

Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 25, Number 6

November/December 1998

From the President:

Greetings —

As I watched the leaves marking the changing of the seasons on our family farm, I was reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the impact that knowledge of our past has in shaping the future. One personal goal is to have the typed version of my mother's diary from the 40's ready for Christmas. Not just as a unique gift, but also as a healing link.

Continuing this train of thought, I wish to thank all members who have supported the activities of our group during my time as President. We have added a yearly trip to the Iowa Historical building to our program schedule during the month of August. It appears to be a keeper. Our work at the county fair, historical museum, reprint and update of the cemetery book, speaking engagements including beginners workshops and visibility and book sales at local events have furthered our mission of providing the public with genealogical information. The hosting of the district meeting last October, the day before the blizzard, if memory serves, displayed the creative talents of many members. Thanks to those willing to have taken offices and to those now willing to step forward as we present our new slate for election at the November meeting.

The program will be a presentation of the book, *A Prairie Reunion*, in which Barbra J. Scott searches for an understanding of her life through the tie of both men and women ancestors to their Iowa farm ground. Roll Call: Name an ancestor who has influenced your life and how.

In closing, I would like to remember past President Vicki Montgomery who died last February. Her energy and accomplishments in many areas are well known. To me Vicki's legacy is especially visible at the county fair grounds, not only in the paintings on 4-H buildings and her own children, but also in the interest in genealogy she generated in others. Several young people of differing ages stopped by our table at Log Cabin Days displaying the excitement for genealogy gained from one of Vicki's classes. One of our members spoke of her love for teaching and enthusiasm as a tireless worker. While I remember her coordination and contributions toward projects, the restoration of court house records, typing marriage records for publication extracted by Thelma Pehrson and the purchase of a microfilm cabinet for the

Calendar:

- November 16 CEMETERY MEETING, 6:15 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Name an ancestor who has influenced your life and how
Election of Officers
Speaker: Ev Brightman
Topic: "A Prairie Reunion"
- December No meeting
- January 12 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- January 18 REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

WCGS regular meetings are held at the Indianola Public Library on the third Monday of the month (September through May, except no meeting in December). Special meetings may be planned for the summer.

library, my favorite memory is of her presentation to our group of her first trip to Wales. Her joy at having been asked to speak at a church where an ancestor had been vicar was contagious.

I am grateful for the opportunity offered by genealogy to ponder and recognize people who touch our lives in numerous ways.

Thanks,
Ev

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Editor's note:

Yes, I know this newsletter keeps getting longer and longer. No, I don't think I'll ever run out of items to publish.

Yes, I know there is a fine line difference between history and genealogy. Oh, well!

I've added pages in this issue for computer items and genealogical research/swap items gleaned from other newsletters.

Be thinking about your genealogy goals for the New Year.

Enjoy!

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A new family history in the Warren County Historical Library:

Richard B. Jones recently sent Thelma Pehrson a 182-page, 1998-dated copy of his family history, a very complete and well done history. Surnames included are Best, Brown, Davis, Goode, Johnson, Manley, Morgan, Oldaker and Smith, families in Belmont and Otter Townships. As one of the writers of *Milo 1880-1980*, I recognized many of the names, places, pictures and stories he used. I applaud the way he photocopied original documents and photos to authenticate/document his information. Richard used a 3-ring binder format, so he can add more pages as needed. The only thing he hasn't done yet that would make it easier to use would be to index it. I recommend that anyone considering the publication of their family history visit the WCHS Library on a Thursday afternoon to take a look at this one. Richard visited Warren County in September and plans to return next spring. He can be contacted at 23635 Susana Avenue, Torrance, CA 90505, phone 310-378-8816.

"Dark Days of the Rebellion"

At the October 27, 1998 meeting of the Warren County Historical Society, the original typed copy of "Dark Days of the Rebellion", a book written in 1897 by Indianolan George Boothe, was presented to the WCHS Library. The book is a true story of life in a southern prison during the Civil War. The book has been edited and re-published by Steve Meyer. A hard bound copy can be purchased by sending \$27.95, including tax, etc. to Steve Meyer, PO Box 247, Garrison, IA 52229.

Queries:

RANS. Does anyone have information on ancestors of John D. Rans and Christina Bahr Rans? Both are buried in the Norwalk Cemetery. Joan E. (Rans) Lambert, 31646 Delaware Avenue, Livonia, Michigan 48150-3825

COOL. Seeking information on descendants of Hendrix and Mary Wells Cool. They lived in Cool, Warren County. Who put the gravestone for them in the Indianola cemetery? Elsie Cool Hahn, 1500 Evergreen Ave #8, Mission, TX 78572

MC MAHAN. Is anyone researching the name McMahan? Need information on Letitia McMahan, died 3 March 1862, Hartford; John McMahan died 26 June 1866. Jentami McMahan Feldhaus, 520 Squaw Mountain Road, Selma, OR 97538.

REYNOLDS. Researching Joseph L. Reynolds married Mary Taylor in 1869. They had a son and a daughter in Dallas County. In May 1879 using the name Mary Taylor she married John Spear. What happened to Joseph Reynolds? Fern L. Sleezer, 807 North Roosevelt, Cherokee, IA 51012.

WEEKS. Interested in corresponding with the descendants of Joseph Weeks (b. 1782), his son, Charles C. (b. abt 1822 VA) and Serena (b. 1842). Serena died in Indianola in 1911. Their children were Augustus, McClelland, Almetta (Hines), Alberg, Novia and Amanda (Ferguson). Everett W. Spackman, 1132 E. Curtis St., Laramie, WY 82072-2219 (307-745-5630) espack@cyberhighway.net.

Officers 1998:

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Cemetery	Newspaper Abstracting
County Fair Divisions	Obituaries
Courthouse Abstracting	Research Requests
Library Acquisitions	

Newsletter published six times per year. Membership dues \$6.00 per individual or \$9.00 per family.

Bits and pieces ...to honor our Veterans

Civil War:

The following are three letters written by men serving in the Civil War. I have added some punctuation and capital letters to make the letters easier to read, otherwise, they are exactly as written or as I could best decipher the writing. The originals for all three letters are available for viewing at the Warren County Historical Library.

Pittsburgh landing
Saturday May 10th 1862

Dear Sister, It is with pleasure that I seat my self this morning to address a few lines to you in answer to yours, which I received yesterday evening. I was glad to hear that you are well, but I am sorry to say that your letter did not find me enjoying as good health as I have been blessed with ever since I have been in the army. My hand is so unsteady that I can hardly write at all. I am in the division hospital but I am getting about well. The doctor put me on duty to day but I shake. I will not wait on the sick as long as I can help it. Waiting on the sick here is nothing like it is at home. There is five or six dies here every night. I intend to go to the regiment as soon as they will let me off. This is the first time I have been off duty since I have been out.

You wished me to tell you some of the particulars about the battle. I know that I can except that saboth day was a verry hard days work. George Palmer faught lik an old demond. At one time when there was a little seaseation of fireing I notised out in front our line one of our men motioning to us to come and get him. We were lying down at the time and I jumped up a hollowed to the boys and asked them who would with me after him. Lieut Dawson said he would go and we started and then there was captain of another company came and we went to him. When we got to him we could see the tree and snake on the rebble flag and just as we stooped down to pick him the balls flew over our heads like a shower of hail but we got him of without any of us getting hurt. After we had got him of I was left with him and the poor fellow pled with me to run him through with my bayonet. His leg was all mashed up and he was wounded in the back verry severly.

It is reported here that they are fighting at corinth today, but I do not know how trew it is. Corinth is about 12 miles from here. Last Saturday eavening General Pope had a slight engagement with a smal rebble force at a little town some distance from corinth. He had about 4000 infantry and 2000 cavelry. The infantry had two batteries. He placed half of his infantry on one side of the road with a battery and the other half on the other side of the road, all concealed from the road. Then he sent the cavelry to make

the attack. The cavelry advenced and fired on them and the rebbles attaced then furiously. Our cavelry retreated and the rebbles followed them till they got past our infantry. Then they closed in behind them and opened on them with both batteries. They could not stand that long and so they hoisted the white flag, but I must close.

I am flat broke. I have no paper, no envellops, nor stamps nor money. I got four stamps from one of the boys and traded two for paper. Pleas write soon.

I can't write any more till the pay master comes.

*The signature looks like "Jas Pax" then runs off the page
Could this be James Paxton?*

february the 6. 1863

Camp in the field near B—— Station tennissee on the memphis and Charleston Bail Road

My Dear with a troubled hart I take the present time to let my Dear know that I am alive yet but I am far from beeing well in boddy or mind for in vane I have looked for a letter from my Dear. I hope those few lines may find my Dear Wife and my Dear Children all well. My Dear we are expected to move tomorrow to germintown a distance of seven miles. We was ordered to move yesterday and we took our tents down and them on the wagons and there was no tropps that came to relieve us so we was ordered to put our tents up again so we ar here yet. I am not sertin we will move tomorrow but I suspect we will go for this regiment has to go all the time. The wether is verry cold. The ground is covered with snow and has bin for sevral days. The wether was so cold in the tent last knight that my ink froze hard this morning. I suspect the wether is verry cold there. I wish I was there with my sweet old deer to keep her warm this cold wether for I fear she suffers with cold without my beeing there to take care of her. Oh, when will that time ever bee that I can enjoy my home and my Dear wife and babe. My Dear I am not abel to stand the hard marches any moore for I have marched so mency hard marches thriew mud and rain and had to sleep in the mud and rain and I doo not see as there is eney moore prosspect of peace now than there was when I first inlisted. My Dear I will quit riting for the presant. I will wright agane. I hope you have not forgotten me.

Please my Dear wright often and comfort me. So good by my Dear for a day or to. From Lewis Rice to his Dear Harriet Rice Please wright for I am lonley and out of heart.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

The following letter was written June 1864 during the Civil War by Jonathan Walls to his wife Malinda living near Milo and presented to the Historical Society by their daughter Mrs. Jake Demory, 81 years old, of Indianola on October 21, 1940. Mrs. Demory specifically requested that it be "put in history".

Louisiana Batonrouh June 13th 64

Dear wife and family, I once more take my pen to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well at present and do sincerely hope that this letter may find you all well and at home and doing well. I have been with my Regiment over one week and have found lots of the boys that I knew in old _____. They all seemed glad to see me. Charles has got the _____ some and I had a tuch of it as I come down the river, but have got well of it now. I wrote Sam a letter a soon as I got here and told him a bout our fight at greenvill comerny down the river. It was a little the warmest time. Even I seen by the way them 12 pounders shoots I do not want to come in contact with the 8H pounders. We are surrounded with Rebbles here. But they are Sealtening and do not venture to come in ten miles of us. It has rained every day since I got here and the sun shines the hottes I ever felt it in my life. They say it is hotter here than it is at New Orleans. We are just far enough up the River to be out of reach of the gulf breezes. It is thought that we will be sent back to New Orleans but I cannot tell anything about it. I want you to be as contented as you can till I come home. I do not think that the war will last much longer. Our latest news from virginia is good and we think when Richmond taken that the Rebellion will have to cease all though there is a great many Rebbles even in the South west yet. There is an old man living out in the country here by the name of Charles Walls, who is a noted Rebble and a preacher, but I cannot go to se him. He is two far from our lines.

I have nothing more to write at present that would be interesting to you. Try to do the best you can till I come. Get Sam to advise you in _____ to your business. Tell him to write often and write often yourself. Till Henry Canter to write me all so for I would love to hear from any of my old neighbors. Give my best wishes to all the folk that may inquire after me and especially to miss painter if she come home with you. I want you to write as soon as you get this and tell me if you got your cows back again or not and how you got home from davenport. I must close for the drums are beating for drill. No more but remain your affectionate husband till death. Jonathan Walls to his wife Melinda J. Walls

Do not neglect to write often to me and tell all the neighbors to write all so. If miss painer is there tell her to writ to.

Enclosed you will find a little book for Minta. Tell her to learn to read so she can read in it. Give my love to all the children and tell them to be good till I come.

your Jonathan

World War I

The following letters were taken from The Advocate-Tribune, August 8, 1918.

Letter from Sergeant Park Reinmuth:

Somewhere in France, June 30, '18.

Mr. Clint L. Price, Indianola, Iowa

My dear Mr. Price:

These few lines I write to express to the editor my deep appreciation of his kindness in sending me "free gratis" the dear home paper, the *Advocate-Tribune*. I have received three copies, and would have gotten more if it was not for the fact that all of our mail, both first and second class, has been delayed considerable. Some day it will loosen up and swamp us with mail. I cannot begin to tell you how much a soldier in a foreign land appreciates reading a paper from his home town. It is in effect, a huge letter from home. As Harry Lauder would say, "Thanks awful very."

Well, I don't know if I can gather enough subject matter together to make an interesting letter or not, but here goes for a trial.

I suppose you get many letters from the infantry boys, but maybe you haven't heard from soldiers in the aviatioin service and will be interested in these few lines.

In the first place, our business is carried on at some distance back of the trenches. We are in the advanced war zone, however, and can hear the heavy artillery and see the lightning-like flashes at night. We are moved from the front about a distance equal to that between Indianola and Des Moines.

We have seen several German aeroplanes pass over our camp, but the anti-aircraft guns keep them so high you could hardly see them with the naked eye. With my binoculars I can _____ see the distinguishing black _____. The planes are white, and though they are our enemy, I am forced to admit their beauty.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

We landed here the 27th of March and have been hitting the ball ever since. We have nearly completed one flying field and have started work on another. The soil here is very rocky and the surface rocks must of course be picked up and all bumps taken off. The aeroplane is making pretty good speed when it lands and of course any appreciable bump or ditch spells disaster to it.

We sure have some good pilots and we get to see fancy flying quite often. I saw one lieutenant pull off some good stunts within one hundred feet of the ground. Of course he had a machine that was especially adapted to rapid climbing and quick maneuvering.

The French people treat us very nice, and visit us in camp in crowds on Sundays. We have some double gang plows pulled by gas tractors, and you should have seen how the natives stared at it at first. We convinced them that America does things. The plows used in France are made of wood and I think were discovered by Chris. Columbus. Ha! ha!

Yes, France is far behind the U. S. in implements, public utilities and improvements. I hand it to France for her roads though. Hard surface crushed stone roads form a net work over the whole of this country. These good roads come in very handy just now when auto trucks play such a prominent part of the war. The great Napoleon was the promoter of this big asset.

France is a great wine country. Every one drinks it, including little children. It seems to be to the French what coffee is to Americans. It is also very common to see children smoking cigarettes. Wooden shoes are worn a great deal by a certain class of people.

The wild animal life consists of deer, wild boar, porcupine, jack rabbits, and some fox. Snails get to be as large as an English walnut, and the French eat them.

I saw my first cuckoo bird in this country. The first time I heard one I was reminded of being in Connoran's jewelry store when the cuckoo clocks were striking the hour.

When I was in San Antonio, Texas, encamped at Kelly Field I used to visit the old missions and the old Alamo

building on Alamo Plaza. I marvelled at the age of the Alamo building which you know is very old and was very prominent in a certain Mexican raid. Well, that structure is not so old after all. I have seen many castles, cathedrals, and other stone buildings over here that are in a fair degree of preservation which were built before America was discovered in 1492. There is a castle right close to our camp that is over 800 years old, but is partially in ruins.

We are in a very picturesque part of France and I regret not having my camera with me. I hope to see the Alps some day as I have been told they hold fine scenery.

Whatever you do stand by good old Indianola for it is the best town of its size on the face of the globe. If you want to be convinced, visit France. In all of the smaller towns here the residents live in business buildings. A man who operates a store lives in it also. No separate residences whatever. I have never been to Paris as yet, but when I am I hope to see something that will partially redeem what I have seen of the smaller towns.

Horses are worked tandem in every instance. It looks funny to see three horses all strung out on a load. One horse pulls it all most of the time.

Eggs sell for ninety cents per dozen, how will you have yours, up or over, as Swartzlander would put it?

I would sure love to drop in on the business men around the square some time. I would also like very very much to drop in at Meek & Robertson's dry goods store. Ha! ha! No, not to purchase dry goods. You know she works there. Ha! ha! Just remove the court house and do a little clearing, and I'll crank up my Liberty motor, and drop in some evening after supper. Oh yes, don't forget to take away the hitch rack. Ha! ha! That poor hitch rack. How it has been threatened.

I am having a hard time to learn the French language. I am about to give up in despair. Listening to a Frenchman talk sounds like washing clothes on a washboard. If you have trouble in reading this just remember that while writing I am not setting at a roll top desk, and also my light is not a sixty-watt Edison mazda, but only a humble

Thelma Pehrson is helping me with "Bits and pieces about ..." This will include information about various communities, events, or whatever strikes her fancy. The same subject may be featured more than once, depending upon the information found. Thelma is Librarian for the Warren County Historical Library and is gleaning this information from articles, scrapbooks, books, etc in the WCHS Library. (Much of this information was collected by Edith Conn for the Library.) For more information about the WCHS Library you may contact Thelma at 515-961-4409 (home). The Library is open Thursdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

candle.

We have a canteen at which we can buy canned fruits and knick knacks. Also toilet supplies. The Y. M. C. A. is doing a great work over here. Under its management we are entertained quite often by different American troupes who visit the camps. We have motion pictures occasionally also.

When you attend a picture show in Indianola the music is furnished by a piano or other instrument. Here, the heavy artillery upon the front furnishes the big noise. Ha! ha!

Well, we all know that we owe a debt to France. We fellows are over here to sorter square up things. This done we will be back in good old U. S. A. Some think we will eat Christmas dinner at home—twenty years from now. Of course there is a chance of the war being over in fifteen years. They claim the first fifty years of war is the worse and after that it is much better, so I should worry. Ha! ha!

The enclosed photo is a picture of myself with gas mask and helmet in place. My comrades say that I am good looking in the face (when I have my gas mask on). Well, I have gassed you long enough considering that you have no mask so I will thank you again for your paper and remain
your servant in France,
Sergeant Park Reinmuth
474 Aero Const. Squadron,
American E. F. via N. Y.

Following is a letter from Private Lloyd Waechter which was written to his sister. Mr. Waechter is a cousin of Lester Morris, who lives south of town.

France, June 8, 1918

Dear sister—

Well, this is the month to get married and I have done it. Got married to the front line trench but hope to get divorced pretty soon. The old lady treated me pretty rough the last time and I've got a notion not to go back any more. She got mad one night and commenced throwing cold steel at me. The longer she did the worse things got. All I could do was hunt the dugout. In the mixup someone spilled the gas bombs and then we did go round and round. It was terrible.

The mask set us crazy, for there is a clip that slips over your nose so you can't breathe through it. Then you stick about three feet of rubber hose two inches in diameter into your mouth and suck through a tin can filled with some kind of rotten junk. The rubber bands on the mask fit so tight that the top of your head feels like it was paralyzed or something worse.

The gas shells burst about thirty feet in the air. There is a cloud of gas that looks like smoke which spreads all over everything, and of course it works quick too. Along with the gas shells bursting they shoot over lots of shrapnel and high explosives so that it will scatter the gas more quickly. The less stirring around one does the better off they are.

I was on detail that night carrying grenades to the front lines. We were just ready to start when things broke loose. The first gas shell struck close to us. We went into the dugout until the worse was over, then up the hill we started—box of grenades in one hand, rifle in the other. Every other step I took my nose clip would come off. In the scramble that evening we left in such a hurry that I left my trench mask in the dugout.

This was before the attack I had so much trouble with the mask that I told the corporal in charge I would have to go back after my other mask, so set the box of grenades down and high tailed it back after my mask. Then I went back after my box of grenades but they were not there. Mr. Big Shell had landed close to where I left them and things were blown up around there, so did not have to go up front.

In the morning we had quite a job cleaning things up and taking care of the gassed. That afternoon thirty of us relieved fellows in the front lines while the rest of the company was hauled back to a rest camp, and by the way, this is the first time we have ever been hauled to or from the trenches. One sees pictures of them doing it but we are not lucky enough to ride.

That night the huns came over with orders to get prisoners. First they sent over the barrage. In it was a little gas. This lasted for an hour, then the barrage lifted and our own guns placed a barrage in front of our lines of posts, so they did not get through to the three posts we were holding, but they got through in the next one to ours. Out of the fifty that attacked two posts there were twenty-one killed, seven taken prisoners.

The next night we looked for an attack and the next word that came down from headquarters was that they were going to attack us with liquid fire. Maybe you think we were not getting pretty well worn out by this time. Well, thank goodness, they didn't come and the next night we were relieved.

The gas did not affect me much only that I could not talk much and was pretty sore in my chest. Things looked terrible the afternoon after the gas. The leaves on the trees and the grass looked just like there had been

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

an awful frost, then the hot sun shining on it. Everything was dead. The trenches had lots of dead rats and cats. Anything that had life was dead except the men.

The water turned green, just like it does during dog days. A thick scum formed over it and there was a smell of gas all the time we were there. It is awful to see a fellow when he goes crazy with it. They start trying to get their masks off. Some would not put theirs on at all, others had to be almost knocked cold to make them behave. There, you have part of what we went through. You are bound and determined that I write you of our trials and I don't see why you want to know about them for just as soon as anything happens we forget it. What's the use to worry about what has been done, and as the French say, "We don't seem to give a d___ what they pull off on us we are raring to go."

We are having it pretty soft now. Pug Wilkinson is acting as mess sergeant while Vance is at school—and talk about feeds, he's got the world beat when it comes to doing things. Pancakes for breakfast, beefsteak, potatoes, gravy and more junk for dinner and supper. Well, he hasn't started to feed us pie yet but hopes to soon.

This is Sunday, so four of us decided to have a real Sunday dinner. We drew our beefsteak, then had a French woman fry us two dozen eggs, a lot of potatoes (French fried), two cans of peaches, two cans of milk, a can of jam, two packages of cookies, cocoa and bread. Say, but we were setting keen. I'm so full I don't know what to do.

Last night (I'm on M. P. now) we captured a German spy. Oh, how thrilling. The intelligent outfit (num-skulls) reported a flash signal man was working in a pasture outside of town, so a sergeant from the signal corps and myself started out to get him. After dodging around bushes and sliding on our stomachs for about half a mile, we commenced to approach the enemy. The light was still there. Then we extended in a line of skirmishes and closed in on him expecting to get blown up any second. How brave we were! Then, when we got within fifteen feet of him we fixed bayonets and charged. It was awful the way we trampled down the grass, and behold there the enemy lay just as still as a mouse, his light still shining—but alas, it was only a lightning bug and to cap the climax it was perched on top of a grave. Can you beat it? But I never saw such a big lightning bug in all my life.

After having a big laugh over it and calling each other a fool, the sergeant said he believed he could read a paper by the light. I handed him a clipping mother sent me and sure enough it could be done and easy at that. He carried the enemy back to show the smart boys what they had

been seeing, so I hope we won't have any more wild goose chases tonight.

Well, sis, I expect I had better hang up for this time. How's everybody in Peru. Tell them hello. Oh, yes, I forgot to tell you that we are practicing our fighting faces. The idea is to look so ugly that the huns will die from fright. When they see me they can't help but be scared to death. I am enough to scare them when I look natural, and when I look tough it must be terrible.

Send all the pictures you can get hold of the folks. The kids are changing so much I won't know them when I get back. Remember we are a long, long ways from home and even a picture of a stray dog looks good to us over here, just so its from home. Tell my pals to get busy with their cameras, also pencils and paper. Of course I can't write to every one but you tell them I think of them just the same. We have been hitting the ball pretty steady for five months now. Well I just close. With love to all,
Private Lloyd W. Waechter,
Co. A, 168 Infantry,
American E. F. via N. Y.

Letter from Corp Arch M. Simpson:

In France, July 7, 1918

Dear folks:

Well, here I am at last. Back here again and right at home. Wish you could have seen the home-coming. I knew I had friends but it did my heart good to see the boys gather around and shake hands.

I'll tell you we sure have one good company and a fellow appreciates it after being among strangest and hear the wrangling among themselves. We get along like one big family. I was agreeably surprised to find so many of the old boys here, for rumor had it that we had lost the most of our old men. That is that they were in hospitals. But we are still all to the good, for while we miss the ones that are gone we have the best compoany in the regiment yet. At least we think so.

There are several of the boys in the hospital yet but they are stringing in and soon will be nearly all back. Ed Yates is still gone and don't know when he will be back. He didn't seem to get over it as fast as some of the others.

The captain and one of our lieutenants are also in the hospital but the boys who saw them said they were getting well. We will be glad when we are all together again and we want our captain.

While I don't care to take the trip again, under the same

Bits and pieces ...to honor our Veterans, *continued*

conditions, I enjoyed it and think I saw the larger part of France. Wish I could tell you of some of the sights I saw but will tell you of them when I get home.

Have seen some real old buildings. Of course I don't believe all that is told me, but saw one that was built in 1612 and another that was supposed to have belonged to Caesar.

Also saw where some of Uncle Sam's money is being spent. I'll tell you you can see the United States written all over France in the way of improvements, etc.

I am afraid I didn't tell you enough about the Red Cross and in fact part of the time I didn't feel much like writing, but want to say here that we are getting the full benefit of the money given to the Red Cross.

Each patient is given thirty-seven cents per day in addition to the government issue and you can see that sure helps the menu. We sure lived like kings.

And the nurses are just as good as they can be. They are all trained nurses and you bet they take an interest in the boys, so you see we are taken care of. But tell the girls not to come over expecting a vacation for they work hard. I don't see how they keep so cheerful for they have some disagreeable work and patients to put up with. The bunch that took care of us were from Detroit.

They also have stations along the railroads and serve hot coffee to the boys going through. I'll tell you we appreciate all of it. A soldier's traveling rations are not anything extra and the coffee is a real treat. The Red Cross over here means English, French or American, and you are treated equally well in any of them.

I received a big bunch of letters night before last. Nineteen, in fact, and have been reading them over and over.

I hope they sent you word that I wasn't seriously hurt, but don't suppose they did. I know how much you worried until you received my letters but knew of nothing I could do.

I am as good as new again and have proven it by making a good long hike in heavy marching order, so all I have to remember it by is a nice new wound chevron and feel rather proud of it.

Am living in a pup tent with Sutton, my old corporal, the one I had my picture taken with and we are getting along fine. Leading a regular gypsy life.

The weather is fine. Warm days and cool nights and while we have some work to do we are enjoying our-

selves. Wish I could tell you the name of the front we are on at present, but can't do it. Am sure you would recognize the name.

The trenches are good and so is the grub so although it may not last long, we are "setting on the world" as the saying goes, at present, so don't worry about me.

I hope Meda is better by this time. Better keep her in town as long as you can or see she has help. Am slipping you in a souvenir from the sector we were gassed in. It is a French sign giving the directions and was on a stick in the front line.

Well, I will close for this time. Hope you all keep well.
Love to the whole family,
Corp. Arch M. Simpson,
Co. A., 168 Infantry,
American E. F. via N. Y.

World War II

The following is from the Iowa Sesquicentennial World War II Preservation Project.

In order to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II, the Warren County Historical Society, with the cooperation of the American Legion Posts in the county, has recorded on videotape the stories of the men and women who actually participated in that great struggle. This project is dedicated to the families of veterans, students, and to future historians who will be able to hear the stories of World War II from those who were there.

A committee composed of Marty Ford, Norma Norris, Bob Moore, Bob Davey, Jim Ford and Jean Howe, along with Commander Eldon Chittenden of American Legion Post 165, coordinated the project.

This project has been officially endorsed by the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission.

Most interviews were conducted at the Warren County Historical Museum on Thursday afternoons from May 18, 1995, to September 28, 1995. . . . Other interviews were conducted at the Village with the help of Jim Patrick.

Tape #1 5/18/95
James Patrick: Coast Guard—Mounted Beach Patrol.
Patrolled the Eastern Seacoast on horseback watching for saboteurs who might be dropped off by submarines lurking off the coast.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

Ralph Demory: Army—34th Divison. Drafted in 1940 before the war started. Among the first troops overseas. Trained in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Liverpool. First American troops to see battle. Captured by Germans in February of 1943 in Tunisia at Kasserine Pass. Tells of experiences as German Prisoner of War.

Harold Morris: Army Air Corps—Radio Maintenance of B24 Bombers, 90th Bomb Group. Served in Hawaii, Australia, Iron Range Jungles of Australia, Port Moresby, Dutch East Indies, Philippines.

Bob Moore: Coast Guard—Mounted Beach Patrol and Sub Chaser, Air-Sea Rescue. Explains need for Coast Guard Beach Patrol to prevent enemy submarines from surfacing and dropping off saboteurs on deserted stretches of the United States coastline.

Tape #2 5/25/95

Earl Pace: Coast Guard—Sub Chaser. Served in North Sea aboard Sub Chaser protecting shipping from enemy submarines. Describes depth charges and number of subs sunk by his ship.

Helen Pace: Spars—women's branch of the Coast Guard. Wife of Earl Pace, Helen tells of training and duties while serving as a Yeoman in the Spars.

Loren Hurst: Army—34th Division. Early draftee who was only supposed to serve for one year. First American troops in North Africa. Captured by Germans in 1943. Thorough description of conditions and survival as a Prisoner of War.

Tape #3 6/1/95

Lyle Sones: Seabees—Heavy Equipment Operator. Explains duties of Seabees. Tells of building airfields from cane fields on Tinian Island, the largest air base in the world. Tells of cutting through solid rock and the precision needed to assure the safety of pilots and crew.

Bob Davey: Air Corps Tail Gunner, B-17. Describes capabilities of B-17. Tells of first combat mission over an oil refinery in Germany, how plane takes a direct hit but manages to return to base. On second mission, engines fail and crew is forced to parachute over enemy territory. Complete story of partisans picking them up and crew walking over mountains to American lines.

Tape #4 6/8/95

James Vinson: Army—Rifle Replacement. Describes conditions on troop ship to Scotland. Tells of scenes of total destruction of German cities. Served in army of oc-

cupation.

Earl Norris: Army Engineers—Infantry. Sailed to England on the Queen Mary which was converted to a troop ship. Trained for European invasion, landed on Omaha Beach. Moved supplies and troops inland. Trapped in Battle of the Bulge. Patton's tanks rescued them. Fought on the front at the Moselle. Red Ball, truck line to front, Cherbourg. Only 17 of original group of soldiers come home. Describes respect for Patton.

Guy Drake: Army—Field Artillery. Describes training on big Howitzer guns and tells of firing in battle. Liberated German concentration camp, unforgettable scenes and could smell a mile away. American troops outraged by what they saw.

Tape #5 6/15/95

Frances York: Pre-WWII Army, Horse Cavalry; story about Ronald Reagan riding a horse at Camp Dodge in 1938 when he was employed by WHO. WWII, in Germany on a task force protecting Patton's flank, ran captured German Prisoner of War camp. Occupation forces in Japan under MacArthur.

John Pray: Army Mechanical—preparation for D-Day. Omaha Beach, D-Day +3. Drove truck onto beach under fire. Lost 30% of men caught in trap in 8 hours. Battle of Bulge. Belgians fight German paratroopers with pitchforks. Liberated German concentration camp. Fought in lots of battles.

Glen Johnson: Army—last of Horse Cavalry troops attached to 10th Mountain Division. Describes mules used in Italian mountains. Night patrol Platoon Scout. Crawled on stomach through moonlight on mountain trails covered by German machine guns, seeking out the enemy.

Verlyn McGraw: Air Corps—Training in United States. Landing in England in fog with British Hurricane plane leading way. Nose Turret Gunner on B-24. Shot down by German planes on combat mission over Germany. Complete account of capture, internment, and liberation as a Prisoner of War of the Germans.

Tape #6 6/18/95

Ora Lyman: 34-th Division—Medics. Captured by Germans in North Africa. Exchanged because he was in Medics. (See Karl Sinclair, Tape #7, who was in same division.)

Ruben Parrish: Tank Driver—France. Hit land mines and disabled tank. Under fire and wounded in leg.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

Taken to German prison camp with American doctors. The day he was taken prisoner his brother, who was also a tank driver in same outfit, was killed.

Robert Boos: Army Artillery—landed on Omaha Beach. Typical GI fighting in Germany. Crossed Rhine River five times. Encountered Moroccan night fighters. Describes artillery fire. Good story about Army discipline.

Dr. Joe Graham: Veterinarian—Medic in the Pacific. Humorous stories of Army life. MacArthur landing on Leyte. Theory of "shell shock" and "battle fatigue." Native customs. In Yokohama day peace treaty signed. Reaction of Japanese civilians to GIs.

Tape #7 6/18/95

Myron Criswell: Navy—stationed on destroyer in Pacific. Carried troops and supplies. Participated in six or seven landings. Met Indianola men in Marianas. Describes burial at sea.

Karl Sinclair: Drafted May, 1941. Captured by Germans in North African Invasion. Sent to Dachau Concentration Camp. Beaten while on work detail, no medical treatment. Heard American bombers. Twenty-seven months as POW. Describes Red Cross food. Escaped across river and got to American lines.

Albert Payne: Navy—Destroyer USS Hensley, in New Guinea, Australia. Describes MacArthur's strategy for bypassing islands and starving out the enemy. Torpedoes off northern New Guinea. Broke ship in half. Sand within 5 minutes. Rescue at sea covered with black oil. Huge submarines built by Japanese to evacuate troops from islands.

Max Ashbaugh: Army—Mechanical—Truck Repair—Omaha Beach. France, Germany. Description of tents and digging foxholes when shells are coming in. Bombing of St. Lo. Saw General Patton and respected him. Rough seas on troop ship.

Max Hill: Army—Australia, New Guinea. Polliwog initiation crossing Equator. Built air bases and hospitals on New Guinea. In convoy, torpedoed third day out. Three from Warren County on ship. Tells of rescue. Rough seas and storms.

Verlyn McGraw and Herb Plambeck: Herb, a war correspondent for WHO Radio, had interviewed Verlyn 50 years ago in Europe just after Verlyn had been released from a German prison camp. They met 50 years later at this taping at the American Legion in Indianola.

Tape #8

6/22/95

Arnold Kueker: Navy—joined 3 months before war started. Aircraft School—worked on PBY's. Aboard first aircraft carrier, USS Siboney, helped rebuild USS Enterprise after Kamikaze attack. Describes procedure for landing on aircraft carrier. G-forces on dive bomber. Line up of ships at sea on convoy. Duties on aircraft carrier.

Ralph Jones: Army—Tank Division—Omaha Beach. First soldiers to set foot on German soil. Siegfried Line, Battle of the Bulge. Nazi Panzer Division called American Tank Division "Black Death." Five major battles. Ground shaking when wave after wave of American planes went over. Smell of concentration camp, piles of bodies. Describes Paris on VI Day. Twenty-five months overseas.

Peter DeGard: Army Artillery. Convoy to Africa—zigzag under fire. Under terrible direct fire from Germans in invasion of Salerno. Battle of Cassino—5th Army bombing of Cassino—Maginot Line, PO Valley, artillery observer on front lines. German 34th Division wanted to surrender to American 34th Division because they had fought each other throughout the war.

Melvin Flesher: Army—34th Division—168th Infantry. Heavy weapons. First troops overseas. Fought in North African campaign, then on to Italy. Salerno, Cassino, Anzio. When they ran out of ammunition and rations while fighting in Italian mountains they threw rocks at the Germans. Ernie Pyle wrote of it in "Brave men." First in Rome. Saw Mussolini hanging by heels. Carrying weapons across river in water up to chin when he couldn't swim.

Tape #9 "The Home Front"

1/12/95

James Weinman: Father head of OPA rationing. Spends weekend with Vice President Henry Wallace in Washington.

Barbara Howard: Social life during war. Was at Babe's the night the WACs came to Des Moines.

Betty Wiedmann: No elastic for underwear. Travels on train with baby.

Charlotte Johnson: Working at ordinance plant. Buying Savings Bonds.

Jean Howe: Black Market tires.

Norma Norris: Coordinator of Home Front. Civil Defense, V-Mail.

Bits and pieces ... to honor our Veterans, *continued*

Tape #10

7/6/95

Guy Wright: Seabees—describes life on Guam. Japanese jumped off cliffs rather than surrender. Some still holding out in 1953. Native drink. Typhoon on island.

Jack Howard: Career Navy—saw Pearl Harbor just before and after December 7th attack. Ships picking up bodies. Steamed all over the world. Description of Navy life aboard ship.

Russell Long: Description of typical 18-year-old infantryman—walk across Germany on cleanup near the end of the war. Elbe River—sees Russian troops, mostly Mongolians. Lots of German prisoners. Occupation Force after war. Discusses dropping of atomic bomb.

Wilbur Holcomb: Army—U.S. civilians cheer troops as train goes through station. Describes massed ships in convoy. England so crowded had to be sent to Ireland. Invasions of North Africa, Italy, Marseilles. Built Bailey Bridges. Describes VJ Day.

Tape #11

7/13/95

Karl Lundahl: Navy Pilot—aircraft carrier. Extensive testing and training. Chose to fly torpedo bomber. Bermuda Triangle. First landing on aircraft carrier during snow storm. Within 2 months of being the youngest Navy pilot to qualify. (President George Bush was youngest.)

James Weinman: Army, Infantry-16 weeks Basic, sent overseas. Naples, bombing of Cassino, Anzio. Mules and mud and mountain fighting in Italy. Eighteen-year-old in combat. Germans told them was over. Scrounging for food. Patrolled Yugoslavia with baseball bats.

Myron Sorden: Air Corps—navigator of B-17. Description of training. England—shot down over Germany on first mission. Captured by Germans. Tells of life in prison camp. Forced march of 120 miles in blizzard. Piece of bread and cup of rice in four days. Ate grub worms in food. No coal, no heat. Went through Dresden two nights before bombing.

Tape #12

7/20/95

Sterl Conn: Army Medics. Served in hospitals in Africa and Italy. Tells of heavy casualties of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy when he worked 72 hours straight taking care of casualties. Malnutrition of German Prisoners of War. Caring for Russian patients. Dealing with officers and other army personnel.

Lloyd Surber: Air Corps—Aircraft Mechanic and Crew

Chief on cargo plane. Johannesburg, Italy, parachuted into a rice paddy in India from C46 when engine caught fire. Tells of travels after VE Day.

Tape #13

8/3/95

Jud Miller: Army Intelligence—Pacific—Guam, Iwo Jima. Built models of terrain that represented landing sites for troops. Japanese suicides on Guam. Show artifacts he brought home from war that are on display at the Warren County Historical Museum.

Robert Parker: Army—Advance Scout—searched out enemy before battle. Fought up through New Guinea and the Philippines. Saw Hiroshima soon after bomb dropped. No protection from radiation. Describes reaction of Japanese and devastation of city. Army of occupation.

Ernest Bryant: Army Air Corps—B-29 Maintenance. Officer Training. Duty in Australia, India. Guam, Tinian. Describes General LeMay. What makes a good officer. Stories about saluting.

Albert Gruebel: Army Field Artillery Observation—Utah Beach, four Battle Stars. Big German gun in tunnel in mountain mounted on railroad tracks. Battle of the Bulge, cold weather Normandy, Rhineland, Central Europe.

Tape #14

8/4/95

Dr. Clare Trueblood: Medics—digging foxholes in Kiska—American troops killed by “friendly fire.” Europe—set up hospital in England four days before D-Day. Followed Patton’s Army across Germany into Austria. Describes triage. Men injured with wood bullets near end of war.

Kenneth Kemp: Army Air Corps—Math instructor for pilots. Describes duties of instructor for bombardiers and other Air Force personnel.

Glenn (Bodge) Bowles: Army—Combat in Italian Alps. Relieved of combat to referee a game in Italy, came back to fight after game. Difficult terrain to fight on, Germans tough. Italian boy became mascot of company, still in contact with him.

Tape #15

8/10/95

Ernest Johnson: Seabees—Navy. Tells of family life and reason for joining service. Seasickness on troop ship. Standing in line for chow. 134th Battalion. Typhoon on Guam. Served on Battleship Missouri during Korean War. Five Battle Stars. Fifty-four consecutive days of

Bits and pieces ...to honor our Veterans, *continued*

bombarding.

Ray Carroll: Army—Instructor of Pilots on Link Trainer, instrument flying in simulated cockpit of a plane. Describes duties and conditions at base in Bakersfield, California. Tells of women in Grand Island, Nebraska, who fed boys on every troop train that went through.

Tape #16 8/11/95

Jack Young: Army Air Corps. Describes intensive training to become a B-24 Bomber Pilot. Jungle Survival Training—eat grubs and hearts of palm trees. Combat missions in Philippines with 22nd Bomb Group. Bombed airfields and oil refineries on Formosa. Dropped napalm bombs on Kamikaze planes in Hong Kong and Shanghai. On last combat mission, he flew into typhoon in weather plan; 14-hour flight. Saw Nagasaki after the bomb dropped.

Millard Youtz: Navy Intelligence Officer. Dutch Harbor, Aleutian Islands. Top security clearance; breaking and encoding all messages that came into Dutch Harbor. Work station in center of mountain. Describes old WWI Russian ships used to transport war material given by the United States.

Ken Smith: Army ROTC at University of Iowa, 1932. Active duty, June 1942. Police and Prison Officer for 3 years in Colorado. Sent to Philippines as Petroleum Officer to inventory oil and gas supplies. Tells of Japanese officers disciplining their own men by putting them in "sweat boxes."

Tape #17 8/17/95

Ray Heisner: Marines—Aircraft Mechanic. Describes Basic Training and discipline. Running Obstacle course, advantage of being tall. Drill Sergeant—how he learned from tough discipline. Initiation for crossing equator. Marshall Islands, Gilberts, Mariannas. Fighting back and forth with Japanese to capture airfield. Tells of scene after battle. Malaria. VJ Day.

Bob Wilder: Army—last of Mule Packs in Quartermaster Corps. Germany—drove supplies to the front. Went without sleep for five days. Describes truck convoy night driving.

Joe Pullen: Navy—duty in Engine Room on ship near end of war. Finished high school after service. Tells of Principal Harry Grange helping him and other veterans through school.

Alvin Cummings: Enlisted before Pearl Harbor attack.

Omaha Beach D-Day +3. Describes fighting in hedgerows in France. Squad leader of machine gun unit. Tells of being wounded—89 days in body cast. Received a Purple Heart.

Tape #18 8/24/95

Dan Tometitch: Navy—PBY Seaplane Tender—Marshall Islands. SW USS Franklin, aircraft carrier that was hit by two bombs. Saipan, Okinawa, smoke screens to hide from Kamikazes. Minesweepers in Tokyo Bay. Ship zig zags to avoid subs. Typhoon.

John Bird: Army—Combat Battalion, Heavy Equipment. Landing on Guam. Contracted malaria but had to go into battle without medical attention. Cleaned out caves containing Japanese. Tokyo Rose knew American plans before troops did. Lyte, Okinawa. Describes heavy combat, digging foxholes, fighting Japanese. Kamikazes, one-man suicide subs.

Tape 19 8/29/95

Gerald Beymer: Army—France, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Bergtesgaden. Victory parade down 5th Avenue, New York. Describes gliders used for troop transport.

Dr. Elmo Barnum: Navy—Small Boat Officer—Landing Craft—LCC. Amphibious assault in Pacific. Led assault waves of troops into six invasions under heavy fire. Crossed Equator 16 times. Philippines, Okinawa. Full story, "Bubbles under the Southern Cross," available in booklet at Indianola Library or Warren County Museum Library.

Warren Simpkins: Army—Chaplains' Assistant. Inducted June 1942, Operation "Torch," North Africa. German subs known as Wolf Packs. Eight-day, 100-mile march in 123° heat to toughen troops. Silver Star for rescuing soldier under fire, Bronze Star. Ardennes. Malmedy—massacre of American prisoners. Was sitting in Jeep in middle of Mines Remagen Bridge while German planes tried to destroy it. Hauled bodies from front by Jeep load. Caught in minefield. Bombing of St. Lo by 3,000 American planes. American troops killed by own bombs. Saw tremendous amount of war.

Bill Buxton: Navy—Instructor and Finance Officer. Tells of Navy life while on duty in Florida.

Tape #20 8/31/95

Lon Decker: Army—First Draft, 1942—Field Artillery Observation—Flash and Sound. England, France. Describes bombing of St Lo, as seen from a foxhole. Amer-

Bits and pieces ...to honor our Veterans, *continued*

ican troops killed by American bombs. Couldn't see sun because there were so many planes in the sky. Got busted in rank, made Staff Sergeant and received Bronze Star in same day.

Joe Carter: Army Air Force—Nose Gunner on B-24. Troop trains converted from cattle cars. Italy—first morning on duty sees plane blow up on takeoff. Po River, Brenner Pass, 25 missions to Austria, Germany, Vienna. Thorough description of Air Force Gunner's experiences in combat. Landing without brakes carrying 500 pound bombs.

Don Maples: Army—France—Camp Lucky Strike—Squad Leader of Mortar Unit. Blown out of foxhole by 88 mortal shell. Stone deaf for a month. Had to wait until dark to be evacuated by medics. Describes colors of 88 shells coming in.

Bob Bowery: Crew Chief, Army Air Force. Inducted December 3, 1941, gone for 35 months before getting home for furlough. Good variety of stories describing treatment of GI's by the English, planes coming in after being shot up in combat, London during air raids, humorous incidents of Army life.

Tape #21 9/14/95

Fred Putz: Leyte, Mindora. Heavy front-line combat for months. Spent from 13th of April until August in front lines. Japanese were close all the time. Wasn't looking for medals, just wanted to make it back home.

E. G. Booth: Navy Pilot—Flight Training at Central College, Pella. Describes training to become a torpedo bomber in TBF Grumman plane. Anti-submarine warfare, hunter killer groups. Supersonic torpedoes. Group sank three German submarines. Flew Corsair plane.

Dean Iverson: Army Infantryman. Rushed to Europe when Battle of the Bulge was being waged. Fifteen thousand troops on ship going to Europe. Described artillery fire. Got hit by mortar shell. Laid in icy water in tank trap while under fire from German machine guns. Stumbled, and man directly behind him was shot through stomach. Swollen and frozen feet. One hundred twenty men from the Unit tried to cross the river, sixty survived. Eleven months in service, six in hospital.

Leo Rogers: Army—Chemical Warfare—Drafted April 1941. On convoy headed for Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Sent back to States to Iceland to guard tanks of mustard gas and Lucite gas. Sent to Scotland and England and studied about chemical shells. Had poison gas loaded for Normandy invasion, never used.

Men drowned coming off landing barges. Buddy saved his life many times. Bombing of Cherbourg and Belgium. Lots of combat. Loaded ammunition for 12 hours straight.

Tape #22

9/28/95

Russ Overton: Tells of support given to servicemen by home folks. England, France, Rhine River. Tells of dead Germans handcuffed to guns by their own officers so they couldn't desert. Tells of German lady providing a place for his squad to take a bath while she washed and dried their clothes.

Warren Chandler: Army—B-25 Pilot—Bombed Brenner Pass in Italy. Germans brought in 900 guns. Dropped phosphorous bombs to light up target before main force sent in. Axis Sally said pilots who dropped phosphorus bombs would be executed if captured. He remembered her words when he brought back a shot-up plane with only one engine and crash landed safely. Saw German jet plane. One-third of pilots who were in his outfit did not come back from war.

Clarence Walk: Army Air Corps—Tells of Frank Wright of Milo who was killed in action in Italy. Hauled supplies and troops in South Pacific. Leyte Landing, Luzon. Serviced planes for the 5th Air Force. Army of Occupation in Japan. Tells of flying into volcano with "hot" pilots.

Tape 23

11/14/95

R. Dean Wickett: Army—Operation "Torch." North African Campaign. Poorly equipped to fight, overrun by Germans, commanders dropped leaflets telling troops to get out any way they could. Lay concealed in cactus field three days, Arab turned GI's over to Germans. Prisoner of War from February of 1943 until end of war.

Richard DeWitt: Army—B-29 Pilot. Protected Panama Canal. Bombed Japanese shipping in Far East. Fire bombed Tokyo. Ditched plane over Burma jungle.

Roy Moss: Army Medic—Operation "Torch." North Africa. Tells of watching German tanks raising clouds of dust, overrunning American troops. Two Silver Stars for rescuing wounded men under fire. Avoided capture by running back through German lines.

Computers On-line

Indiana State Library has an online database of Indiana marriages through 1850. Parents are not listed.

<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/indiana/genealogy/mirinfo.html>

Marion County, Iowa, Genealogical Society News, July 1998

General Land Office Database is now available online and contains federal government grant records from a number of eastern states. Credits are not listed at this time. Serialized patents are next to be added and that is 1.25 million records. After that the state of Iowa and then the misc., which include credits. Their address is:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

Marion County, Iowa, Genealogical Society News, July 1998

Internet warning: Putting your living relatives personal information on a Web page isn't a good idea. Scam articles and others might use these personal details to commit fraud either against your relatives, or to impersonate them. Often banks and other institutions use mother's maiden names to identify customers. For these reasons, putting online the personal data of someone who is still alive, including their mother's maiden name, isn't safe.

*Monroe Co (Iowa) Gen. Soc. Newsletter Jan-Mar 1998 via
Wayne County (Iowa) Genie News, July 1998*

The Chicago Public Library: <http://cpl.lib.uic.edu>

The Newberry Library: <http://www.newberry.org>

Illinois Link Page: <http://we.got.net/docent/usa/ill.htm>

Rootsweb Mailing Lists

by Karen Tippets (*Westward Into Nebraska, Greater Omaha Genealogical Society, July/August 1998*)

A year or two ago, we did a column about mailing lists on the web. Shortly after it went to press, the Maeser lists crashed, undone by some spammers. (Spam, to the uninitiated, is large amounts of e-mail sent out indiscriminately to multiple people. It may be ads for 'get-rich quick' schemes, porn sites on the net, even legitimate advertising that is not desired by the recipient. Large amounts can be annoying to the recipient, but when sent in sufficient quantities can crash a computer server.) In the last year, rootsweb computers have taken up the project, and now, in addition to being the genealogy host for multiple genealogy sites, also sponsors mailings lists (over 3500 in all).

If you have e-mail capabilities, you want to sign up for mailing lists appropriate to your individual needs. These can be surname lists (such as Sharp-L, Baker-L, Sides-L,

Jones-L, etc), geographic lists (NEBRoots-L, PALANCAS-L, Va-Southside-L, etc.), ethnic lists (Melungeon-L, PADutchgenOnly-L, ScotchIrish-L, etc.) There are lists for beginners: Gen-Newbies-L, for genealogy information: GenTips-L, swapping research: GenSwap-L, publishers, professional researchers, etc. Basically there is something for everybody.

Some of the lists generate a lot of mail because there are 1000+ individuals on the list. If you don't have time to check the mail daily, try not to subscribe to one of the big ones, because you will get a lot of mail. If there is a lot you're not interested in, delete buttons work very well. Most lists do not allow flaming (sending insulting remarks in response to someone else's post. Disagreements are allowed, but not rudeness), although there are some—especially the ScotchIrish list—that get pretty heated (I think the overall feistiness of this ethnic group may have something to do with it.)

To look up the lists of your choice, go to the web site:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/%7Emaillist/>

If you don't have internet access, but do have e-mail, you can look up the lists at the library to find out what you want to sign up for. You cannot sign up for the mailing lists from the library computer, so write the name of the lists you're interested in. We did a workbook on mailing lists for the last workshop which can be found at the reference desk. It is material downloaded directly from rootsweb.

To sign up, add "request" to the title of your mailing list of choice in the mailing address and add:

@rootsweb.com

The word "subscribe" (without quotes) goes in the body of the e-mail. (If your carrier requires a subject line, you can put subscribe there as well.) It will sign you up, you will get a letter of confirmation, giving the rules and you're in business.

Why sign up for a mailing list? You will be able to contact people you didn't know existed. Some of these folks have the information you need to complete a family group. Ask Dan Morris how his mailing lists helped him. A mailing list took one of my lines from 1840 in TN back to the 1500's in Germany. What will a mailing list do for you?

Now a word of caution. Just because it comes over the mailing lists, doesn't mean it is 100% accurate. Use the information as resources to look into the original records. Don't be afraid to ask for their documentation. Be aware they may ask for yours.

Research Helps

Photocopy Publication Pages

It is always a good idea to photocopy the publication page(s) of the family Bible as well as the family information pages. The date the Bible is published is the earliest date that information could have been entered. From that you can tell whether information was entered from memory (or some other source) or possibly contemporary to the event. A Bible published in 1854 that records a death in 1830 was obviously written from memory, but a death in 1860 could have been made at the time of the event, and may be more reliable.

Union County (Iowa) Union Roots, August 1998

1862 Homestead Act?

If your ancestor obtained land under the 1862 Homestead Act, or bought land from the Government, the application is sure to be on file. These files hold a four-page questionnaire filed by the applicant. Included are the names of family members and other data. Write to Civil Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20409

*NW Iowa Root Diggers,
via Monroe County (Iowa) Gen. Soc.
April-June 1998*

Civil War Medical Records

Medical records of men drafted or rejected for the Union Army are in the National Archives under group records #110, "Medical Record of Examinations." These records are arranged by Congressional Districts as of 1863. Data includes: residence, age, birthplace, occupation and physical characteristics. If a man was rejected, reasons are given under "Remarks."

Central Iowa Gen Society, Marshalltown, IA, Apr-Jun 1998

Passports - An Overlooked Source

If your ancestors returned to "the old country" to visit, they needed passports. Passport applications provide date and place of birth and a personal description of the traveler. For records prior to 1906, write to Diplomatic Records Branch, National Archives, Room 5E, Washington, DC 20408. For passports issued during 1906 or later, write to Passport Office, Dept. of State, 11425 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520. When writing, include applicant's name and residence and the place and approximate date of application. A charge is made for the search and the copies of the records.

Central Iowa Gen Society, Marshalltown, IA, Apr-Jun 1998

Finding Living Relatives

To contact a living person whom you have "lost", write to the person. Be sure to include your address and telephone number in the letter. Send the letter in a unsealed stamped envelope, along with a cover letter to the Social Security Administration, Letter Forwarding Unit, 6401 Security Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21235. Include in your cover letter all you know about the person: name, Social Security number, birthplace, birthdate and the name of the person's parents. You do not have to know all the information, but the process will be quicker if you give more identifying information. If the person you are seeking is listed in the SSA files, the letter will be forwarded to him/her and it's up to that person to contact you. It's worth a try as the service is free to you. You paid for it with your tax dollars.

Poweshiek County Iowa Hist and Gen Society, Apr-Jun 1998

Revolutionary War Pensions - This is a new book at IGS.

Bounty Lands

From a pamphlet entitled "Genealogical Research in the Virginia State Library":

Only men who served for three or more years in a state or continental line unit and heirs of men who died in service were entitled to bounty land. The amount of land was dependent upon the individual's rank and length of service. Lands awarded for such service were located in the VA Military Districts of KY and OH. VA kept no record of bounty land grants after issuing the warrant which entitled the individuals to the grants. The number of a warrant issued to a specific individual can be established through an unpublished index to the Land Office Military Certificates available in the Archives. To determine the disposition made of a particular warrant, it is necessary to write to the Sec. of State, Commonwealth of KY, State Capital, Frankfort, KY 40601 Attention: Land Office or the Ohio Land Grant Office c/o The Auditor of the State, 88 East Broad St., 4th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

Union Roots, Creston, IA, Aug 1998

Message reply post cards

The post office sells a "message reply" double post card for forty cents. This is certainly less than the cost of stamps, paper and envelopes for a letter with SASE. If you are requesting a brief reply, this is the way to go.

Union Roots, Creston, IA, Aug 1998

The following are some examples of items exhibited at the 1998 Warren County Fair:

**Category: True Story of the Past
Blackberry Time**

by Ev Brightman
received a red ribbon

My family of Swedish emigrants could survive and thrive on an Iowa creek bottom farm at the turn of the century due to minimal overhead expenses. They chopped their own wood, dug their own coal, raised and butchered their own meat, grew their own vegetables and PICKED their own berries. The creek, Little Whitebreast, might take their crop three out of four years, but on that fourth year when the "better farm land" on higher ground was suffering from drought, my family sold seed corn to the surrounding area farmers and turned a profit.

One joint family effort that remained a favorite across generations was gathering the black raspberries which grew in a large patch near the hickory timber toward the back of the farm. This berry patch was very prolific. In my mother's diary, a 1942 entry mentions canning 80 quarts of black raspberries for the coming winter. This yearly event continued from the early 1900's through the late 1940's which luckily were the early part of my childhood.

A typical berry gathering day would begin at the first light of dawn in an attempt to avoid the heat of the day. Prior to the days of insect repellent, the dress of choice consisted of a long sleeved work shirt worn over a used pair of my father's or grandfather's overalls, accented by a red bandanna tied around the hair. It was a great treat for me as a child to see my mother wearing "men's" clothes. Due to the early hour, pant legs were usually wet with dew after the walk to the "sand ditch" even before the berry picking started.

All available buckets, pans and tubs were hauled in a horse drawn wagon or in later years, the family pickup truck. A lunch was packed as no one returned home until all berries had been picked.

The canning process was also a family cooperative effort which included my grandmother, her three grown daughters and any available grandchildren capable of helping...or simply hanging around to sneak a handful of sweet berries. Some berries were canned in their juice, while others were crushed, strained and simmered for juice and jellies. Great Uncle Gus claimed his share for the making of his blackberry wine for which he was known throughout the neighborhood.

Although the blackberry patch remains, it has dwindled to a few precious handfuls of berries a year. The realities of

those days: working in humid Iowa heat with wet pant legs, fighting insects, watching for snakes and a full day of canning over a hot wood cook stove in the middle of summer, cannot compete with a child's memories of golden dawns laced with dew, the laughter and security of family, all saturated with the delicious sweetness of a handful of stolen berries.

Category: Family Group Photo

exhibited by Ev Brightman
received a blue ribbon

Photograph depicts the characters of the women in my mother's family. My three cousins are posed in their "How to make it in the big city" manner, which was totally lost on their grandmother (homemade dress), their own mother (wearing men's pants, which she usually wore to the field) and their aunt, who could only see that "the kids" were home for a visit. I (who idolized all of them) am the small child peaking from behind.

Most definitive is the character of my Aunt Esther, who you will note is standing behind a rock. The reasoning was that she had on a pair of tennis shoes (before their time) with holes in them and did not want to stand out in the picture. Pretty well sums her up.

My grandmother, Alida, has an exceptionally wide smile, which was uncharacteristic of her. Only with that smile do I see her features in my cousins.

Category: Ancestral Photo

exhibited by Ev Brightman
received a red ribbon

This year I acquired this photograph of my paternal great grandfather, John Wesley Butrum, born 1863 in Illinois. He married Mary Ellen Campbell in 1886. The couple had two children, Clifford (my grandfather) and Bertha, and lived in Jasper and Lucas counties.

John Wesley was fascinated with the west, traveling frequently to Nebraska and beyond to work the harvests. Mary became impatient with his travels and turned him out. He returned to Cody, Nebraska, where he lived until his death in 1922, which was suspected to have been a murder. Stabbed in the back over a card game was the unofficial story. He was known as a gambler, good with horses and performed as a "hatchet artist" in the latter days of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

On a family vacation in 1963, I found a hand hewn headstone marking his grave. At his funeral, local Native Americans gave my grandfather money which John Wesley had loaned them. They considered him to be kind.

In his face, I see my own father and from the story comes the name of my youngest son, Cody.

Food for thought... The United States Is...

The Civil War - Private Leander Stilwell of the 100th Indiana went home:

I arrived at the little village of Otterville about sundown . . . and I stalked up the middle of the one street, with my sword poised on my shoulder; musket fashion, feeling . . . proud (and) hoping to see some old friend. (A man in a store) leaned forward and looked at me, but said nothing. A . . . big dog sprang off the porch of a house and . . . standing on his hind legs with his forepaws on the palms, barked at me loudly and persistently—but I attracted no further attention. . .

I was soon at my old boyhood home. My folks were expecting me. . . There was no "scene" when we met . . . but we all had a feeling of profound contentment and satisfaction. . . too deep to be expressed by mere words.

I found that the farm work my father was then engaged in was cutting and shucking corn. So, the morning after my arrival, I doffed my uniform, put on some of my father's old clothes and proceeded to wage war on the standing corn.

Photography had come of age just as the war began, and more than a million photographs of it are thought to have been made. While the fighting went on, the public appetite for the pictures was insatiable, but when it stopped no one seemed to want them anymore, as if their vivid reality too painfully perpetuated in the mind the calamity just ended. Thousands of glass plates were sold to gardeners, not for the precious images they held, but for the glass itself. In the years following Appomattox, the sun slowly burned away the war from thousands of greenhouse panes.

Memories, too, were softened and erased, so that the war's reality was lost in myth, and it soon became hard to tell just what was lost and what was gained.

Six hundred and twenty thousand men died in the Civil War, almost as many as in all the rest of America's wars combined. Millions were left with vivid memoirs of men who should still have been living.

During the war, half the men of military age in the state of Iowa served in the Union army, filling forty-six regiments. Twelve thousand five hundred fifty-three of them died; 3,540 on the battlefield, 515 in prison camps, 8,498 from disease; 8,500 more went home with serious wounds. Those figures were fairly typical: in Mississippi, in 1866, one-fifth of the state's revenue was spent on artificial limbs.

The South was devastated: Ten billion dollars in property had been laid waste; two-fifths of its livestock had been destroyed—it would take a quarter of a century just to replace the horses. In the end, for all the bravura of its leaders, for all the courage of the men who fought to establish and defend it, the Confederacy had been little more than that—an assortment of states unified only by their belief in the abstract right to secede.

Despite emancipation, blacks fared worst after the war. Four million Americans had been freed after four years of agony, but the full meaning of that freedom remained unresolved. The Thirteenth Amendment was followed by a fourteenth, and a fifteenth, which promised full citizenship and due process of the law for all American men, white and black. But those promises were soon overlooked in the scramble for a new prosperity, and white supremacy was brutally reimposed throughout the old Confederacy. The white South won that war of attrition, and it would take another century before blacks regained much of the ground for which so many men had given their lives.

"After our Rebellion," U. S. Grant wrote, "when so many young men were at liberty to return to their homes, they found they were not satisfied with the farm, the store, or the workshop of the villages, but wanted larger fields." Lincoln had wistfully voiced a desire to take the transcontinental railroad all the way out West "when this war is over." Now that railroad bound the coasts together and the Great Plains filled with farms while farmers' sons and immigrants flooded into the cities and the factories that grew up around them.

Before the war, people had tended to say "The United States are." After it was over, they said "the United States is." "America has no north, no south, no east, no west," Sam Watkins wrote after it was all over; "the sun rises over the hills and sets over the mountains, the compass just points up and down, and we can laugh now at the absurd notion of there being a north and a south . . . *We are one and undivided.*"

Poweshiek County Iowa Hist and Gen Society, Apr-Jun 1998

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Publications about Warren County

	Price	Shipping	Tax (IA residents)
Available from WCGS			
Jane Godwin, 808 West Detroit, Indianola, IA 50125 (515-961-3363):			
◆ <i>Birth Records of Warren County through 1920</i> , including delayed births, hardbound, 295 pages, indexed.	\$15.00	\$3.00	5% (IA residents)
◆ <i>Atlas of Warren County for the years 1847, 1872, 1887, 1897, 1902-1903, 1915, 1919-1924</i> , softbound, 162 pages	\$35.00	\$4.00	5% (IA residents)
◆ <i>Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, IA</i> , 1980 (reprint)	\$35.00		

Available from Warren County Historical Society
Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, IA 50125 (515-961-4409):

◆ <i>Railroads of Warren County</i>	\$ 8.95	call to verify shipping costs
◆ <i>1879 History of Warren County</i> (reprint)	\$25.00	
◆ <i>Abandoned Towns of Warren County</i>	\$10.00	

Available from
Milo Public Library, 123 Main Street, Milo, IA 50166:

◆ <i>Milo 1880-1980, including Belmont & Otter Townships</i> , hardbound, 364 pages, indexed.	\$25.00	\$3.00	5% (IA residents)
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Available from
Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322 (515-276-0287):

<i>Warren County Marriages</i>			
◆ #0473 1849-1879, 72 pages	\$ 9.40	call to verify price and shipping costs	
◆ #0474 1880-1899, 96 pages	\$12.50		
<i>Warren County Newspapers-Deaths, Probates & Obituaries</i>			
◆ #1947 1857-1876, 55 pages	\$ 7.20	call to verify price and shipping costs	
◆ #1728 1877-1885, 81 pages	\$10.50		
◆ #1727 1886-1889, 72 pages	\$ 9.40		
◆ #1948 1890-1893, 48 pages	\$ 6.20		
◆ #1949 1894-1895, 60 pages	\$ 7.80		

Membership in Warren County Genealogical Society:

_____ \$6.00 for individual membership

_____ \$9.00 for family membership

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Are you interested in helping with any of the following committees:

_____ Fair	_____ Library	_____ Program	_____ Special Events
_____ Finance	_____ Vital Records	_____ Cemetery	
_____ Telephone	_____ Publications	_____ Family Records	

Comments:

Mail this form to Jane Godwin, Treasurer, 808 West Detroit, Indianola, Iowa 50125

Genealogical research sites:

INDIANOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 207 North B Street, Indianola, 515-961-9418,
Mon - Thurs 10:00 - 8:30, Fri 10:00 - 6:00, Sat 10:00 - 5:00

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL LIBRARY, Warren County Fairgrounds, Indianola, Thurs 1:00-4:00. Contact
Thelma Pehrson, Librarian, 515-961-4409.

MILO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 123 Main Street, Milo, 515-942-6557, Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:00 - 5:30, Tues 6:00 - 8:00, Fri
9:00 - 11:00 & 2:00 - 5:30; Sat 9:00 - 12:00. Paula Griggs, Librarian. The Milo Library has an extensive collection of
obituaries for cemeteries in Otter and Belmont Townships, and some obits for people who have lived in the area and are
buried elsewhere.

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 6000 Douglas Ave., Des Moines, 515-276-0287.
Tues, Wed, Thurs 10:00-9:00. Sat, Mon, Fri 10:00-4:00. Closed Sunday

STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, 600 East Locust, Des Moines, 515-281-6200.
Tues - Sat 9:00-4:30. Closed Sunday & Monday.

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY, 100 Locust, Des Moines, 515-283-4152. Mon, Tues, Wed 10:00-9:00, Thurs, Fri
10:00-6:00. Sat 10:00-5:00. Closed Sunday.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, 3301 Ashworth Road, West
Des Moines, 515-225-0415. Mon, Tues, Wed, Sat 10:00-3:00. Tues, Wed, Thur evenings 6:30 -9:00. Closed Friday &
Sunday.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, 1800 West Jackson Street, Knoxville. Mon 10:00-2:00.
Thurs 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sat 10:00-3:00. Information & appointments outside regular hours call Janet Long, Director, 515-
828-8743.

Warren County Genealogical Society
306 West Salem
Indianola, IA 50125