\overline{\text{DUES:}}$  \$6.00 single and \$9.00 family membership. Send to Treasurer: Enola Disbrow, 810 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

MEET OUR SOCIETY'S LONG DISTANCE MEMBER: Edward Little

Those who attended our September meeting were in for a real treat! We were able to meet our long distance member, Edward Little, from Melbourne, Australia. As a result of this very special occurrance, I am featuring him in this newsletter.

Mr. Little was born and raised in Australia, his father was from New Zealand and his mother was a native of Australia. So how does a man with that background become interested in genealogy in Warren County, Iowa? He thanks our member Maude Wilkins for that, "If it had not been for her, I would have skipped right over Warren County." He initially wrote a letter of inquiry to her in July 1987. Since then, they have corresponded regularly and she has dug into the cracks for him.

A peak at his pedigree chart (copy enclosed) reveals some very interesting information—his family really travelled. Places like England, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Kentucky, and Iowa are listed. Can you imagine trying to do world—wide genealogical research through the postal systems from Australia?

Mr. Little became interested in genealogy about fourteen or fifteen years ago. In one of his letters to Maude he wrote, "I have researched several family lines, two in England and others in Australia, New Zealand and also the United States. I was particularly lucky with my New Zealand research, as I have gained quite a number of first cousins. My father came here to Australia around 1930 (from New Zealand) and did not communicate with his family for the rest of his life. When he passed away I decided to try and research his past and after several years of no results got a break through about two years ago (1986). This coincided with a family reunion over there (in New Zealand) of my Grandmother's family descendants, so I had the chance to go over and meet all the family connections. ... I guess I am in a reasonably unique position as I have a grandfather who was born in 1836. This has occurred through my grandfather (born in Cornwall, England) becoming a widower around 1879, journeying to New Zealand and marrying my grandmother there in 1890, my father was born in 1894, and married my mother here in 1936 at age 42, and I was born in 1938."

In another letter (dated 21 July 1987) he wrote, "As you will see (from the family group sheet), the first child of Thomas Fitzgerald, Edward D'Arcy

Fitzgerald, my great grandfather, came over to Australia, and settled here. He arrived here in the early 1850's in search of gold, and remained here the rest of his life." To our questions, he replied that, "No", his great grandfather did not find gold.

In this same letter (21 July 1987), he explained, "I have been researching the Fitzgerald family for several years, firstly in Lewis County, Kentucky, and then purely by chance I located them in Marion County, Iowa, and now, of course, in Warren County. I am pleased that they did not move further west, as I have spent the past year, tracing records of the married members of the family in Marion County, hoping for a clue to their whereabouts. It was only after writing to a researcher in Des Moines, with the idea of doing a search of State Census Records, and her suggestion that quite a few of the early settlers in Marion County, moved west into Warren County, that I bought microfilm of the 1860 Federal Census of Warren County, that I located the family there."

In his letter of 08 March 88, he described another Warren County connection. "I think the high point of her (his mother's) life was when she went to the United States with her mother in 1929 and stayed with family relatives in Los Angeles, and also visited San Francisco and Vancouver. These relatives as I now know were from Iowa and more particularly from Warren County, being a DUNN who lived in Belmont twp, and a CLAPP, from Indianola. The CLAPP family appears to have left Indianola around 1890 and gone to live in California."

Mr. Little lamented that the way people in various countries use the English language has been quite a hurdle. He used the example of the abbreviation "cty". In Australia this means "county"; in the United States it means "city". As for all genealogists, genealogy has grown on him, but, as for all genealogists, he has gotten very frustrated, too.

In his letter of 27 May 89, he wrote, "My Gr. Gr. Grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Fitzgerald, was indeed a very early arrival in Inwa. I have a copy of the marriage record of his eldest daughter, Elizabeth J., and the record mentions she was married in his house in Red Rock, Marion County, 10th June 1847. Unfortunately the family moved every few years, and even when they settled in Indianola, they didn't live to an age where they may have been included in the early County History (Biographies). One always hopes to find something somewhere. I have bought microfilms of the Newspapers published in Indianola at the time of both their deaths but unfortunately the critical issues where there may have been an Obituary, haven't survived."

Luckily, Maude Wilkins suggested he send a Letter to the Editor of the Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune, explaining his search for information. This he did (copy enclosed) and Good News! Raymond and Mary Louise McElroy, who live twelve miles north of Indianola, answered his letter. It turns out that Edward and Raymond are third cousins.

Genealogy societies in Australia, he explained to us, are much like those here in the United States. Many records have been microfilmed there, but he expressed concern that some of the older records, especially land records, are getting "crumbly" and he wasn't sure that they would all be microfilmed because of the expense.

Just as American genealogists are becoming more computer literate, and more and more are using computers for storing their records, Mr. Little uses a computer for his record storage, as well. That impressed our "computer" members.

Mr. Little works in the printing business in Melbourne. His company takes designs from American Greetings and produces greeting cards, calendars, etc.

Wow! What an evening! Thank you, Mr. Little, for coming to our meeting and giving us a glimpse of genealogical research from a "down under" point of view! We hope you have a lot of success in doing your research here in the United States and that you have a very pleasant journey as you get a glimpse of our countryside and people. Please write to tell us what you find--we are all anxious to know!

LITTLE, EDWARD D. Genealogy db Date Prepared: 03/20/89

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FITZGERALD, THOMAS JEFFERSON , Id# I

A Chart of his Descendants. Prepared by: Edward D.Little

### Genealogy db 03/20/89 S)=Spouse

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#### Genealogy db 03/20/89 S)=Spouse

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### Australian looks for family in Indianola

#### To the editor:

It will probably be surprising that someone living as far as I do from Indianola would have a connection or interest with the area. My main interest is in family history research. And in the course of my research into the lives of my great-greatgrandparents, Thomas Jefferson Fitzgerald and his wife, Nancy, the direction of their westward migration in the early 1840s has indeed led me from northeast Kentucky through Indiana to the town of Red Rock, Marion County, in 1847, and finally in the early 1850s to Indianola or Washington Township as the area they lived in was then named.

His family when he arrived in Iowa consisted of two sons and five daughters, with his youngest daughter, Martha, born around 1847, prob-

ably in Red Rock.

I know nothing of his occupation while he was in Red Rock, but as he operated a shoemaking business on South Street, Indianola, in the early 1860s, this was possibly his area of business. Unfortunately, both Thomas and Nancy died rather young, he in September 1866 and Nancy five months later in February 1867, both

being around 58 to 60 years of age. Through the marriages of his children, connections were established to a number of families in the area, namely: Willson, Dunn, Clapp, Price, Peck, Dodge, Franklin and Scarborough.

I will be visiting Indianola in mid-September, and would be very happy to meet any person descended from the Fitzgerald connections with the above names, or with a knowledge of them. My research from so far has been greatly assisted by the genealogical societies in both Marion and Warren counties, and more particularly, two of their members. Janet Ritchie of Knoxville and Mrs. Glenn Wilkins of Indianola.

> **Edward Little** P.O. Box 45, Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria 3121, Australia.

Record Herald and Indianola Tribune, 14 June 1989

PLEASE NOTE!!!!! Information in the July Newsletter was incorrect regarding the Glad Bags. Member Janace D. Cole of San Juan Capistrano, California found the following information in The Orange County Register on Saturday, September 2, 1989 and passed it along:

DON'T TAKE CHANCES: A recent handy hint has popped up in some genealogical periodicals and newsletters stating that Glad Bags are made of Mylar and can be used for preserving important family documents.

This is not true.

"I wrote to First Brands Corp., manufacturers of Glad Bags, and received a nice letter stating that Glad Bags are principally polethylene.

"Mylar is a DuPont trademark for polyethylene terephthalate that has a lower moisture vapor permeability and is a better choice for long-term document storage." J.R., Orange

Glad Bags are still good for the jobs they were intended for, but they are not recommended for storing valuable documents.

Warren County Fair Results:

## Genealogy

Supplement to The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune August 9, 1989

Senior Division 58

Photographs and Portraits

Ancestral Portrait - 1. Rachael Goodhue; 2. Mary Smart; 3. Joann Harvey.

Family Group Picture — 1. Pauline Baxendale; 2. Ruth Henry; 3. Rosie Babcock.

Ancestral Home Ficture - 1. Molly Bowlin; 2. Mary Sman; 3. Jane Godwin.

Pictorial Family History or Display - 1. Jane

Miscellaneous Picture — 1. Bumgarner; 3. Rachael Goodhue. - 1. Linda Jones; 2. Elaine

Senior Division 59

An Old Personal Ledger — 1. JoAnn Harvey; 2. Mary Sman; 3. Jane Godwin.

Baptismal Record - 1. Mary Smart.

Old Marriage Certificate — 1. Mary Smart; 2. Jane Godwin; 3. Willa Grisson.

Old Land Grant, Deed, Mortgage or Abstract — 1. Mary Smart; 2. Jane Godwin; 3. Edna Oldaker.

Old Military Record - 1. Jane Godwin; 2. Pauline

Old Will and Testament — 1. Pauline Baxendale.

Old Organizational Material — 1. JoAnne Harvey; 2. Rachael Goodhue.

Old Letter - 1. Jane Godwin; 2. Neva McCoy; 3. Cathy Ayers.

Miscellaneous Written Item — 1. Unda Jones; 2. Charlotte Rice; 3. Rachael Goodhue.

Senior Division 60

Genealogical Research Material

Lineage Chart — 1. Cathy Ayers.

Family Tree Chart - 1. Molly Bowlin; 2. Elaine Bumgarner; 3. JoAnne Harvey.

Genealogical Record Book — 1. JoAnne Harvey; 2. Cathy Ayers.

Genealogical Poster -- 1. Cathy Ayers; 2. Jane God-

Gravestone Rubbing - 1. Cathy Ayers; 2. Ruth Henry; 3. Rachael Goodhue.

Best Display of Genealogical Material — 1. Molly

Miscellaneous - 1. Jane Godwin; 2. Charlotte Rice; 3.

Senior Division 61

**Heirlooms and Artifacts** 

An Old Book - 1. Rachael Goodhue; 2. Mary Smart; 3. Jane Godwin.

Old Album or Scrapbook - 1. Mary Smart; 2. Charlotte Rice.

Jewelry Item — 1. Rachael Goodhue; 2.Pauline Baxendale; 3. Mary Smart.

Glassware or China Item - 1. Cathy Ayers; 2. JoAnne Harvey; 3. Willa Grissom.

Small Household Item - 1. Rachael Goodhue; 2. Pauline Baxendale; 3. Jane Godwin.

Needlework Item - 1. Charlotte Rice; 2. Elaine Bumgarner; 3. Willa Grisson.

Small Tool - 1. Edna Oldaker; 2. Mary Smart; 3. Cathy

Personal Item — 1. Edna Oldaker; 2. Jane Godwin; 3. Mary Smart.

Religious Item - 1. Mary Smart; 2. Neva McCoy; 3. Rachael Goodhue.

Toy - 1. Pauline Baxendale; 2. Jane Godwin; 3. JoAnne Harvey.

Best Display - 1. Linda Jones; 2. Joanne Harvey.

Miscellaneous Item — 1. Judy Denniston; 2. Pauline Baxendale; 3. Rachael Goodhue.

Senior Division 62

Warren County Heritage

Historical Poster, Town, Township, Organization, Church or Event - 1. Cathy Ayers.

Historical Poster, Lost Art, Craft or Trade — 1. Cathy Ayers.

Old Photograph - 1. Pauline Baxendale; 2. Charlotte

Junior Division 63

A Chart - 1. Chad Brewbaker; 2. Rebecca Goodhue.

A Picture - 1. Rebecca Goodhue; 2. Amanda Henry; 3. Jessica Babcock

Gravestone Rubbing — 1. Rebecca Goodhue; 2. Amanda Henry,

Miscellaneous Project - 1. Rebecca Goodhue.

#### IN MEMORIAM:

We were saddened by the death of member Betty Kern, 71, of pneumonia on September 16, 1989. Her library committee services in recent years have been greatly appreciated, and her involvement in society activities will be missed. She is survived by her husband, John; two sons, Byron and Ben and four grandchildren, all of Norwalk, Iowa.

#### DUES ARE DUE!

Dues for 1990 are now due. Please pay before December 31, 1989 to insure that your name will appear in the list of active members published in January 1990. Dues are \$6.00 single and \$9.00 family membership. Send to Treasurer: Enola Disbrow, 810 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

EDITOR'S NOTE: LAST CHANCE! Many members have submitted their list of names with states and counties they are researching, but many members have NOT submitted a list. This is going to be a fantastic list and you will be sorry if your names are omitted! The complete list will be published in the October newsletter. Please use this format for submitting your list:

RESEARCHER

STATE RESEARCHING COUNTY RESEARCHING NAMES RESEARCHING

Please send to Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125 before October 1, 1989.

Donna J. Crow 119 S G64 Hwy Truro, IA 50257

Warren County Genealogical Society 306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125



