

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 23 Number 3

May-June 1996

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 13 7:00 Executive Board Meeting. 1307 Wesley Lane.
21 7:00 REGULAR MEETING. Library. Kay Riser of the Murray schools will speak on "The Mormon Trails of Clarke County".
- June 1 1:00-3:30 Workshop for new members. Indianola Library. There is a \$2.00 charge. Contact Ev Brightman 961-3271.
17 TRIP TO IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY IN DES MOINES. Bus will leave in late afternoon and anyone can join us there anytime during the evening. Contact John Kern 981-4348 for more information on the evening or on the transportation.
- July 16 REGULAR MEETING AND POTLUCK.
5:30 Potluck at the Warren County Fairgrounds near the Historical Building.
7:00 Bob Davey will present a sesquicentennial program entitled "This is Iowa" at the Historical Society Building at the fairgrounds.
Come to the potluck, the meeting, or both.

Officers 1996:

Pres.	Ev Brightman
Vice Pres.	John Kern
Treasurer	Jane Godwin
Corres. Sec.	Thelma Pehrson
Sec.	Ruth Hall
Past Pres.	Donna Crow
Newletter	Ruth Hall(Temp.)
Registrar	Joann Harvey
Historian	Kate Kauzlarich

Active Committees:

Cemetery
Newspaper Abstracting
Courthouse Abstracting
Library Acquisitions
Obituary Committee
Research Requests
County Fair Divisions

SPECIAL NOTE!!!!!!!

If the mailing label on your newsletter has an "O" below the address it means we have no record that you have paid your dues for 1996. If you have not paid, send your check to Jane Godwin, 808 W. Detroit, Indianola, 50125, or bring it to the next meeting. Dues are \$6.00/individual and \$9.00/family. If you have paid and you still have an "O" on your label let us know so we can make the correction. This is the last newsletter that unpaid members will receive.

FROM THE LAST MEETINGS

January 15, 1996: Call for the election of a secretary, Ruth Hall nominated and vote in favor unanimous. Congratulations to Vicki Montgomery awarded Iowa state and middle US district Middle School Teacher of the year in Physical Education. Four guests were present, all of whom joined. Mary Berry and the Nelson family, Forrest, Virginia, and Laura. Year-end report from Jane Godwin: as of December 31, 1995 there was \$1832.99 in the checking account and \$5420.00 in the Super Saver account. Thelma Pehrson requested that a new fair superintendent be appointed in her place and Ev announced that Donna Crow had been appointed. Donna presented the program "Tidbits", a review of past activities of the group and possible intermediate and long-term goals.

February 19, 1996: Four guests were present, Ann Gerlach of Liberty Center who has become a member, and Sheryl Gwinn, our Fourth District Representative to the Iowa State Genealogy Society, and two other members of the Lucas County Genealogy Society; Darlene Arnold and Mary Reeves. Treasurer reported a balance of \$2090.18 in the checking account and \$5430.24 in the Super Saver account. Concern was expressed that some county records may become unavailable to the public through sealing of vital records at the state level. Ev urged that members contact their legislators expressing concern. Ev reported that she and Donna Crow had met with the Warren County Historical Society and had discussed whether a particular genealogy project would also be useful to them. As a result Ev and Donna are researching costs of printing the 1880 Warren County census, putting it on a computer diskette and having it indexed. The cemetery committee is discussing the best way to update the cemetery book which was printed in 1975. Doris Hunt donated a book "The Great American Bottom" by Georgia M. Engelke. It is a history of the settlement of the Mississippi lowland in Illinois west of the town of St. Louis. The program was by our representative, Sheryl Gwinn, on "Vancestoring". Several members of the Lucas County Genealogy Society shared a van and a trip to various research sites.

March 18, 1996: One guest, Sue Ogland. Treasurer reported \$2092.05 in checking and \$5439.48 in Super Saver account. Ev reported that member Lenore Carter of Des Moines has updated her CDROM of US telephone numbers and will help us locate people at no cost. Call her at 280-7250. Lenore asked for help in locating information on Dr. William G. Ball of Jefferson Township whose farm was purchased by Henry Henderson Wonderlin. Ruth reported that the cemetery committee has tentative plans to update the cemetery book on a township basis with as many original and updated plats of the cemeteries as they can find. John Kern will be in charge of the IGS trip in June. Members expressed interest in a trip to the state Historical Library in August. Donna Crow is collecting past newsletters to be bound by a society in Indiana. The program was by member Jane Godwin who is our representative in the Indianola schools. She gave her program for fifth graders on "Old Iowa Stories".

April 15, 1996: Treasurer absent. Vicki has resigned as newsletter editor. We will do May newsletter as a group project and Ruth will edit it and have it printed. There will be a workshop for new members on May 18 (date later changed to June 1). Unanimous vote to have John Kern make permanent name tags for us at approximately 50 cents each. Program was a tour of the genealogy materials of the library led by member Elaine Bumgarner.

Ruth Hall, Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

As you can see, we have had some changes in our newsletter staff. Former editor, Vicki Montgomery, is participating in a number of activities which preclude her involvement at this time. We congratulate Vicki on her well-deserved recognition for her work with youth and physical fitness. Several members are contributing to the newsletter and Ruth Ann Hall has been kind enough to take the responsibility of putting it together. Any members who wish to contribute materials or ideas, please feel welcome.

We miss Thelma Pehrson at our meetings although she remains an active member continuing work on queries as corresponding secretary. We are pleased that her recovery from surgery is going well.

Elaine Bumgarner, Jane Godwin and myself will be conducting a work shop for new members on June 1. If you know of anyone who would like to attend as a beginner or for a refresher in genealogical research, please encourage their participation.

We would very much like to hear from our members outside our local area and those unable to attend our meetings. We would like to know how we can better serve you and also give you an opportunity to share your research and genealogical treasures/finds. We welcome your correspondence.

Ev Brightman, President
303 N. G Street
Indianola, IA 50125

Thelma Pehrson, Corresponding Secretary
306 W. Salem Avenue
Indianola, IA, 50125

As president, my goals for our society are to: 1) increase our membership, 2) support opportunities to meet the needs of our membership, and 3) increase the visibility of the Warren County Genealogical society as a vital organization within our community. Toward these goals:

1. We have welcomed several new members since the first of the year and look forward to additional members through our work shop offering.
2. A questionnaire was given members asking for their personal and organizational goals as well as suggested programming. (There are a few questionnaires out there needing to be returned.)
3. We are planning two research trips this year for our members-the IGS library in June and the Iowa Historical Society Library in August.
4. Programs planned for the year include stimulating material from our own members as well as outside speakers. In September, Tom Morain, Administrator of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and my fellow class mate from Graceland College, will provide a program entitled "Growing up in Iowa".
5. We hope to establish a speakers bureau to present programs to community organizations and have representation at community celebrations.

An exciting sesquicentennial year!
Please let us hear from you!

Ev Brightman, President
Warren County Genealogical Society

EXPO '96

The schedule for EXPO '96, two days of workshops and presentations by the Iowa State Historical Society at its Des Moines building, has just arrived. Because the deadline for reduced rate registration is May 20 I will list the genealogy related workshops here. If you are interested call me or call Lynda J. Wessel, Expo Coordinator, 281-5229, or pick up a schedule at the building at 600 East Locust.

Friday, June 14

- 9:00 Doing Genealogy with Kids: Resources and Techniques (Ruth Bartels, Leslie Gardner)
Organizing a County Cemetery Commission (Dean Gipple, Ted Sieck, John Daehler)
- 10:30 The Future of the Past: Historical Records in Iowa (Victoria Irons Walch)
Genealogy: Genetics and Health (Renai Chavez)
- 12:45 Orphan Trains and Genealogy Research (Madonna Harms)
Ask Questions-Find Answers: Using Written and Visual Documents as Sources for Community History (Gordon Hendrickson)
- 2:45 Using Old Photographs as a Resource in Tracing Roots (John Zeller)
- 4:00 Beginning Genealogy: What You Need to Get Started (Kathy Krogmeir)
Using Cemeteries to Explain the History of Communities (Loren Horton)
Genealogy Online: Using the Internet (Roshan Lynn)

Saturday, June 15

- 9:00 How Does Family Fit Into the Picture: Genealogy in the Classroom (Sharlott Blevins)
- 11:00 How to do a Census Search (Connie Street)
- 1:30 Constructing Archival Scrapbooks and Photograph Albums (Nancy Kraft)
Interpreting Your Community's History (Jeffrey Smith)
- 3:00 Overview of Genealogical Computer Software Programs (Joyce Brown)
Analyzing and Interpreting Genealogical Research and Records (Sharlott Blevins)

With registration postmarked by May 20 the total package with dinner and concert Friday and luncheon Saturday is \$70. After May 20 it is \$100. A one-day package of workshops alone is \$35, \$45 later. There are several intermediate packages available. Ruth Hall, 961-5043. Each time listed above has 10-12 other workshops going on at the same time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joan Strautman of Carroll has found an old postcard of the North Side of the Indianola Square #5575. She will sell it for \$15.00. She reports that it is in very good condition. If you are interested write her at 113 E. 14th St. Box 611, Carroll, IA, 51401.

WARREN COUNTY'S PEOPLE & PLACES
OWENS COVERED BRIDGE

Greetings From

Owens' Bridge, near Carlisle, Iowa



The only known covered bridge in Warren County. Postcard from the collection of Stephen Hall.

Yes, Warren County, Iowa, has a covered bridge. (Did have!-but read on!) Neither Clint Eastwood nor Meryl Streep ever stepped into it to bring it the fame of the Madison County covered bridges. However, initials inscribed on the inner walls bear testimony to many a visitor having paused within the Owens Coverd Bridge of Warren County, Iowa.

In 1844 the Army contracted to build a covered bridge over the often-used ford at the point where the Dragoon Trail crossed North River. This point was 1 1/2 miles east of the Carlisle Park on the north edge of the town of Carlisle, Iowa, thence north to North River.

The bridges in the old days were covered to protect the wooden framework from the elements. Winter snow presented a problem for travel through the bridge on the wooden floor when traveling was on sled or sleigh runners. It was solved by shoveling snow into the bridge and "snow paving" the floor so runners could skim straight through.

The original bridge washed away in 1886. Another bridge was built at the same location and used until 1938, then abandoned after another flood.

The bridges 1844, 1886, and 1940 were called, "Owens Covered Bridge" because they lay between the farm of Frederick Owens and the farm of his cousin, Gordon Owens. They frequently exchanged farm work and traveled over the bridge between their respective farms. Threshing season presented a problem. *"The separator and the engine together weighed 14 tons- too heavy to move across the bridge at once. So, Uncle Walt Owens took one at a time and the old bridge shivered as the wheel lugs bit deep into the thick plank floor"* (from poem by F.C. Owens.

The bridge was used for 52 years then abandoned in 1938 after both the road and the river channel had been rerouted. In 1967 the Polk County Board of Conservation acquired the bridge from Gordon and Frederick Owens for \$1.00. In February 1968, this bridge was moved at a cost of \$4,500.00 to its present site on the south edge of Easter Lake in Polk County (go

on Indianola Road to opposite the north entrance to Ewing Park, the lilac park, turn east and go about 1 mile to the entrance to Easter Lake on the north side of the road and then to a Y and take the right hand road. An informational sign stands at the entrance to the bridge.)

The tension rods and the timber diagonals are the only original parts of the bridge. The roof, siding and floor are new materials.

Within the bridge on beam and brace,
Some boldly carved, some faintly traced,
Initials and names, the date and year
Some girl and boy had lingered there;
And many a girl with hair quite gray
Remembers the bridge in a special way,
For there in its dim and romantic recess
She surrendered her very first sweetheart kiss.

from poem by F.C. Owens

Researched and compiled by Louise Pilmer

AN IDEA FOR A CONTINUING PROJECT

In the process of collecting information for the article on the covered bridge on page 5, Louise Pilmer found more material than we could use in the newsletter. We plan to make this available to members in another form.

If you have more information about the bridge or the people associated with it send them to secretary Ruth Hall, 408 E. Salem, Indianola, 50125. Your comments will be added to our file and made available to anyone interested. We are thinking of starting a notebook on sites featured in each newsletter.

MISCELLANEOUS

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is planned for mid-June. If you have news items or suggestions for newsletter content call or write Ruth Hall, 408 E. Salem, Indianola, 50125, 961-5043.

Current Newsletter

AS you can see my skills at the computer are pretty basic. If there is a member who is interested in editing and setting up the newsletter please talk to Ev Brightman, 961-3271. Our hope is that many members will contribute material so that the burden is not on the editor to create the entire thing.

Ruth Hall

GENEALOGICAL CATEGORIES-WARREN CO. FAIR-JULY 26 THROUGH AUGUST 1

If you have questions talk with our Fair Superintendent, Donna Crow, 515/765-4880, or committee member Ev Brightman, 961-3271. There are specific guidelines for the way the exhibits are presented. Senior division is open to all ages, junior division is open to those 16 and under. The Fair book will be available later.

- Class No. Senior Division 58: Photographs
- 1 Ancestral Portrait (may include man and wife)
 - 2 Family Group Photograph
 - 3 Ancestral Home Photograph
 - 4 Pictorial Family History or Poster
 - 5 Organized Collection of Family Pictures
 - 6 Ancestral Church
- Senior Division: 59 Books and Legal Documents
- 7 Family Bible with Records
 - 8 Diary, Ledger or Letter
 - 9 Baptismal, Birth or Marriage Certificate
 - 10 Land Grant, Deed, Mortgage or Record
 - 11 Military Record
 - 12 Will or Probate Record
 - 13 Genealogical Scrapbook
 - 13 Best Display of Documents
 - 15 True Story of the Past, written by exhibitor (Limit: 500 words)
 - 16 Miscellaneous Item
- Senior Division 60: Genealogical Research Material
- 17 Pedigree or Family Tree Chart
 - 18 Lineage Chart
 - 19 Genealogical Record Book
 - 20 Genealogical Map
 - 21 Family Census Records (three years)
 - 22 Best Display of Newspaper Research
 - 23 Best Display of Genealogical Research Material
 - 24 Miscellaneous Research Item
- Senior Division 61: Heirlooms and Artifacts
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 25 Book or Bible | 31 Needlework Item |
| 26 Small Piece of Silver | 32 Small Tool |
| 27 Jewelry Item | 33 Personal Item |
| 28 Glassware | 34 Religious Item |
| 29 Piece of China | 35 Small Toy |
| 30 Small Household Item | 36 Miscellaneous Item |
- Senior Division 62: Warren County Heritage
(Research to be done by the exhibitor)
- 37 Historical Poster depicting the history of a Warren County town, township, organization, or event
 - 38 Historical Poster depicting the history of a method of lost art, craft, trade or custom common to Warren County
 - 39 Photograph depicting life in early Warren County
- Junior Division 63: Ages 16 and Younger
- 40 A Pedigree or Lineage made by the exhibitor
 - 41 A Family Picture
 - 42 Family Record Book, compiled by the exhibitor
 - 43 Genealogical Poster
 - 44 Map showing where Ancestors lived
 - 45 Photographs showing present home and an ancestral home

FROM THE IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

IGS Librarian Sue Cochran has resigned and will be moving to Colorado. A farewell party for her will be Sunday, May 19, from 2:00 until 4:00 at the IGS Library. Everyone is welcome.

Looking for information on an ancestor who was a railroad worker? Write: U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush, Chicago, Illinois, 60611-2031.

Fourth Annual German Research Conference, June 8, Des Moines. Contact Eunice Smith, 3395 East Broadway, Des Moines, IA 50317.

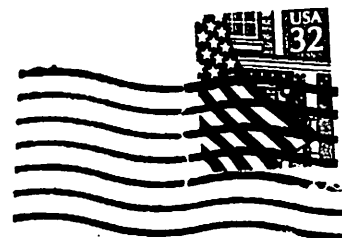
Irish Interest Group meets at the IGS Library at 7:00 PM on the third Monday of the month.

June 21-22 Keo-Mah Genealogy Show. Penn Central Mall Center Court, Oskaloosa.

July 25-27 Third Annual Four Corners Ancestor Fair. Springdale, Arkansas. For more information send a SASE to 4 Corners, 509 W. Spring, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

October 10-12 A CAPITOL AFFAIR. IGS Annual Conference. Iowa City.

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
306 WEST SALEM
INDIANOLA, IA 50125



Marietta Grissom
106 Pine St.
Milo, ia 50168

GRIS106 501662013 1595 05/22/96
FORWARD TIME EXP RTN TO SEND
GRISSOM
305 W JACKSON AVE
INDIANOLA IA 50125-1119

RETURN TO SENDER

