



Warren County Genealogical Society

W.F.

306 West Walnut, Indianola, Iowa 50125-2438

Volume 21

July/August, 1994

No. 4

TREASURES OF THE STEAMBOAT ARABIA



Bottled Food Goods



Beaver Hats

Discover 200 Tons of Buried Treasure



Arabia Excavation Site

Don't the pictures to the left look interesting? Our speakers for the July meeting, Roger and Charlotte Banks found it so exciting, they stayed after they had placed the perimeter wells to keep out the water, that they stayed and helped and also go each month to help at the museum at 400 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO.

If you missed the meeting, you really lost out on learning how such a salvage crew goes about uncovering the treasures of long ago. The area was the size of a football field and involved much dirty tiring work to rescue the treasures sunk on September 5, 1856, when the "Great White Arabia" sank. She carried 150 passengers and 200 tons of mystery cargo. The passengers all survived.

Roger and Charlotte showed a short video, had slides and showed some of the items recovered. It's worth the trip to hear them if you get another chance. Thanks a lot for a most interesting program!!!

* * * * *

INTERPRETING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Another of our earlier monthly meetings was when Loren Horten of the Iowa Historical Society gave a slide presentation. He said earliest photos were daguerreotype in about 1839-1860. Then we had ambrotype from 1850s and 1860s. Tintypes were next and later some very plain, more ornate and very ornate, all gave clues as to when they were taken. Loren had lots of different slides and also gave most interesting comments about them. Albumen prints went through 1890 and we also heard about calling card pictures and cabinet cards and sepia tone and other picture clues. The style of clothing and background also are good ways of identifying a time period. Another good program - thanks!

* * * * *

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

I am herewith confessing that I have been taken in by a con artist and I hope that my telling you will save some of you from a similar experience. Several issues ago I think I mentioned some names that were in an earlier letter.

This was from SCOTTSDALE FAMILY TREASURES, INC. of 5110 N. 44th St., Suite L-160, Phoenix, AZ 85018 and the writer was Nance Granter, and they asked for an information sheet be filled out about our family for a book to be published from those received. Naturally since I do genealogy the idea sounded good to get information that might tie into our family tree so I sent a return sheet. Later I received a call and said they needed to have my order and could I give them a credit card number to get on the list. I don't give that out so instead sent a check. Along about Christmas came a letter and certificate saying it could be used in case the gift was not received in time for gift giving. Still nothing arrived so I sent a letter with a copy of the cashed check and after May, I received that letter back with "MOVED LEFT NO ADDRESS" so I'm stuck. It makes me so mad that people who trust someone to do what they say, don't, so carefully check out any such solicitation. This doesn't help our genealogy researchers a bit especially when we're really trying to get information. Don't be a victim!!!

Check out the nice family history received from Edward Little on page 3.

There's also a page of additions to add to your SURNAME sheets - page 5.

Hope you got your entries in for county fair and we'll have a really interesting booth again this year. See you there!!!

Also check out the page "Writing Letters for Genealogy" - page 6.

Did you see the picture of our PRESIDENT and CLERK OF COURT with the book WCGS's preserved. See page 7.

WCGS:OFFICERS -- 1994

Pres. - Vicki Montgomery - 961-8025
1405 E. Franklin
Indianola, IA 50125

Vice Pres. - Donna Crow - 765-4880
119 G64 Hwy.
Truro, IA 50257

Secretary - Evelyn Brightman - 961-3271
303 N. G
Indianola, IA 50125

Treas. - Jane Godwin - 961-3363
808 W. Detroit
Indianola, IA 50125

Corres. Secy. - Thelma Pehrson - 961-4409
306 W. Salem
Indianola, IA 50125-2438

Editor - Willa Jean Grissom - 285-5608
2400 E. County Line Road
Des Moines, IA 50320-9627

Registrars - Doris & Bill Hunt - 989-9665
100 Ash Street Lot 73
Carlisle, IA 50047

Librarian - Elaine Bumgarner - 961-4471
1822 120th Ave.
Indianola, IA 50125

Parliamentarian -

Historian - Kate Kauzlarich - 961-4730
509 W. First
Indianola, IA 50125

IGS Liaison - Enola Disbrow 0 961-0943
707 Robin Glen #314
Indianola, IA 50125

Sunshine Rep. - Doris Lawson - 961-5291
701 W. Clinton #211
Indianola, IA 50125

Past Pres. - Enola Disbrow

Newsletters will be published six times
a year - Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.

Memberships to Date - 101
Dues are: Individual \$6.00 Family \$9.00
Payable to Jan. 1 each year.
Memberships run Jan. to Dec.
Send dues to: Jane Godwin, 808 W. Detroit
Indianola, IA 50125

All other mail should be addressed to:
Thelma Pehrson, Corres. Secy.
306 West Salem, Indianola, IA 50125

Willa Jean

Edward D'Arcy Fitzgerald, my Great Grandfather, was born in the late 1820's, in Clarksburg, which was situated in Lewis Co., Kentucky, close to the Ohio River. Edward or "DOS", as he was known was the son of Thomas Jefferson Fitzgerald and Nancy Means or Mears, both of whom were native born Kentuckians. In later times Thomas Fitzgerald was a Shoemaker, so possibly this was his occupation during his time in Clarksburg. Edward's early life was no doubt quite peaceful in a rural community in Eastern Kentucky in those early times, but certainly would have changed considerably when the family embarked on an overland journey in 1842, were in Indiana, at least during March, 1843, and finally arrived at the frontier township of Red Rock, in Marion Co., Iowa, by 1846. What remained of Red Rock, has now been submerged under the Red Rock Dam, but in the late 1840's it was a very lively place, and the volume "Pioneers of Marion County", written by Wm. M. Donnel, in 1872, relates many of the events that occurred there. Edward is listed in the 1850 Census for Red Rock, living with his family, his occupation given as a "Farmer", however I have not found any records of his actually owning land there. It is possible that during this time that Edward became friends with George Berry Hamilton, a native of Virginia, and this was to prove to be a lifelong association between the two men following them to Australia and Omeo. Edward departed from Rock Rock during the latter half of 1850, the start of his long journey being watched by one of his younger sisters, Mary Ann, who sat on the porch until he was out of sight, and commented "I'll never see him again", as indeed she didn't as she was to die in October 1850, aged just 16 years, and is buried in the Red Rock cemetery, her small headstone leaning against a tree where I placed it in 1909. Edward appears to have spent some time on the Gold fields in California, but probably did not do all that well there, and on hearing of the gold discoveries in Australia, departed from San Francisco on a sailing ship, coincidentally also named the "Edward", to cross the Pacific to Australia.

After his arrival he would have journeyed overland again, and arriving in Omeo in the early 1850's, most possibly around 1852/53. In those times Omeo, was a lawless town, growing in size with the influx of gold prospectors Edward was apparently a very practical person and is credited with the construction of a "water race" some 13 miles in length through virgin country. It was stated by his Grandson, that Edward had created a thirty foot triangle equipped with a plumb bob, which he used to establish a fall of a quarter to a half of an inch in each thirty feet. The purpose of the race was to bring the water down with increasing force to use in "Sluicing" for gold, a procedure that Edward and his mates had no doubt seen on the gold fields in California. The gold claim they operated was known as the "Pioneer Claim", and was the forerunner of several claims which eventually covered several hundred acres, something that would cause mass protests by the environmental groups in these times.

Edward had several gold mining claims around the Omeo district over the years, and is believed to have travelled to the Dunstan River in the Otago region on the South Island of New Zealand, in company with Jesse Timmins, another lifelong friend from Indiana. It is reported that Edward and Jesse worked a claim for a time in New Zealand but watched the men on a nearby claim finding gold by the shovel full, while they found almost nothing, so no doubt they were quite happy to return to Omeo.

Edward was married in Melbourne on the 19th of April, 1865, to Mary Gallagher who was born in Dublin, Ireland, around 1835. Mary was first married in 1857, to George D. Chapman, a gold prospector, from Salem, Massachusetts. She was widowed early in 1864, and had the one son, William, when she married Edward Fitzgerald. They were to have a family of six children, Thomas Edward, George Silas, John Barry, Mary Theresa, Martha Jane (my Grandmother), James Henry and finally Louis Grant Fitzgerald.

In 1874, Edward applied for Australian citizenship, and by now was turning his interests to farming. He applied for land grants under the laws of the time and appears to have had quite a battle with the authorities, the problems mainly caused by the isolation of the Omeo district. In time he acquired several hundred acres of land, as well as many large leaseholds in the area. He was involved in a long legal battle at one time with the "Oriental Sluicing Company", when they tried to cut a water race through his property. He reportedly sat in a chair on the boundary of his land, with a shotgun, to prevent them coming through. The court case caused considerable interest at the time, and the company were eventually able to cut their race through his land. Even then he did not give up, and sued for compensation for the land he lost.

Edward was a member of the first Shire Council in Omeo, and was involved in framing many of the by-laws created at the time. He was also an innovative farmer and experimented with various strains of wheat on his farm, and also created a large orchard, at his property named "Cherry Banks". In the late 1800's, Edward acquired a property which was eventually named by his son, George, as "Shannonvale", and is still owned by his descendants today. Until recent years there was a water wheel on the property, which was fashioned by Edward long ago, using very basic tools. The wheel was used to drive a machine for cutting oats into chaff, to sell to the miners in nearby towns to feed their horses. The Omeo Standard Newspaper, 16th of February 1909, carried the report that Edward Fitzgerald was the last remaining person living from the quartette who came from California in the early gold mining days. A Mr. Herbert Syme, was in town at that time took Edward for his first motor car ride and it is also reports that "great was the excitement of the old gentleman when his was driven into Omeo in the car".

During the years I have been interested in the life of Edward D'Arcy Fitzgerald, I have formed the impression that he was a very patriotic person, proud of his Kentucky origins. American Independence day was always celebrated in the household, with a roast turkey on the table for dinner, a fact recounted to me by my Mother, who was born in 1906. She remembered Edward as a very tall person, well over six feet in height. He has had several namesakes in the time since he passed away, and the latest is Edward D'Arcy Fitzgerald, the teenage son of Barry Fraser Fitzgerald, who currently lives in Omeo and farms some of the land originally owned by his ancestor. "The family home "Cherry Banks" was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires, with the kitchen chimney, surviving to this day.

With the advent of 4 wheel drive vehicles, Omeo is becoming a popular destination, for adventurous tourists. The old mining areas have now been signposted and become interesting places to visit, while there is also general interest in the history of the town.

DORIS Ancestor Chart

Mrs. William Hunt
102 Ash Street, Lot 72
Bartlesville, IA 50047

Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____

Chart No. 16

Date 25 September 1990

8 Isaac Gillham
(Father of No. 4)

b. 27 Sept. 1837

p.b.
m.

d. 3 May 1912

p.d.

9 Nancy J. Genning
(Mother of No. 4)

b. 15 Oct 1843

p.b.
d. 24 JANUARY 1899

p.d.

10 Joseph L. Bates
(Father of No. 5)

b. 12 Aug. 1839

p.b.
m. 9 Sept. 1869

d. 3 Feb. 1912

p.d.

11 Mary L. Shiber
(Mother of No. 5)

b. 13 Sept. 1850

p.h. main of Ind.
d. 1923

p.d.

12 HENRY OWEN
(Father of No. 6)

b.
p.b.

m.

d.
p.d.

13 AMY FENTON
(Mother of No. 6)

b.
p.b.

d.

p.d.

4 N. Arthur Gillham
(Father of No. 2)

b. 14 Feb 1870

p.b.

m. 22

d. 22 Oct 1945

p.d.

2 Stanford Otto Gillham
(Father of No. 1)

b. 16 Oct. 1903

p.b. New Williams, Ia / Lucas Co.

m. 9 June 1925

d. 10 June 1981

p.d. Care Center / Carabel / Mann Co / Ia

5 Rachel Henrietta Bates
(Mother of No. 2)

b. 18 Apr. 1875

p.b.

d.

p.d. Chariton / Lucas Co / Ia

1 Maria Arlene Gillham

b. 28 March 1930

p.b. Chariton / Lucas Co / Ia

m. 15 Nov. 1951

d.
p.d.

6 Elmer Nathan Owen
(Father of No. 3)

b. 23 March 1881

p.b.

m.

d. 9 July 1957

p.d.

3 Edna Marie Owen
(Mother of No. 1)

b. 29 Oct 1907

p.b. Seneca / Appanoose Co / Ia

d. 19 Sept. 1980

p.d.

7 Marguerite Wright
(Mother of No. 3)

b. 26 Mar. 1890

p.b.

d. 3 Feb. 1943

p.d.

William Oscar Hunt
(Spouse of No. 1)

b. 1 January 1923

d. Bartlesville, Ia

15 Clarsey
(Mother of No. 7)

b.
p.b.

d.

16 John C. Gillham
(Father of No. 1)

b. June 8, 1781

m.

d. 8 June 1855

17

b. (Mother of No. 1)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

18 b. (Father of No. 1)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

19 b. (Mother of No. 1)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

d.

20 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

21 b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

22 b. (Father of No. 11)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

d.

23 b. (Mother of No. 1)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

24 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

25 b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

26 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

27 b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

28 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

29 b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

30 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

31 b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

b. (Father of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

m.

d.

b. (Mother of No. 10)
Cont. on chart No. _____

d.

Form A2 Copyright 1983 by The Fenton Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 368 Logan Utah publishers of THE GENETIC ALBUM. Send for a free catalogue with lists and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

3/12/94

ADDENDUM #ONE WARREN COUNTY SURNAME INDEX 1993

CORRECTIONS TO SUBMITTER'S NUMBER LIST:

#8. Tenney BRINKMAN.....correction....should have been listed as #8 instead of #58.....BARTHOLOMEW, BRINKMAN, FLESHER, KEETLEY, LEMON, LEVICK, LIPPINCOTT, MCNAUGHT, MORRIS, PENINGER, POPEJOY, RICHARDS, SCHLUNSEN, SHEPHARD, TURNIPSEED, WHIPPLE, WILKERSON, WOODWARD, YOUNG, WILSON.

#11. Janace COLE...corrected address...P.O. Box 7232, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

#14. Enola DISBROW.....additional surnames...EWING, SPRINGER, BROWN, COX, GROVES, HENDRICKS/HENDRIX, BUCKLES, WINANS, MELYN/MOYLEN, OGDEN, TUNNEL, HAYNES, MEERMANS, CASPERSON, PIETERS, NEER, OSBOURNE, MYNDERTS, BRATT, VAN ROTMERS.

#18. Ruth Elizabeth HALL....corrected address....1203 N. "E", Apt. 1106, Indianola, IA 50125(515) 961-0806.

#33. Neva MCCOY ...should be just Neva, Gene is her son-in-law!

#62. Helen NERNES....new address....1440 Andrew Drive, Warson Woods, MO 63122.

#82. Betty SCOTT, 10414 Peacock Hill Ave NW, Space #48, Gig Harbor, WA 98332-8939.....(206) 851-7656.

Surnames: BLACK, BLOSSER, BOYD, COLLINS, ELLIS, GLAZE, HATFIELD, MAYNARD, MCCOY, MULLINS, SPICER, WRIGHT, ZWANZIGER

Surnames for Husband Fred: BEGG, BRENNAN, CLARK, COSTELLO, DIENER, IRELAND, LUDWIG, MCNALLEY, SCOTT

The surnames of C. Eugene and Charlotte STEWART, 240 Plum Street, Boone, Iowa 50036.....were not added to the original surname list and will be listed in the next addendum.

WRITING LETTERS FOR GENEALOGY

Family genealogists simply cannot go to all the places or talk personally to all the people we need to complete our family histories. The time and money involved would be prohibitive.

Unfortunately, our ancestors all moved here from somewhere else -- usually many "somewheres". Their children scattered all over the country. If we are going to document the family, we need information & copies of records from all those places. Also, we need to make contact with relatives & possible relatives to gather information from their family records.

At the January meeting we discussed some guidelines for successful letter writing. Unfortunately, the weather was lousy, & attendance was down. So, I will repeat some of the ideas here in hopes that it will help you write letters.

First of all, keep your letter short & simple. When writing to institutions, such as libraries, societies, & government offices, etc., just state your request with the names, dates & places necessary to explain the situation. Nothing more. These people are very busy & don't have time (or the inclination) to read long letters. Letters to relatives or possible relatives can include more information. Consider sending a family group sheet or pedigree chart to the latter showing what you have on the ancestor(s) you are researching.

Keep it simple. Especially when writing to officials, ask for a specific record or a few records in your letter. If you need many documents from one locality, consider hiring a professional genealogist or ask a local genealogical society for help.

Be neat. If they can't read it, they can't answer it. If you can't type your

letters, at least be sure your writing is legible. Printing any names would be a good idea, so spelling would be apparent.

Be polite. Say please and thank you. These people are doing you a favor.

Offer to pay for photocopies and extra postage, when writing anyone other than professionals (who will let you know what you owe), and close relatives (who might be insulted). Often you can trade information instead of paying each other.

Be sure to use your return address on both the envelope and your letter. The correspondent may want to write you years later, & the envelope may be gone by then.

Send SASE - a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. This makes it more likely you'll get an answer from county offices, libraries, societies & distant relatives. They don't owe you a stamp or an envelope. Also, it's quicker for them, to just jot a note to you & slip it into a prepared envelope. It's also important for accuracy; You know they have your address correct.

Lastly, keep a copy of your letter, so that you know who you have written & what you have asked. When an answer comes, you can compare the two. Even years from now, you will still know what research you have attempted & when. Also consider keeping a log of all your research correspondence.

You simply can't do genealogy without writing letters. Sometimes, answers will come slowly - even years after you write, but answers will come to the vast majority of your letters if you follow the above guidelines. The information you need to fill the blanks in your ancestry may be right outside in your mailbox -- but first you have to write some letters. Get busy!

Diane Shough

From: Clarke County Roots &
Branches - June 1994

GREAT NEWS!

The Record-Herald + Indianapolis Tribune - July 14, 1994



Book benevolence

County Clerk of Court Barbara Traster and Vicki Montgomery, president of the Warren County Genealogical Society, hold a death

records book preserved on acid-free paper. The society is restoring books as they become too brittle to handle.

RHT photo/Deb Barber

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS OR NEW MEMBERS:

William O. & Doris A. Hunt
100 Ash Street, Lot 73
Carlisle, IA 50047
Tel. 989-9265

David Endres
2450 Clara Bea Lane
Fairfield, OH 43014

NO QUERIES this time so get us some for next issue.

SOME OTHER COUNTY GROUPS WE EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS WITH:

Iowa Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322
Cherokee Co. Historical Society, Box 247, Cleghorn, IA 51014-0247
Dubuque Co. Key City Gen. Soc., P.O. Box 13, Dubuque, IA 52004-0013
Jasper Co. Gen. Society, P.O. Box 163, Newton, IA 50208
South Lee Co. Gen. Soc., Box 303, Keokuk, IA 52632
Sacoge News - Sac Co. Gen. Society, Box 54, Sac City, IA 50583-0054

OUT OF STATE SOCIETIES:

MISSOURI - Platte Co. Mo. Historical & Gen. Bulletin, P.O. Box 103, Platte City,
MO 64079
NEBRASKA - Eastern Neb. Gen. Society, P.O. Box 541, Fremont, NE 68025-0541
Westward Into Nebraska - Greater Omaha Gen. Society
P.O. Box 4011, Omaha, NE 68104-0011
OHIO - Athens Co. Hist. Soc. & Museum, Athens Co. Gen. Chapter
65 N. Court St., Athens, OH 45901
OKLAHOMA - Poteau Valley Gen. Soc., P.O. Box 1031, Poteau, OK 74953
PENNSYLVANIA (From Mrs. Schaffer) - South Central Pa. Gen. Soc., P.O. Box 1824,
York, PA 17405-1824
WASHINGTON - Clark Co. Gen. Society, P.O. Box 2728, Vancouver, WA 98668
WEST VIRGINIA - Taylor Co. Historical & Gen. Soc. Inc., P. O. Box 522
Grafton, WV 26354

2400 E. County Line Rd.
Des Moines, Ia. 50230-9627

Willia Jean Grissom

From:
Warren County Genealogical Society
306 West Salem
Indianola, IA 50125-2438