

# Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 26, Number 2

March-April 1999

## Center Stage: Virginia Nelson

by *Ev Brightman*

Virginia Nelson, current WCGS secretary, was born and raised in Mahaska County. The Nelsons moved to Indianola in 1962 when husband, Forrest, began employment with Beymer's Jewelry as a watch maker. Virginia had worked for nine years at Russell Insurance in Oskaloosa. She joined her current employer, Weinman Insurance in 1977 where she remains employed as a bookkeeper/agent. The Nelsons have two children, Laura of West Des Moines and Chris of Indianola.

Virginia's interest in genealogy began by reading biographical and autobiographical materials. She wished to learn how to connect her family stories. Three years ago she visited the WCGS booth at the Warren County Fair. Virginia says she joined as "It was interesting and gave direction to help me find how to put stories and facts together.

Virginia is researching the following surnames: McLandsborough, Rodgers, Glascock, Hoover, Mateer, and Nelson, which was changed from Neilson by emigration officials.

Through her research she has discovered that both sets of great, great grandparents were early settlers of Mahaska County. Maternal great, great grandfather, Jonas Hoover, constructed a large five bedroom house, which remains standing north east of Oskaloosa and is owned by a family member. Jonas is said to have built the first log cabin in Oskaloosa and worked as a shoe maker, tanner and currier (Mahaska County History).

Asked what she has learned from genealogy, Virginia responded, "The numerous resources which are available for research." Virginia and Forrest are active members, always willing to participate in work projects, such as the county fair or answering the call to hold office. Thanks to both of you!

### WORK DAY!

Saturday, March 13

9:30 a.m. until ?

(Come when you can, leave when you must.)

Warren County Historical Museum

Date, clip, alphabetize, and glue 1998 obituaries

Bring pen, scissors and a sack lunch.

## Calendar:

- March 13 WORK DAY, 9:30 a.m.  
Warren County Historical Museum
- March 15 CEMETERY MEETING, 6:30 p.m.  
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.  
Joe Weinman "Stamp Collecting"  
Roll Call: A hobby from your childhood
- April 13 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- April 19 CEMETERY MEETING, 6:30 p.m.  
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.  
Marj Huber "Scrapbooks"  
Roll Call: Something about a scrapbook
- April 24 BEGINNING GENEALOGY  
WORKSHOP, 1:00 p.m.  
Indianola Public Library
- May 11 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.  
"Ideas for Fair Exhibits"  
Roll Call: How are you coming with your fair exhibits?

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.

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## Marieta's rambling comments:

This is another jam-packed, gem-filled newsletter. I am continually amazed at the information available to be published (or republished, as the case may be).

Since the last newsletter, our newly married son, David, and his bride, Trisha, purchased and moved into a starter home in Des Moines. We helped them paint and lay new floor coverings and carried our share of boxes on moving day. Their memory lane is being created—though I'm sure, in their excitement, they haven't thought about that.

Then, the house that we lived in for 18 years in Milo (the place the boys called "home" for all their growing up years) is for sale and several of us visited the Realtor's Open House. Scott, our youngest, was amazed that it hadn't changed as much as he expected. David thought it was a lot different than the way he remembered it. Interesting how our memories change as time passes. On the other hand, Randall, the middle son, wasn't interested in going. I think he has yet to even drive by the house—and we moved away 4 years ago. We are all glad we moved to Indianola—we can't believe we lived in Milo as long as we did. However, we designed and built the house in Milo. We put a lot of hard work and loving TLC into the house and the landscaping. As I toured the house, I could still feel that love. I inspected the kitchen cupboards—with 33 doors and 17 drawers—that I refinished several years ago. The custom-made, lined, washable draperies and sheers still hang in the living room. The Dutch lace curtains still enhance the master bedroom. Drawings the boys had made on the basement walls were still visible. The laundry area doors still don't line up right when closed. The blue spruce trees are getting big—one doesn't look very healthy. The brick sidewalk and patio are beginning to show their age. (The bricks were remnants from the Catholic Church in Milo that burned in 1976.) The deck—copied from the cover of a Better Homes and Gardens deck book—is going to need replacement soon, after all it's going on 21 years old. Besides the furnishings being different, the only other visible change is that the floor coverings have been replaced. Yes, it is someone else's home. No, I'm not sorry we turned that leaf in our lives and moved away. Our home is in Indianola now.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter!

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Indianola, Iowa 50125

## Buxton—the town

On February 18, H. (Harvey) Robert Wilson from Des Moines presented an informational and delightful program on the mining community of Buxton, Iowa. This planned community was owned by the Consolidation Coal Company, part of the Chicago North Western Railroad, and was located on the Monroe/Mahaska county line, 7 miles east of Lovilia. Many of Mr. Wilson's family, including his father and grandfather, lived in Buxton. At its peak Buxton was home to some 9,000 residents—making it the largest non-incorporated town in the entire country.

Coal mines #14, 15 and 16 were located nearby and the many black families were brought in to act as strike breakers. After twenty or so years (1900-1924) the mining jobs and the families moved on, taking their homes on flatbed rail cars with them.

Today all that remains is a 2-acre cemetery that has no access. The Buxton Historic Townsite is on the National Register of Historic Places and an historic marker is located in Lovilia.

The Buxton Club in Des Moines was started by Mr. Wilson's father in July 1979 and is dedicated to preserve the memories of Buxton.

Mr. Wilson left a copy of the 100 years of Black Achievement Anniversary Edition of *The Iowa State Bystander* 1894-1994, which carried a story by Mr. Wilson on the town said to be "as close to heaven as you can get without actually being there."

Mr. Wilson interspersed the story of Buxton with stories about his family and showing us family memorabilia—all in all, making for us a memorable program.

### Officers 1999:

President	Marieta Grissom
Vice President	Kay Putz
Secretary	Virginia Nelson
Treasurer	Jane Godwin
Corresponding Secretary	Thelma Pehrson
Registrar	Helen Simpkins
Historians	JoAnn Harvey & Willa Grissom
Newsletter Editor	Marieta Grissom
Past President	Ev Brightman
IGS Representative (Area 4)	Sheryl Gwinn

### Active Committees:

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 about ... Churches

*The following are bits and pieces of articles regarding the "genealogy" of two bells, one with fire and church connections, and one with church connections sent north. These newspaper articles were probably all written in 1967, though no dates were written on the clippings found in a scrapbook at the Warren County Historical Library.*

### Indianolans Head North— Another Chapter to Bell Saga

Five Indianolans left the Des Moines airport Saturday afternoon, July 13, bound for the Far North to write still another chapter in the story of Warren County's ecumenical bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Williams, Miss Marilyn Runyan, the Rev. John Porath, associate pastor of the Indianola Cooperative Methodist Parish, and the Rev. Fr. Lawrence Burns, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, were scheduled to arrive in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday morning, July 14, they left by chartered plane for Branson's Cameron Bay Lodge on Great Bear Lake 950 miles north of Edmonton in the Northwest Territories, and from there, the three men planned to continue on by plane 250 miles farther north to Colville Lake and Our Lady of the Snows Mission where they will be guests of the Rev. Fr. Bernard W. Brown.

### The Beginning

The story began in March, 1967, during the annual Iowa Sports and Vacation Show in Des Moines. Luther Williams, who was convalescing at home, saw a film while viewing television about fishing on Great Bear Lake. It was shown by Mrs. Jeanne Branson, who was at the Des Moines show representing Branson's lodge.

About a week later, an interview with Mrs. Branson appeared in the Des Moines Tribune in which she told about Fr. Brown and Our Lady of Snows Mission—how he had built the mission, complete with belfry, but had no bell.

Mr. Williams was aware of the expansion program being planned at that time by Center Chapel Church after the Methodist Conference had given its congregation the old Pleasant Hill Church to tear down for lumber to be used in the improvement. Along with the lumber, Center Chapel also was to get the Pleasant Hill Church bell.

### Conceives Idea

He conceived the idea of persuading the Center Chapel people to give one of the bells to Fr. Brown's mission, and became the intermediary between the church and Mrs. Branson.

The Center Chapel building committee decided on the disposition of the two bells April 5, 1967—the Pleasant Hill bell would be placed in the belfry of the remodeled Center Chapel, and the Center Chapel bell would be sent to Fr. Brown.

### Official Presentation

Mrs. Branson was on hand when the bell was lowered from the Center Chapel belfry late in the evening May 4. The bell was officially presented by the Rev. Mr. Porath, pastor, to the Rev. Fr. Burns, who accepted it on behalf of Fr. Brown.

The bell was crated and a few days later started the trip to Edmonton by truck. From there it was flown to Great Bear Lake and then on to Our Lady of the Snows Mission.

Accompanying the bell was a brass plaque provided by Mr. Williams, which stated: "The Center Chapel Methodist Church of Indianola, Iowa, U.S.A., presents this bell and plaque to Our Lady of Snows Mission of Colville Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada. It is to be used as an exemplification of two great faiths working for God and the betterment of mankind."

### Another Chapter

Another chapter of the saga of the bell was written two months ago when Fr. Brown arrived in Des Moines while on a two-month leave granted him every four years. (He was en route to visit his mother, Mrs. Frank Brown, in Rochester, N.Y. and his brother, on leave from missionary duty in Brazil.) At the airport to meet him were Mrs. Branson, Mr. Williams, the Rev. Mr. Porath, the Rev. Fr. Burns and the Rev. Glen Lamb, pastor of the First United Methodist Church.

... Luther P. Williams, who played an important role in obtaining a bell for a Catholic mission north of the Arctic Circle, was promised Thursday night that he would be the first to pull the bell rope when he makes the trip to Our Lady of Snows Mission this summer. The promise was made by the Rev. Fr. Bernard Brown, pastor of the mission, who was brought to Des Moines from Detroit last week by Jeanne Branson, operator of a fishing and hunting lodge on Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada, to meet the persons responsible for getting a bell for his chapel.

... (the bell) was taken to Indianola Building Supply to be crated by Francis Knouse, a carpenter, who crated it for shipment by truck to Edmonton, Canada. Harold (Spec) Wallace lettered the address on the crate.

### Flown to Mission

At Edmonton the bell was loaded on a Pacific Western Air-

## Bits and pieces about ... Churches, *continued*

lines plane and flown to an airstrip at Sawmill Bay on Great Bear Lake. There it was transferred to Branson's float plane, an old Norseman, workhorse plane of the Arctic, and flown an additional 250 miles north to the mission at Colville Lake.

### **At Center Chapel— City's Fire Bell To Ring Again**

Delayed by recent rains, the remodeling program at Center Chapel Methodist Church, 4 miles west of Indianola, is again progressing. Aug. 15 has been set as the completion date.

A 24 x 38 ft. addition with full basement is being built on the front of the church. It will provide five classrooms, a narthex and belfry. Some of the lumber salvaged from the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church building when it was razed last summer, is being used in the construction.

The bell from Pleasant Hill will be placed in the new belfry, replacing the bell that recently was shipped to Our Lady of the Snows Mission on Colville Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada.

### **Built in 1871**

The original Pleasant Hill Church was built in 1871, according to a historical account by W. W. Davis which appeared in *The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune* June 28, 1949.

People in the west part of White Oak township for several years had held their Sunday school and church services in the White Oak schoolhouse before deciding to build a church.

Joseph Bilbo and his wife, Lucinda, sold one acre in the northeast corner of section 20 to the trustees for \$75 in February, 1871. The deed called for the land to be used, kept and maintained as a place of divine worship of the Methodist Church.

The one acre was a part of 20 acres that Joseph Bilbo had purchased from Elijah Bilbo, his brother, who had entered the land from the government.

Trustees at the time the land was deeded were Elijah Bilbo, James Latimer, Joshua Russell, L. Haines, Joseph Bilbo, H. H. Trimble and Albert Randolph.

Rock for the church foundation came from Grantham's rock quarry, located about 2 miles east of the church and just east of Squaw Creek.

Services in the new church were held in the fall of 1871.

### **Remodeled In 1901**

When the church was remodeled in 1901, a pulpit was built on the south side, a classroom on the north, a vestibule with belfry above just east of the classroom.

The church bell, which had served as Indianola's fire bell, was donated by August Abel. The bell had been used to summon volunteer firemen to the fire station then located in what is now known as Water Tower Park. The bell was mounted on a wooden tower just outside the fire station door.

It was replaced by a whistle shortly after the steam power plan was installed in 1890.

### **Christian Neck**

Much of the lumber used in the present Center Chapel Church building came from the old Otter Creek Christian Church building, commonly known as the Christian Neck, located 1 1/2 miles southwest of Liberty Center.

When the Center Chapel burned after being struck by lightning in August, 1941, the congregation purchased the Christian Neck building and salvaged much of the lumber as well as the bell. This is the bell that has been given to an Indian mission north of the Arctic Circle.

According to an account by May Mills which appeared in *The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune* Nov. 28, 1941, the Otter Creek Christian Church was organized in 1867 with seven charter members: Thomas and Elizabeth Hines, Joseph Hendrickson, John C. Farling, Asa Mosher, Joseph and Catherine Hall.

The building that was razed in 1941 had been built in 1915, replacing the original building.

Gerald Nyswonger, who served as janitor at the Christian Neck Church for a number of years, recalls that the old building was placed on skids and that 18 or 24 horses were used to tow it to a neighboring farm.

### **1918 Armistice Day**

When word was received that the Armistice has been signed in 1918, ending World War I, Mr. Nyswonger remembers mounting his pony and riding as hard as he could to the church where he rang the bell for a full hour.

The lumber from two rural churches that passed out of existence will be a part of Center Chapel when the present remodeling project is completed. Like the rural schools, the era of rural churches is gradually passing from the scene.

*Editors Note: If you got lost in the "genealogy" of the two bells: the fire bell went to the Pleasant Hill church in 1901, then to Center Chapel in 1967; the Christian Neck bell went to Center Chapel in 1941, then to the mission church in Canada in 1967.*

## Open Forum

To the Editor:

It seems there has been quite an interest shown in the way the church bell from the steeple at Center chapel was disposed of. The publicity given by local and Des Moines papers was all in good faith and I think the church board released the facts carried in these stories with no intent to hurt the feelings of anyone who might feel sentimental about the grand old bell.

In fact, the church board studied long and hard trying to find a way to not hurt any feelings regarding the bell and came up with this method as the best way.

After the South Iowa Methodist Conference gave Center Chapel the Pleasant Hill Church to tear down and use in the new addition at Center Chapel, we had two bells and certainly needed only one.

Several offers to buy the bell came in. One of the offers was mine. Others were from bell collectors, and solid citizens of the community. It was the feeling of the board that the bell should not be sold to an antique shop or a collector for resale at a profit.

There was also sentiment connected to the Pleasant Hill bell, and, when Luther Williams offered a sizable contribution to our building fund if we would keep it in active service and give the surplus bell (which was the Christian neck-Center Chapel bell), to the Catholic Mission to the Arctic Indians, it seemed that our problems were solved and certainly no one could object. Both bells are to continue in the service of the Lord. Neither will be sold to antique hunters. Neither will be rusting away in some backyard or collectors shop. I commend the Center chapel Church board for its wise decision, which was a unanimous one at the time.

We now have two grand old bells calling people to worship each week, whereas in the past they were two bells hanging depressed and sad, in two empty churches.

I hope this explains a few points that the news stories did not.

Jim Middleswart

## Churches - Past

*One item at the Warren County Historical Library is a scrapbook and reseach writings entitled Warren Co Churches of the Past 1849-1978. This was assembled by Mr. and Mrs. D. Hillis Andrew and presented to WCHS in Sept 1978. The following items are taken from this volume.*

### Foreword

Many of our early churches were of log construction. They were used as churches as well as schools. Sometimes more than one denomination used the same building. They were small and soon outgrown. As the population was increasing and better trails made, the congregations grew. Then a larger building was erected, this building was usually a frame building, and was more elaborate, some had a cupola and a few had a bell.

Their religious beliefs seem to change from time to time. I found instances where a church of one denomination started and by the time it was finished, it was taken over by another denomination. This was probably the result of religious leaders passing through the territory, holding a revival and people changed over to another belief.

In Belmont township there were five churches in a radius of a few miles. These were mostly Friends (Quakers) and Methodists, as better transportation and more population, there was no need for so many, as they could travel farther.

The little hamlet of Hartford had four churches organized in the late 1840s and early 1850s, Baptists, Methodist, Christian, and Presbyterian. There is also mention of a Friends group, as nothing could be found of a Friends meeting, it is possible, it was a group that met in homes.

North River Christian seems to be one of the first Christian churches. It was organized in 1849 as was the Carlisle and Hartford. Hartford was not built until 1856, North River Christian was a country church in Greenfield twp. There was a burial ground at North River. The church closed in 1901. It was later sold to the Methodists who built a new structure.

Carlisle had a Methodist, Christian, Baptist and United Brethren. These were all listed in the Warren County History of 1879. There were two other United Brethren Otterbein in Union township and one in Palmyra township.

*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. 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 about ... Churches, *continued*

This could have been the church that went by the name of Woodpecker. There was one Free Will Baptist in Belmont township, German Baptist Dunkard Brethren in Virginia township. There is mention of two Protestant Methodists, one in Spring Hill in Greenfield township and one at Pleasant Point (1953 History), location unknown.

The Latter Day Saints held meetings in many parts of the county but never had a church. The first Presbyterian meetings were probably held in Hartford, Lacona or Scotch Ridge (1847).

The first Catholic church in the county was Rosemount on the county line between Belmont and White Breast townships. Rosemount was organized by a group of German immigrants in 1871, later there were three other Catholic churches organized in the western part of the county at St. Marys in Jackson twp, Cumming, Linn twp, and Churchville in Jefferson twp.

The first Christian Union meetings were held in the Plainville school house south of Milo.

The first Methodist church was in Indianola (1850). There were many classes held over the county, most were held in homes, school houses or out in the open.

Liberty township seemed to have had the most tent meetings of the evangelistic type. The ones who could shout the loudest were considered the most religious. They met at what was called Christian Neck or Gospel Ridge, in Liberty township along Otter creek. The name Gospel Ridge was given because protracted revival meetings of highly emotional nature were held at this location.

There is no doubt there were many other denominations meeting in the county that there is no record of, not many records were kept in those days.

The most of the history of these churches has been taken from Warren County histories of 1879, 1908, and 1953, from old church records and newspaper clippings. Many people were helpful in gathering this material. Also my late husband who hauled me around, and took many pictures.  
compiled by Mrs. D. Hillis Andrew, 1974

### **Seventh Day Adventist**

Sandyville, Union twp, organized early, built 1855  
Liberty twp, organized in 1910 or earlier, one mile south of Liberty Center at intersection of Highway 65 and 206.

### **Baptist churches**

Fairview Baptist, Belmont twp, built in 1871, formerly Fairview Methodist, moved to Otter twp; was first Browns Chapel

Free Will Baptist, Belmont twp, organized in 1871/2, built 1873, sold to Christian Union

Hartford Baptist, Richland twp, organized in 1853, built 1856

New Virginia Baptist, Virginia twp, organized in 1870, built 1872, sold in 1911.

Spring Hill Baptist, Greenfield twp, organized in 1872, built in 1873, disposed of in early 1920s.

Greenfield Baptist, one mile east of Norwalk, Greenfield twp, organized in 1867, built in 1869, moved to Norwalk, made into dwelling.

German Baptist Dunkard Brethren, Virginia twp, organized in 1870, built 1891, sold in 1914.

### **Brethren**

Carlisle United Brethren, Allen twp, organized in 1868, built in 1872, Carlisle corner of Fourth and Main.

Otterbein United Brethren, Union twp, organized in 1850, reorganized in 1878, built in 1884, sold to Lamar Barnett, torn down 1945, Bell sold to Bishop Badley, it now hangs in one of the largest Christian (Methodist) churches in Delhi, India.

United Brethren, Palmyra twp (Woodpecker), organization date unknown, dedicated 1889, sold in early 1900s.

### **Christian (Disciples of Christ)**

Beech Christian, Union twp, town of Beech, organized 1914/5, sold September 8, 1974.

Hartford Christian, Richland twp, organized in Brown school house, church built in Hartford 1860

Indianola Christian or Disciples of Christ, Washington twp, Indianola, organized 1869, built 1876/6, East Salem and Third Street.

North River Christian, Greenfield twp, organized in 1849, built in 1867, sold to Methodists in 1908.

Otter Creek Christian, Liberty twp, organized in 1867, built sometime later, sold, torn down 1941.

Prole Christian, Jefferson twp, organized in 1903, building erected and dedicated in 1904.

Sandyville Christian, Union twp, organized in 1784, built soon after, present building bought by Warren County Historical Society.

Spring Hill Christian, Greenfield twp, organized in 1899, built in 1900, sold and torn down about 1945.

### **Christian Union**

Belmont Zion Christian Union, Belmont twp, organized in 1889, bought from Free Will Baptist, torn down in 1920.

Hammondsburg Christian Union, Otter twp, organized in 1889, building bought from Baptists.

## Bits and pieces about ... Churches, *continued*

Plainville or Goodes Chapel, Belmont twp, organized in 1863 as Methodist, church built 1867. Sometime about 1910 it became a Christian Union. It was first Christian Union in the county. When Christian Union built in Milo, they went to Milo, church sold and torn down.

### Friends (Quaker)

Cumming Friends listed in 1887 Atlas as a Meeting House, Linn twp, organized and built in 1880, still stands.

Liberty Center Friends, Liberty twp, organized, built and paid for in 1907, torn down in 1924, lumber used in rebuilding Ackworth Friends, which had been burned. Land reverted back to owner.

Friends Church, Palmyra twp, organized 1849, built 1849 (log construction)

Goshen Meeting House, Palmyra twp, on farm owned by Mrs. Bond. There was a cemetery. Church was removed to Ackworth and other places.

Hickory Grove Meeting House, Belmont twp, sold land and building to Rosemount Catholics, 1870.

Waveland Friends (Motor), Belmont twp, organized in 1858, built in 1870

### Miscellaneous

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held meetings in all parts of county, but never had a church

Community Church of Hartford, Richland twp, organized sometime in 1916/17.

Evangelical Free Church, Virginia twp, organized November 29, 1959, withdrew from Evangelical Free, now is Grace Baptist, building built in 1961

Hartford Church, Hartford, organized in 1935

German Lutheran Church, Martensdale, church built in 1903, building moved from Churchville, now Martensdale Community Church.

### Methodist

Ackworth Free Methodist, Lincoln twp

African Methodist Episcopal, Indianola, intersection of Buxton and Euclid, north side of Euclid, built in 1901, of short duration.

Browns Chapel, Otter twp, organized early met in homes and school house, purchased Fairview Methodist in 1894, Fairview was in Belmont twp.

Cumming Methodist, Linn twp, organization date unknown, built in 1892, changed to Cumming Community sometime in 1920s.

Fairview Methodist Episcopal (Pleasant View) Belmont twp, organized early, built 1871, Baptist in 1890s

Green Bush Methodist Class, Greenfield twp, class organized in 1855 in log school, north of Green

Bush, never built a church, went to Spring Hill after their church was built in 1873.

Hartford Methodist, Richland twp, organized in 1849, one of first in county, built in 1856, on Wall St., east of Vine (1887 Atlas)

Highland Methodist, Belmont twp, organized in 1860, built 1870, torn down and used in building Green Plain

Medford Methodist, Squaw twp, organized in 1892, built 1892, still standing have yearly suppers and bazaar.

Mt. Tabor, Squaw twp, organized in 1855, built in 1874, torn down sometime in 1960s

North River Methodist, Greenfield twp, cemetery, organized and built in 1908, closed in 1972, still standing.

Orilla or Pleasant Ridge Methodist, Linn twp, midway along east twp line, organized and built 1873, church burned.

Palmyra Methodist, Palmyra twp, organized in Oct 29, 1853, built 1855, present one built in 1870, closed June 1, 1978, sold to township trustees

Plainview Methodist, Squaw twp, organized and built in 1906, torn down by Mission in Des Moines, land reverted back to owner.

Pleasant Hill, White Oak twp, organized in 1852, built in 1871, torn down in 1941, lumber donated to Center Chapel, as their church had burned.

Pleasant Point, mentioned in 1953 history, nothing more

Pleasant Ridge or Orilla, Linn twp, Cummings Friends, Orilla and Cummings Methodists all went together and formed the Cummings Community using the Cummings Methodist building for their church.

Sandyville Methodist, Union twp, organized in 1867, purchased the building from the Adventists in 1873, unused for years, torn down in 1976

Summerset Methodist, Lincoln twp, organized about 1868, erected in 1881, about 1941 the building was moved and used for a dwelling. Torn down in February 1939.

Wesley Chapel or Wick, Jefferson twp, organized in 1848, built in 1871. Torn down in the 1960s.

### Presbyterian

Indianola United Presbyterian, Washington twp, third and Salem, sold to city for parking lot, organized in 1864, built in 1868, torn down in 1958.

Lacona United Presbyterian, White Breast twp,

Bits and pieces about ... Churches, *continued*

north west side of public square or north of old school, organized in 1865, built in 1866, sold. Medora Presbyterian, Squaw twp, shared a building with Methodist, for some time, built in 1888.

Milo First United Presbyterian, town of Milo, organized in 1891 and built in 1891, sold and moved in the late teens or early twenties.  
*information collected by Mrs. D. Hillis Andrew, 1974*

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## Warren County Church Records Project

One of our members asked last fall about church records and this has spurred an entire project. At the January meeting information sheets were distributed to several members. The program at the February meeting consisted of sharing some of the results of the search. It became obvious that it will take us a while to gather information from the 74 plus churches that we have identified in Warren County. Therefore, several issues of this newsletter will carry information from this project as the information is accumulated. Also at the February meeting we realized how unfortunate it is that many of our churches today aren't as diligent about record keeping as were the churches in the "old country." Several members were able to share instances when church records were the source of vital information.

### Ackworth Friends Church

Address:

Phone: None

Ackworth, IA 50001

Type of records: Monthly Meeting Minutes: Ann Moreland, Recording Clerk

Death & funeral memorials: Armetta Keeney

Church pastors: Armetta Keeney

Some records have been sent to William Penn College at Oskaloosa, IA. (*see Motor Friends Church for contact person and address*)

No longer keep a cradle roll.

### Chapel of Faith

Address:

927 Hwy 65 & 69

Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: 515-961-5755

Pastor: Rev. John Long

Type of records: Check with John Long.

Dates included: Incorporated Jan 10, 1983

Availability: Check with John Long.

### First Assembly of God

Address:

1700 Hwy 92 West

Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: 515-961-8488

Pastor: Rev. Paul Sandgren

Type of records: Baptismal, marriage, death, funeral; names and dates only. Record of previous pastors and their children with dates. Records are kept locally. First records dated 1948; with ongoing records since July 1989; earlier records are in storage.

Availability: Request would need to be made ahead of time, prefer appointments Monday thru Friday 8-12.

Queries: Would make an attempt to answer inquiries.

### Green Plain United Methodist Church

Address:

1990 180th Street

Liberty Center, IA 50145

Phone: 515-466-3574

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Avise-Rouse

Type of records: Some time around 1944 the Green Plain U. M. Church membership book became "Lost". As a result what Helen Lester has available is from 1944 up to the present. It includes the name of person, when and where born, parents' names, date baptized, name of officiating minister and possible transfer. She also has the ministers' names and years they served. Dorothy Taylor is Green Plain's historian and keeps many of these records.

Dates included: March 20, 1944 to present.

Availability: Records are available for viewing. Contact Helen Lester at 2242 145th Ave, Milo, Iowa 50166, phone 515-466-3388. Helen is also willing to answer any mail queries.

### **Holy Trinity of SE Warren, Lacona, Milo, Rosemount**

Address: 222 North Washington Ave  
Lacona, IA 50139

Phone: 515-534-4691  
Pastor: Father David Polich

Address: St. Augustine Catholic Church  
111 East Belmont

Phone: 515-942-6395  
Milo, IA 50166

Address: Rosemount Catholic Church  
2299 Quebec Street  
Milo, IA 50166

Phone: 515-534-3145

Type of records: Baptism, marriage, first communion, confirmation, funeral. Sometimes spotty information. Death: spouse/parent, baptism: parents; marriage: parents.

Availability & Dates: Rosemount book is at the church; was founded in 1870; however, prior to 1909 Rosemount was under Bauer; records may be at Melcher/Dallas? Lacona records are at the rectory; since 1860s. Milo records date to 1910-20; may not have a lot of records. Books are old; appointment with priest needed; some information may not be for public use. Sylvester & Bertha Schurman have old pictures of church functions and would be good contacts for information. Ann Konrad also has pictures. Her son, Kevin Konrad has lots of family information and histories. Father Polich is trying to get information organized. The 3 churches often had 2 priests and whichever one didn't have services, the people went to the ones that did. Therefore, some information is recorded in wrong books.

### **Liberty Center Methodist Church**

The person contacted said that no information is available.

### **Milo Christian Union**

Address: 112 3rd, P.O. Box 47  
Milo, IA 50166

Phone: 515-942-7712  
Pastor: Rev. Hearold McElwee

Type of records: Names, dates and parents of birth, marriages and others. Most records do not include family members. Have records of pastors' names and years. Records are located at the church office in Milo

Dates included: Unknown. This church is a combination of Hammondsburg, Belmont and Goodes Chapel. May have some records of first churches.

Queries: Queries will be answered by writing to the church.

### **Milo Methodist Church**

Address: P.O. Box 93, 308 South Spruce  
Milo, IA 50166

Phone: 515-942-7739  
Pastor: Rev. Jerry Avise-Rouse

Type of records: All records are kept of birth, baptismal, marriage, death and funeral. Information on names, birthdays, membership, marriage dates and deaths. Historical records are up-to-date as far as possible. Also included are records of previous pastors, dates, family members, etc. Historian is Lori Nutting, 209 Belmont, Milo, IA 50166.

Dates included: 1920s? to present

Availability: Records are available for viewing. Need to call ahead to make arrangements.

Queries: Queries will be answered by writing to the church.

### **Motor Friends Church**

Address: 1434 240th  
Milo, IA 50166

Phone: 515-942-7798  
Pastor: Rev. Keith Smith

Type of records: Mostly just members' names.

Dates included: 1868 to present

Availability: Can contact Gary Powell, 2372 McKinley St, Milo, IA 50166, phone: 515-942-6615 or Jay and Charlotte Mosher, Milo, IA 50166, phone 515-942-6373. Old records are located at William Penn College at Oskaloosa, IA. Contact person at Oskaloosa is Patty Patterson, Church Office, 411 College Ave West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, phone: 515-673-0026.

### **Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (MS)**

Address: 805 North 1st Street  
Indianola, IA 50125

Phone: 515-961-4321  
Pastor: Mark R. Etter

Type of records: Baptisms: birthdate, father's name, mother's maiden name, sponsors. Confirmation: full name, date of

birth, baptism and confirmation, parents' names, including mother's maiden name. Marriages: names of couple, date of wedding, names of witnesses. Death: full name, date and cause of death, age, date of funeral and where buried. Members: full name, date and how taken into membership, date and how released from membership, birthdates, baptism dates, confirmation dates, marriage date and to whom married. Child members: name, birthdate, how received into membership and when removed.

Pastor records: Previous pastors' names, and dates of when they were called, took office and relinquished office  
Dates included: June 1954 to present  
Availability: Can be viewed at the church office during office hours Wednesday and Friday mornings.  
Queries: Queries can be sent to Jo Ann Pulse at the church address.

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church (MS)**

Address: 2020 20th Place  
Lacona, IA 50139

Phone: 515-947-4404

Pastor: Rev. Randy Cormeny

Type of records: Birth, baptismal, marriage, death, funeral. Parents are on the records of children, sometimes the adults put down parents. On baptismal records, sponsors are included. Probably records of confirmation. Pastors names and dates, but not where they went or family members.

Dates included: 1854 to present

Availability: Original records are at the home of Marlene Borchert, 148 Rutledge St., Lacona, IA 50139, phone: 515-534-4158. Records were microfilmed by the Mormon Church in about 1995. Microfilm is at the Knoxville, IA library.

*The following are some of the records that are found in the Warren County Historical Library:*

### **Baptist Church, Hartford**

Type of records: 1855-1875 meeting minutes with membership lists

### **Browns Chapel**

Type of records: 1 book: 1894 - 1910?

1 book: 1909-1950? memberships, baptisms, marriages, etc.

notebook: 1949-50, membership lists & Methodist Church Quarterly Reports

### **First Presbyterian Church, Indianola (organized 11/4/1853)**

Type of records: Session minutes for 1854-1881, 1881-1891, 1891-1909, 1917-1926, most of these books also include membership records with baptisms, marriages and deaths

Clerk's minutes 1853-1906, i.e., lists of elders

Sunday School Record Books for 1918-1921, 1922-1925, 1926-1929, 1930-1933, 1934-1940, 1941-1943, 1945-1949, 1949-1952, very complete with names, dates attended, teachers, etc.

Treasurer's records 1930-1941

Annual reports, original letters requesting membership transfers

### **First United Presbyterian Church, Indianola (aka United Presbyterian Church)**

Type of records: Roll of members 1906 & 1907 and some secretary's meeting minutes

Secretary's meeting minutes 1904-1958; Session meeting minutes 1894-1938

Membership rolls 1933-34, 1936-37, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1947, 1948, 1949

### **Lacona Christian Church**

Type of records: Financial records with members names for 1907-1912

### **Ohio Baptist Church of Virginia Twp, Warren Co, IA**

Type of records: Records are fairly complete for 1884 through 1928, i.e., memberships, baptisms, deaths, etc.

### **Pleasant View & Fairview Churches**

Type of Records: (All in one book) Sabbath School records for Pleasant View 1871-1880 and Fairview 1881-1891 with lists of names

### **Spring Hill Methodist Church**

Type of records Sunday School records for 1895 and 1922-1927; Quarterly Conference reports and membership lists for 1954-1961

## Warren County Genealogical Society Membership List (dues paid as of 3/6/99):

John & Ruby Aduddell	609 East Dewitt Street	Pleasantville, IA 50225	
Juanita Allen	400 West First Street	Lamar, MO 64759	
Joanne Amos	607 South R #4	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3677
Vera Chandler Black	P.O. Box 324	Friendswood, TX 72549	
Earnestine Boos	1546 140th Avenue	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3860
Michelle Boyd	1351 North Arbogast Ave	Griffith, IN 46319-1856	
Bonnie Breniman	1626 Victoria Drive	Elkhart, IN 46514	
Tenney Brinkman	2516 Sommerset, #103	Troy, MI 48084	
Linda Brown	1101 North C	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-2805
Darl & Elaine Bumgarner	1307 Wesley Lane	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0978
Lenore Carter	712 Marion Avenue	Des Moines, IA 50315-3473	
Clarice Chambers	2024 - 220th Avenue	Lacona, IA 50139	
James Clark	4444 Woodview Drive NE	Cedar Rapids, IA 52402	
Donna Crow	119 G64 Highway	Truro, IA 50257	
Margaret Darr	360 215th Avenue	Swan, IA 50252	
Ruth "Dolly" Flinn	172 40th Avenue	Cumming, IA 50061	515-981-4586
Betty Fox	P.O. Box 171	Yale, IA 50277-0171	
June Gerbode	3118 Faulkner Drive	Rowlet, TX 75088-5904	
Jane Godwin	808 West Detroit	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3363
Marieta Grissom	505 West Jackson Ave	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-7542
Willa Jean Grissom	2400 County Line Road	Des Moines, IA 50320-9627	515-285-5608
Stephen & Ruth Ann Hall	408 East Salem	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-5043
Dean & JoAnn Harvey	306 North 5th	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0540
Ruth Henry	884 G36 Highway	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3701
Donald Hoffer	13461 Elizabeth Way	Tustin, CA 92780	
Doris Hunt	100 Ash Street, Box 73	Carlisle, IA 50047	
Ruth & Dean Iverson	406 South 4th	Indianola, IA 50125	
Jeanne Johnson	1406 South G Street	Indianola, IA 50125	
Richard Jones	23635 Susana Avenue	Torrance, CA 90505	
Kate Kauzlarich	509 West First Avenue	Indianola, IA 50125	
John Kern	455 Highway 28	Norwalk, IA 50211-9224	515-981-4348
Marjorie Kline	5126 Mira Loma Circle	Colorado Springs, CO 80918	
Martha Lawrence	5455 Dodge Court	Concord, CA 94521	
Doris Lawson	701 West Clinton, #211	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-5291
Teresa Baysinger Malinowski	15341 - 158th Avenue NE	Woodinville, WA 98072	
Neva McCoy	1219 Parkway Drive	Boone, IA 50036-5044	
Larry F. Mikesell	1124 West 4th	Cedar Falls, IA 50613-2430	
Forrest & Virginia Nelson	1003 West 12th	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3631
Helen Nernes	R. R. 3, Box 78	Leon, IA 50144-9629	
Elizabeth "Betty" Noland	1009 Meadow Drive	Norwalk, IA 50211-1215	515-981-4888
James & Ruth Patrick	1201 Wesley Lane	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0966
Thelma Pehrson	306 West Salem Avenue	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-4409
Lucille Perkins	607 South Jefferson	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3965
Joan Phillips	1223 East Clinton	Indianola, IA 50125	
Louise Pilmer	707 Robin Glen, #311	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0941
Elizabeth Putz	1663 Tyler Street	Lacona, IA 50139	
Robert & Kay Putz	223 South Vine, Box 76	Lacona, IA 50139	

Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Roy	2340 Ashworth Road	West Des Moines, IA 50265	
James Sherriff	8802 Oakmont Drive	Santa Rosa, CA 95409-4661	
Helen Simpkins	707 Robin Glen, #303	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-8936
Mary Smart	1420 Joan Drive	Petaluma, CA 94954	
Betty Smith	3120 Hampton Drive	Santa Maria, CA 95409-4661	
Kenneth Smith	707 Robin Glen, #305	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0936
Charles Spain	389 Ford Street	Norwalk IA 50211	
Dorothy Stearns	P.O. Box 164	Milo, IA 50166	515-942-6537
C. Eugene & Charlotte Stewart	240 South Plum	Boone, IA 50036	
Dorothy Taylor	133 - 3rd Avenue	Spicer, MI 56288	
Terrell Taylor	157 Chestuee Lane NE	Cleveland, TN 37323-5195	
Lillian Thomas	211 E. Schaumberg Road	Streamwood, IL 60107-1460	
Carol Van Aernam	411 West Madison Place	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-3564
Georgia Walker	1700 Searle Street	Des Moines, IA 50317-2926	515-266-8823
Charles & Helen Webb	26 Adams Street	Cumming, IA 50061-9303	
Jim & Maxine Weinman	1111 North Buxton	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-4272
Virginia Wheeldon	612 North State Street	Pleasantville, IA 50225	
Nancy Wood	708 East Ashland	Indianola, IA 50125	
Richard Woods	P.O. Box 2892	Evergreen, CO 80437-2892	
Doris Young	1225 Wesley Lane	Indianola, IA 50125	515-961-0883

We exchange newsletters with the following organizations. If you know of another organization that we might be interested in exchanging with, please let me know.

**Iowa:**

Boone County Gen Society, Boone, IA  
 Butler County Gen Society, Allison, IA  
 Cass County Gen Society, Atlantic, IA  
 Central Iowa Gen Society, Marshalltown, IA  
 Clarke County Gen Society, Osceola, IA  
 Des Moines County Gen Society, Burlington, IA  
 Davis County Gen Society, Bloomfield, IA  
 Dubuque County Gen Society, Dubuque, IA  
 Guthrie County Gen Society, Jamaica, IA  
 Iowa Gen Society, Des Moines, IA  
 Keo-Mah Tracers, Oskaloosa, IA  
 Linn County Gen Society, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Lucas County Gen Society, Chariton, IA  
 Madison County Gen Society, Winterset, IA  
 Marion County Gen Society, Knoxville, IA  
 Mills County Gen society, Glenwood, IA  
 Monroe County Gen Society, Albia, IA  
 Old Fort Gen Society, Ft. Madison, IA  
 Poweshiek County Gen Society, Montezuma, IA  
 Union County Gen Society, Creston, IA  
 Wayne County Gen Society, Corydon, IA

**Out of state:**

Allen County Public Library, Allentown, PA  
 Athens County Genealogical Society, Athens, OH  
 Clark County Gen Society, Vancouver, WA  
 Eastern Nebraska Gen Society, Fremont, NE  
 Greater Omaha Gen Society, Omaha, NE

Leavenworth Co Gen Society, Leavenworth, KS  
 Minnesota Gen Society, St. Paul, MN  
 Noble County Chapter, O.G. S., Caldwell, OH  
 Platte County Hist & Gen Society, Platte City, MO  
 Poteau Valley Gen Society, Poteau, OK  
 S. C. P. G., York, PA  
 Western Wayne Co, Livonia, MI

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-Source: Library of Congress Information System, via several places, inc. Westward Into Nebraska, Greater Omaha Gen Soc, January 1999.

## Computers, Software and the Internet

*The following are excerpts from two articles called "Techno Updates" from the Clark County (Washington) Genealogical Society Newsletter, January and February 1999. Author is Gene Kuechmann. I think Mr. Kuechmann has some thought-provoking comments. See what you think.*

"...Most genealogy programs originated with genealogists who marketed their products through small specialty companies. As the hobby grew in popularity, the market expanded and successful programs naturally attracted the attention of larger, more diversified software companies. Now those software companies are being sought by companies with a still broader range of products, and the genealogy programs are under the ultimate control of people far removed from the genealogy community. If our community is not well served, we may want to turn again to the small specialty companies, a few of which are still holding out and holding on. Even if the little guys have to charge more, at least they'll care.

"Wouldn't it be great if the survivors of this round robin combined all the best features of all the best programs into one great "masterpiece"? No—I suppose not. One person's masterpiece is another person's dud. But how about a program that refused any datum that doesn't have an authentic source citation, or that automatically prefixes any unsupported datum with the word "maybe"!

"Speaking of source citations, I can't caution you enough against accepting submitted pedigrees, on CD or the Net, as if they were verified. No pedigree, genealogy or family history is ever a collection of facts. At best, it can only be a compilation of whatever evidence the researcher-compiler discovers, accompanied by conclusions that appear to be justified by that evidence. (The word "proof" should be outlawed from the genealogical vocabulary.) Needless to say, the sources of the supporting evidence should be fully cited, and any contradictory evidence should also be noted and evaluated. Finally, your conclusions should be defended if necessary..."

"A Downside of Computerizing Your Genealogy"—  
"...A timely article on an important downside of computerizing your genealogy appeared in the 13 January *Ancestry Daily News*... As an advocate of the use of computers in genealogy, it is fitting that I, too, emphasize here the fact that computers are NOT the be-all and end-all for long-term storage of genealogical data.

"If you were paying attention, you know that the hot new iMac doesn't have a floppy-disk drive. Why not? Maybe Apple is betting floppies will soon be gone, superseded by faster, 'bigger' storage devices. 'Zip' drives are now being built into some computers, but they too will go the way of the dodo. The CD-ROM drive will not last much longer,

with the prices of rewritable CD's and read-write drives rapidly coming down, and DVDs are also moving in. These will undoubtedly yield in a few years to even more efficient devices, and it will become harder and harder to find computers compatible with the older storage devices and media. Many of us already have collections of 5.25" or 8" disks somewhere in the attic or basement, no drive left that can read them and no program that can use the data if they could be read. This obsolescence of computers and storage devices should be a major concern for genealogists.

"The one data-storage device that predated and will outlive every other is PAPER. The idea of the paperless office is a snare and a delusion. The original reading device for paper is the man eye, and while various assistive devices have been developed, compatibility with the original device is not an issue. But if acid-free paper is the ultimate storage medium, then of what use is a computer in genealogy? Why shouldn't you just record all your findings on paper forms and let it go at that?

"There are several good reasons, of course. Most genealogy programs can take one set of data and present it in many different ways, putting it into forms and reports, reformatting it into paragraphs, listing it, indexing it, and so on. You would have to rewrite it many times over to produce the same results without the computer, and each rewriting would introduce new errors. (Yes, with a computer you enter an error only once, and it will be repeated over and over, but it is also true that you can correct it just once, and it will be corrected over and over, and a good computer program will do much of the error checking for you.) The computer can also acquire great amounts of genealogical data for you from CDs, the Internet, files on disk, and so on, and add this to your other material. So one can hardly advocate doing genealogy without the computer.

"What is necessary is to keep in mind that the information stored in your computer can be lost in a flash—so of course you back it up regularly on an external storage medium. But then you must also keep in mind that medium will not stand the test of time, and you must keep bringing the information forward onto newer storage media that are compatible with the computer you are currently using. Remember also that you must have a program that can read the data into the newer machines and use them once they get there.

"You might want to store an up-to-date copy of your files elsewhere, just in case of fire or other disaster...But, finally, you should keep a reasonably current printout of all the data you have stored in your computer and/or any other storage medium.

"Keeping 'hard copy' up-to-date is not all that difficult. When you make a correction or addition in your computer, you can either note it on the hard copy, or you can print out just the affected forms or pages to replace the older ones.

## Research Helps

### When you're stuck and you think you've looked everywhere...

<i>If you want to find:</i>	<i>Search:</i>
Birth dates or ages	A,B,C,D,E,G,H,I,J,L
Marriage dates	A,B,D,E,G,H,I,L
Death dates	B,C,D,E,G,G,I,J,K,L
Parents of a person	A,B,C,D,E,G,H
Wife's maiden name	B,C,D,G,H,L
Nativity	A,B,C,F,G,I,J,K,L
Locale	A,C,D,G,J,L
Children's names	A,C,D,G,J,L
Military records	C,D,E,G,I,L,M

- A. Census and indexes
- B. Vital statistics - birth, deaths, and marriages
- C. Newspapers
- D. County histories and biographies
- E. Cemeteries and tombstones
- F. Atlases, maps and city directories
- G. Libraries: genealogy, public and historical
- H. Church records
- I. Adjutant General, grave registrations and military records
- J. Will and other probate records; guardianships
- K. Deeds - grantor/grantee indexes; land grants
- L. Pension files
- M. National Archives

You might want to keep a copy of this helpful research guide taped inside your genealogy notebook.  
-via *Central Iowa Genealogical Society, Marshalltown, Iowa, July-Dec 1998.*

### Perches, Rods and Gunshots

In lineal measure a rod and a perch are the same measure, 5 1/2 yards or 16 1/2 feet. The surveyor used a perch pole and he would walk off the distance from one point of description to another and tumble the pole end over end as he walked, maintaining a count of the number of times he turned the pole over. This gave the distance from one place to another. The early land grants in the colonies gave as much as a 10% allowance for error to account for irregular terrain, ditches, mounds, and such. The practice and unit of measure continued to be used after the Revolution up to the period of the Civil War.

A chain is also a unit of linear measure used in surveying consisting of a length of standard-sized links 66 feet long.

A gunshot is one of those (obscure) measurements like "a day's walk" or "a two-day journey on horseback." I've seen them in Indian treaties. They later came to be more regularized but vary from one place to another. A gunshot

would be the (furthermost) distance (at which) you could hear a rifle shot. -*Poweshiek Co, IA Hist & Gen Soc, Jul-Sep 1998*

### Social Security

To secure information from Social Security Applications, you must now use a new address: Social Security Administration, Office of Controller of Record Operations, The FOI Workgroup, PO Box 17772, Baltimore, MD 21201 - *The Bulletin, Iowa Genealogical Society, Nov, 1998.*

*Member Don Hoffer sent me the following idea through the net. It has probably been through several mailing lists, but is a neat idea:*

"... a friend types this poem on a 3x5 card then puts her name, relationship, snail-mail address and e-mail address on the back, then laminates it, punches a hole in it and ties it to a single stem artificial flower and puts it on her ancestor's graves when she is visiting cemeteries whether those close by or in different states. That way the next person who might be researching may get in touch with her. [Another way is to put a card or note inside a glass (not plastic, as they are too light) jar and leave it at the base of the tombstone.]

Dear Ancestor:

Your tombstone stands among the rest;  
Neglected and alone.

The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished, marbled stone.

It reaches out to all who care.

It is too late to mourn.

You did not know that I exist,  
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you,  
In flesh, in blood, in bone.

Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own.

Dear ancestor, the place you filled

So many years ago

Spreads out among the ones you left

Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,

I wonder if you knew

That someday I would find this spot,

And come to visit you.

submitted by Verne G. Clubb, Chester, VA  
posted to the Bundy list by Carol Harbushka

### Who is a Yankee?

To a foreigner, a Yankee is an American.

To a Southerner in the USA, a Yankee is a Northerner.

To a Northerner, a Yankee lives in New England.

To a New Englander, a Yankee is someone from Vermont.

To a Vermonter, a Yankee is someone who still uses an outhouse. *Donna Porter Phillips, via Wayne Co Gen Soc, Oct 1998*

## Writing Genealogical Correspondence

by Doug Smith, Senior Producer, Palladium Interactive, Inc.  
>webstar@palladium.net<

Like many hobbyists I learned good research habits by making mistakes or achieving success. Letter writing was no different. The responses to my first letters were embarrassing. The clerks who read my letters found them unclear or lacking in important information required to locate the record. After more than a few returned requests I did my best to follow these simple rules:

- Determine the correct address for the agency that can provide a certified copy of an official record.
- Always know the correct cost of the record or search you want. Send the payment in an acceptable form. I always send payment in the form of a money order. Virtually everyone accepts money orders since they are as good as cash.
- When I anticipate writing lots of letters to a specific area I purchase a phone book for that town or county.
- Be specific about the record you ask for and always include enough information about the person in the record you expect to find. When you send for a birth record, also mention the mother's maiden name and the father's name as well as any dates or places that might be used to confirm the identity of a person.
- Provide as much information as you can on one page. The longer the letter the less likely you are to get a good response.
- Be neat. Make sure your letter is easy to read.
- Keep in mind that official records are not kept primarily for genealogical purposes. Registrars are busy with the work of the courts and other public agencies.
- Don't write with a chip on your shoulder. An angry, pushy, or demanding attitude gets you nothing. Look at it this way: in most cases you will be writing for information where you don't pay taxes. The fee you pay for the record probably doesn't cover the entire cost of the search. Your success depends on how well you write the letter and in the quality of the information you supply. An angry letter is going to get very little notice. Angry letters can also ruin the next search for the next family historian who mails a request to that same clerk.
- Always send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with each request. I do this even if the cost of the record should include return postage.

-Marion County, Iowa, Genealogical Society News, October 1998

## Mark your calendars!

### IGS Genealogy Classes

Saturday, April 17 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Gen Research at the Iowa Hist. Soc. Lib. - by Ruth Bartels, IHS Librarian, to be held at Iowa Hist. Bldg.

Sunday, May 2, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. -

Using Computers and the Internet in Genealogy - by Joyce Brown

### IGS Annual Conference

1999 Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Conference will be held October 8 and 9 at the Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, 3702 South Center Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Theme will be: "Digging for your Roots".

Feature speaker will be Tony Burroughs. Mr. Burroughs teaches genealogy at Chicago State University. He received the National Genealogical Society Distinguished Service Award (1996) and serves on Boards of the Association of Professional Genealogists, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Friends of Genealogy at the Newberry Library, in Chicago. In addition to lecturing, Tony is an author with Simon & Schuster, and is scheduled to publish another work in 2000.

There is also a vendor area for purchasing various items and publications.

### Upcoming programs:

#### March 15 - Stamp Collecting

Joe Weinman plans to talk about stamp collecting in reference to letters written that provide genealogical/family historical information and hobbies that are passed down.

#### April 19 - Scrapbooks

Marj Huber is a teacher and owner of Heirlooms by Design in Valley Junction. She will talk about scrapbooks (and photo albums) from both creative and archival perspectives.

#### April 24 - Beginning Genealogy Workshop

Contact Marieta Grissom at 961-7542 if interested or have questions. More information will be in the Indianola paper.

*I am very excited about these upcoming programs! When I agreed to be WCGS President and keep my newsletter position as well, I said I would need assistance in finding programs. I sincerely appreciate the ideas that any of you have for programs. By combining our ideas I think we will have an excellent program year. We've already got a couple of excellent programs lined up for the fall. Keep the ideas flowing and watch the newsletter for the program announcements.- Marieta*

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

Category: True Story of the Past

**My Purpose in Life - God's Plan**

*by June Berry*

I'm a firm believer that everyone is put on this earth for a special purpose and when you are finished reading this story, I think you will agree with me, what my purpose for being here is.

My husband and I were married in June of 1957. Five months later we found that I was expecting our first child.

At this time I started working on an embroidery project that was to take me 12 years to finish.

I worked on this project until after our first child, a daughter, was born in August of 1958. Days being a little busier than before, I put it away for a less busy day.

When I found that I was again expecting (about three months later) I again picked up my embroidery and again began to stitch. After our son was born, I again put my project away until things quieted down a bit.

About a month and a half later, our third child announced her intended appearance in June.

I worked on my embroidery project longer this time as I was home more now, and got quite a bit of it done this time.

Our fourth child, a son, was born the following May. By now my project was really beginning to take shape and by the time our fifth child was born, I was well pleased with how it looked.

I put my embroidery away after number five and thought I might never finish it because it was two years before our next child was born. After he arrived, I put my project away and went to the hospital for major surgery, my growing family finally finished.

It took me several years later when I ran across my picture in a drawer I happened to be cleaning out. I decided to get it out and finish it. That was about 1969. It was finished and beautiful and my husband made me the frame in which I am displaying it today at this year's fair.

Now I have six happy, healthy children, no medical problems through any of my pregnancies, no miscarriages (which is unusual in a large family) a full table at every meal and my "CUP RUNNETH OVER" because the embroidery project I was working on through my whole child bearing years, was a religious picture, which laid across my growing stomach all those years, of THE LAST SUPPER!

I believe my purpose in life upon this earth was to fulfill one of God's requests "GO FORTH AND REPLENISH THE EARTH."

Category: Small Household Item:

Received: Blue Ribbon

**A Simple, Chipped Toothpick Holder**

*by Marieta Grissom*

This toothpick holder belonged to my Grandma and Grandpa Butler. My mother says it is the only one she remembers ever being used (and she was born the year after her parents were married). It always sat with a sugar bowl and salt shaker in the center of their kitchen table.

Grandpa and Grandma were married in 1917, Grandpa died in 1977, about a month before their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I would believe that this toothpick holder was used all those years. Grandma kept house another 12 years after Grandpa died and I know she continued to use it. Finally, however, the time came for her to store it away when she moved in with my mother. Grandma lived another 6 years and died at age 98 in 1995.

To me this toothpick holder represents every day life. After a meal Grandpa would take a toothpick, use it, keep it in his mouth a short while, then discard it when it was time to get up from the table.

I grew up on a farm only a couple of miles from Grandpa and Grandma's farm and saw them frequently. However, I didn't eat lots of meals at their house. We went there for many holiday meals. It was always a treat for me to get to stay with them for a while, whether that be a morning, an afternoon, a meal or an overnight. I think I was supposed to be "helping" Grandma.

Grandma usually fixed meat and potato meals for dinner and sandwiches or soup for supper, depending upon the time of year. She cooked most meals from what had been produced on the farm--meat from animals raised on the farm, vegetables from the garden and fruit from the orchard. Vegetables and fruit were canned and stored in the cave. They always kept milk cows and chickens.

I was always impressed with the routine of their meals. 12:00 noon was dinner time. Grandpa would come to the house, wash up at the pump on the porch, come into the kitchen and sit down at the table. Grandma always had the meal on the table. A cart with a toaster and radio sat off to the side of the kitchen. Grandma always pulled the cart to the table at dinner time so they could listen to farm radio WHO and the 12:30 news. After eating and listening to the news, Grandpa might sit a bit in the rocker in the living room, then would head back outside and Grandma would clean up the table and do the dishes.

What simple memories a simple, old, chipped toothpick holder can bring back to life!

## Preserving for future generations - family quilts

by Marieta Grissom

Preservation of items, as well as memories, is key to the total picture of family history and passing the heritage down through the generations.

The preservation emphasis of this newsletter issue is "family quilts." Common questions are: Can I use an old quilt? Can I hang an old quilt on the wall for display? Can I wash an old quilt? Can I store my old quilts in a big, plastic, covered container or plastic zipper bag? Why is my quilt covered with brown spots?

How you use, handle and store quilts is entirely dependent upon the value/purpose of these treasures to the owner. If the intended use of the quilt is for warmth and/or a bed covering, then use it. If the intended use is for a wall hanging, then hang it. If the intended use is to remember Grandma, then carefully preserve it.

### Stories

Grandma's quilt has many stories to tell. If you know or can figure out any of the stories, you should write them down and preserve them as well as the quilt itself.

First, the obvious story, do you remember Grandma? Do you remember when and why she made the quilt?

Second, whether you remember her or not, what do you know about her and her family—parents, siblings, spouse, children, where she lived, occupations, etc.? Write all this down!

Next, what can you tell about Grandma from the quilt? Size of stitches, whether it is hand pieced and/or hand quilted? Does it exhibit meticulous work or does it reveal a "hurried to get it finished" look? Colors—favorites? Fabric designs? Quilt pattern? Is this a scrap quilt or did Grandma purchase quantities of fabric to make the quilt?

Fourth, is the quilt well worn, was it used a lot for keeping someone warm in bed, on picnics, curled up by a fire, or in wagon? Or, has it been a special item, stored away and used only for special occasions?

Finally, who have been the owners of this quilt?

The stories should be stored with the quilt.

### Storage

Quilts should be stored away from sunlight in cool, dry places. Do not store in areas that experience temperature extremes, such as attics, and do not store in damp places, such as basements. The ideal way to store quilts is to lay them flat, on a spare bed in a darkened room, with cotton sheets layered between the quilts.

Second best is to roll quilts on a cardboard carpet tube—

with the tube covered first with acid free tissue or pre-washed muslin. The quilt should be rolled loosely with the pattern side toward the inside.

A third alternative is to fold the quilt with crumpled rolls of acid-free tissue, muslin or polyester batting inside the folds to soften them. Then wrap in an old cotton sheet, pre-washed muslin or pillow case. The quilt can then be placed on closet shelves. Refold quilts every 3 to 6 months.

Quilts need to breathe. Do not store them in plastic containers or zipper bags, which retain moisture and encourage the growth of mildew. Also, wood is highly acidic and can cause brown spots on the quilt. Therefore, do not store in cedar chests, trunks or drawers unless wrapped first in a cotton sheet or muslin.

### Cleaning

Quilts need a freshening day at least once a year. Select an overcast, dry, breezy day. Spread over towels or an old mattress pad on the grass. Or, run through a gentle cycle in the clothes dryer without heat.

Washing, no matter how carefully done, will lead to wearing and fading of the fabric. Washing an antique quilt should be done only as a last resort and then extremely carefully. Use a bathtub with lukewarm water. Gently rock the quilt back and forth. Without removing the quilt, drain water away. Use towels to wick excess water away from the quilt. Do not wring or squeeze the quilt. Dry flat on a pad and cover with a white sheet. Turn hourly. Be sure the quilt is completely dry before storing it away.

### Displaying

Hanging on a wall: If you want to hang a quilt on a wall, remember it will be exposed to a lot of light. If possible, rotate several quilts throughout the year.

Stacking in a cupboard: Remember the acidity of wood can cause brown spots. Seal the wood with polyurethane and line shelves with acid-free tissue paper.

Using quilt racks: Be sure wood is sealed with polyurethane, keep away from direct sunlight, and refold quilts frequently.

The owner of the quilt determines the longevity of the quilt by the care given the quilt and how it is used. The owner also determines whether any stories will accompany the quilt through its life. As a quilt maker and owner of a couple special "Grandma" quilts, I encourage quilt owners everywhere to take heed — and feel privileged to have these treasures in your possession.

### Sources:

1. "Care and Storage of your Quilts" by Beverly Blessing, *American Patchwork & Quilting*, October 1996, page 63.
2. "History in the Making—Mary Bywater Cross" by Allison Engel, *American Patchwork & Quilting*, April 1997, pages 32-36.
3. "Collecting, Displaying and Caring for Quilts" by Marianne Fons & Liz Porter, *Quilters Complete Guide*, pages 236-239.

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