

Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 26, Number 4

July-August 1999

Center Stage: Thelma Pehrson

by Ev Brightman

As we prepare to enjoy the genealogical activities of the Warren County Fair, it is only fitting that Thelma Pehrson take "Center Stage." As a home economics teacher, Thelma was often asked to be a judge at county fairs. On one such occasion, she noticed that the Adair County Fair had a genealogy section. In 1982 she brought home ideas for categories and together with Louise Pilmer requested the Fair Board provide space and inclusion. This was approved and 1983 was the first year for the genealogy division. We thank Thelma and Louise for establishing a lasting tradition for showcasing genealogical research at the Warren County Fair.

Thelma states that she has always been interested in genealogy as her own family loved to share information about their ancestors. She first began actually researching when her daughter, Marieta (current WCGS President), was doing a book of the history of Milo. Thelma's mother had kept scrapbooks and her Aunt Maude (Wilkins) had begun researching the Starbucks (Thelma's great grandmother's family). Thelma joined the Warren County Genealogical Society in 1979 to expand her own research.

As a WCGS member she has served as treasurer and as corresponding secretary for at least eight years. Thelma has one of those deals: to stay at her post in lieu of serving as president. Her work as corresponding secretary through those years has produced stacks of answered queries and countless hours of research. With her added duties as Librarian for the Warren County Historical Society, she continues to research and answer queries for both organizations. She has been very active in extracting and organizing data for research and publication.

The families Thelma has researched are: Starbuck, Cox, Butler, Stephens, Truitt, McNeill, Saxton and Pehrson.

The Cox family came to Warren County in 1848. Thelma, her parents and her grandparents were all raised in Warren County. One set of great grandparents is buried in the Indianola cemetery. Her parents were farmers and she grew up on a farm which was located directly east of Brown's Chapel. Thelma attended country school, Indianola High School and Simpson College. She married Ray Pehrson in 1942 after two years of teaching.

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Calendar:

- July 24 WARREN CO FAIR Entries due 9:00-12:00 NOON. judging to begin at 1:00 pm.
- August 13 RESEARCH TRIP TO STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY - Meet at Trinity United Presbyterian Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m.; we will return by 5:00 p.m. cost of transportation \$2.50.
- September 14 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- September 20 CEMETERY MEETING, 6:15 p.m.
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
"How can I remember when that happened?"
Roll Call: Genealogical gleanings from the summer

For more upcoming dates and events, see **Mark your calendar** on page 12.

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:

It is almost Fair Time and I've got 17 of my 20 exhibits ready. Some of you may remember that 20 exhibits was my New Year's Resolution. I think I'll make it. (It's been an easier resolution to keep than losing 20 pounds!) I hope you are planning to join us for the fair exhibit judging at 1:00 pm on Saturday, July 24.

A **Beginning Genealogy Class** will be held 9:00 - 3:30 on Saturday, October 16 at the Warren County Historical Museum building at the fairgrounds. There will be a sign up list at the Fair, as well as my sample notebook—to give an idea of what will be included in the workshop. Cost will be \$10.00.

Also at the fair we will have a "petition" to sign asking *The Des Moines Register* to include the specific date of a death in their obituaries, rather than just stating the day of the week of the death. Please be sure to sign it.

Only 4 of us made it to IGS on Tuesday, June 22, one during the day and 3 of us during the evening. Next year we will plan this as a day time trip.

Don't forget about the upcoming trip to the **Iowa Historical Library**. This should be a wonderful opportunity for research; Friday, August 13. We will meet at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. We need to be at the Historical Library by 9:00 a.m. sharp in order to get a tour prior to beginning our research. We will return by 5:00 p.m.; cost of transportation is \$2.50 Sign up at the fair or call me at home if you plan to come along.

I am planning to attend the **IGS Annual Conference** in Marshalltown on October 7, 8 and 9. If anyone would like to join me, I'd welcome the company.

This newsletter contains a lot of miscellaneous items: a couple e-mails from members, updates on some projects, and several items which have been gleaned from exchange newsletters. Also, I have figured out how we can organize the exchange newsletters for members to check out. They should be ready for the September meeting.

Speaking of the **September meeting**, I will be giving the program. I don't want to give away too many of the details, though I will say I've been very excited about it. **I guarantee it will help you remember when various events, etc. occurred and it will help you with research and family history writing.** Bring a pencil!

Hope you enjoy the newsletter!

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Indianola, Iowa 50125

Center Stage: Thelma Pehrson

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Thelma continued to teach as well as be a farm wife and mother, teaching 7th grade through high school in Kossuth County, Tyler County and at Southeast Warren for a total of twenty-two years. She remains active with her children and grandchildren's activities and passing on her love of history and family.

When asked what she has learned from genealogy, her reply was 1) Always be sure to write down your sources, 2) even if a person with your surname is not a part of your family, write it down. There may be an eventual connection, and 3) talk to others who are researching the same name and compare.

Thelma, thanks for your wisdom, work AND the fair!

Photographs at Denver Library

The Denver Public Library has opened a site containing more than 50,000 photographs, some dating back to the 19th century, from its Western History/Genealogy department. The collection includes photos of the 19th Mountain Division ski troops, Native-American pioneers, early railroads, mining and other images. By the end of the year 2000, the library plans to expand this offering to 95,000 photos. All the pictures can be viewed online at no charge. Those who want high quality 8x10 reproductions of any photo can purchase them for \$14.00. To have a look at the Denver Public Library's on-line collection:

gowest.coalliance.org or
www.denver.lib.co.us

(Note: no "www" on the first of these sites.)

-Western Wayne County (MI) Gen Soc, Winter 1998

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 ... Entertainment

The following story was in The IOWA MAGAZINE Section in 1922.

Indianola, Iowa, Plays Circus

by Carl K. Stuart

Of course you dreamed at one time in your boyhood of owning a circus when you grew up. You were going to be the proprietor and most of the show. You were going to be your own ringmaster, with a swallow-tail coat and a flowing moustache. You were to be the most important clown, too, and the Roman rider. And when you felt like it you were going to appear in pink silk tights and wing on a trapeze at the top of the tent, airily seizing young women catapulted toward you from other swinging trapezes— (These acrobatic fairies, you will remember, invariably had the face of Betty or Jane, or whatever her name was.)

Those boy dreams, hidden deep behind boyhood shyness except in moments alone, were precious things. You brought them out most every night in the half-hour between bedtime and sleep, and the thrill was always new. There is nothing in manhood to match the pure gold of them. They were more real than most grown-up realities. After you had outgrown them you found that life had cheated you, that life had robbed you of a joy and provided no adequate substitute.

Perhaps that is why you like to go to the circus now. Heaven knows it's all old stuff! The stale smell of animal cages offends unaccustomed nostrils. But there in the tent with the man-eating lion, the paint-spattered clowns springing their old gags, the acrobats in tarnished tinsel going through physical formulas, perhaps a ghost comes back from your boyhood to its beloved scene and caresses you lightly with bitter-sweet remembrance.

Louis M. Latta dreamed just like you did, when he was a boy. And just like yours, his dream was side-tracked so that he could become a Person of Affairs. He is a lumber dealer.

But unlike you, he didn't leave his dream forever on the sidetrack. One day, in middle life, he came upon it again. He pulled it out onto the main line of his life, and it has been with him ever since, a childish hope grown into a manhood hobby. Few of us are lucky enough to find the path back to the glories of childhood.

Circumstances direct him to the neglected mental siding. As manager of the Green Bay Lumber company's yards at Indianola, he is one of the leading citizens, interested in the community's prosperity. Last year the county fair association, in the hole financially, was casting about for an attrac-

tion that would make up the deficit. He was enlisted to help solve the problem.

"Why not organize a regular old-time circus?" he suggested. "We could use home talent, and burlesque what we couldn't do straight, and pack 'em into the grand stand."

"All right," said the fair managers. "you go ahead and organize it."

The Burlesque Circus that resulted has been produced two successive years at the Warren County Fair. Its fame has spread throughout the middle west. Hundreds of letters and telegrams of congratulation and inquiry have been received since the performance this year. Last August is "showed" to more than 5,000 people in three evenings. And Mr. Latta, who conceived it, is immensely happy. For himself, he has found a fountain of youth.

You would think that an Iowa county-seat town of less than 4,000 population would hardly furnish the material for a circus. Latta says that's because you have never hunted for such material in your own town. It's there, waiting to be discovered and trained.

The Warren county burlesque circus is in two parts: First is a musical revue. That is followed by the orthodox circus acts. Fifty-seven girls—most all of Indianola's younger society maids and matrons—take part in specialties, choruses, bareback and tumbling numbers. There are thirty-seven male performers including one really sensational bareback rider, and a clown band. Twenty-four children appear in pony drill and riding acts. Ninety-seven horses, ponies and mules are used, much of the "show ring stock" being Mr. Latta's personal property. He has a horse trained to do "statuary". Four big drafters, who haul lumber the rest of the year, have learned to trot composedly round a ring while young men and women jump on and off. Latta owns one of the few perfect Albino mules in the country, and also the smallest mule in the world—a full-grown fellow about as big as a small Shetland pony, that will kick anything strange that comes close enough.

There are two rings and one stage, placed in front of the fairground racetrack amphitheatre. The circus begins with a grand entry, just like the pageant that opens a regular big-tent attraction. Following the grand entry two burlesque elephants, attended by two comic cops, furnish diversion while the musical revue, directed by Mr. Raymond Justice, gets started.

The musical numbers are given in costume, which came from eastern theatrical supply houses. Mr. Justice made a special trip to Chicago early this summer to arrange for mu-

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

sic and apparel. As a result, the revue gave the latest musical releases, some of them being sung at the Warren County Fair perhaps for the first time in Iowa outside of regular vaudeville houses.

Forty-five minutes of singing and dancing, and then the circus. Boyd Weeks and Park Keeney, Indianola boys, do bareback work in the rings that seems professionally finished. On the stage at the same time, Don Berry maneuvers a troupe of burlesque wild animals—ravens, lions and tigers.

Ella Belle McClelland and Jennice Anderson provide real circus atmosphere with synchronized riding in the two rings. Their ponies are trained until they work perfectly, the children are in regulation circus tinsel and fluff, and the act ends when both dismount, turn cartwheels across the ring, and remount the fast moving animals, together to the tick of a watch.

Sixteen of Indianola's prettiest girls participate in the Zouave drill on the stage, while in the rings Maxine Curie and Bernice Sacre, the feminine riding stars, perform. These young women were first taught bareback riding this season by Mr. Latta, beginning their training early in March.

Six dancing black bears, in charge of Mary Belle Smith, follow the Zouaves on the stage, and in one of the rings Boyd Weeks impersonates Poodles Pannford, America's greatest bareback rider. Weeks, only sixteen years old, is already a sensational trick rider. He could "join up" with a circus most any time, on the basis of his present training.

The Bishop Brothers, who spent thirty-two years under the "big tops" stage a ladders tumbling act, in which two Indianola boys help. Twenty-four little children, dressed in Spanish costumes and riding Shetland ponies, go through the maneuvers of an intricate pony drill. Then the clown band appears, blaring discords carefully taught to its members by Professor Harvey of the Simpson College conservatory of music.

Latta took a whole group of staid Indianola business men with him when he went back to boyhood. The circus clowns are merchants, bankers and schoolmen. Robert McCoy, clothing dealer, is an Irish mick cop; Walter McKee, superintendent of schools, is a German fly cop; Paul Sargent, grocer, is a Hey Rube; Lester Myers, druggist, is the village cut-up, playing jokes with a water-throwing camera. James Peterman, cashier of the Warren County State Bank, has been transformed into a Jewish caricature, and Will Barr, insurance man, is in black face with the

Albino mule for a teammate.

Latta and Justice have had a lot of fun. They built all the scenery, the special harness, and the wagons used in the downtown circus parade. They organized the show just like a real road circus is put together. Circus terms are used. Is the canvas-enclosed space where the show horses are assembled called the paddock? It is not. It is the pad room. There is a Boss Canvas, a Boss Properties, a Boss Saddles, a Boss Electrician, a Boss Stage, a Boss Ring Stock, a Boss Hostler, an Equestrian Director and a Pad Room Director. The task of each, timed to half minutes, is carefully assigned and learned in advance.

Ninety minutes before the first show this year there was not a foot of canvas up, not a performer, a worker, or an animal on the lot. Only Latta strolled there alone. Ten minutes before the performance was to start the mayor of Indianola, glancing in at the bedlam in the recently-erected pad room, said to Latta: "I guess there won't be any circus tonight."

"You wait!" said Latta.

A whistle sounded. In a few seconds the confusion had become order. Horses and performers had taken their assigned places with the precision of a battle ship crew going into action. The band blared, and the grand entry was on.

You could swallow your dignity and break up your routine enough to do that, something of the rose tint would come back to the dawn, the mystery would return to the unseen place over the hilltop, and the eagerness to thoughts of tomorrow.

Local Couple Reminisces About Chautauqua Career

*by Polly Madden
Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune, Feb. 21, 1963*

Without doubt one of the fattest memory books in Indianola belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Winters. It is filled with mementoes from every state in the Union and most of the Canadian provinces accumulated in the years the couple traveled as Chautauqua and Lyceum performers.

Alice Stire, the daughter of an Iowa minister, and Emerson Winters, who grew up in Illinois, met when Sam Holliday of Indianola, owner of the Midland Chautauqua company and one of the prominent people in the business, booked them in the same act.

Emerson's specialty was musical monologues and he also

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

served as piano accompanist for Alice's whistling solos. Later they appeared together in dramatic sketches and Alice acted in a number of plays.

During the earlier part of the century the arrival of the Chautauqua tent company which brought five or six days of entertainment and lectures to the community was eagerly awaited. In winter the same type of program, held indoors, was known as Lyceum.

Knew Celebrities

One of the most famous celebrities with whom the Winters became acquainted was William Jennings Bryan. In 1912 his popularity was at its height and he was said to make \$10,000 a week, a fabulous salary in those days, especially for one who liked to be known as "The Great Commoner."

His lectures were about two hours in length and those in charge of arrangements were always instructed to have a large pitcher of water on the platform. Sometimes, Mr. Winters said, it was one of the large white pitchers from the sets including a large washbowl. Mr. Bryan usually consumed most of it.

One editor noting this commented acidly that he had often seen a windmill pump water but this was the first time he had seen water run a windmill.

Mr. Bryan traveled by automobile, not always the most dependable transportation in those days, and maintained a rather tight schedule sometimes giving three lectures a day.

At Norfolk, Nebr., the lecturer's arrival was anxiously awaited and since communications were somewhat primitive, it was arranged for someone to shoot off a gun at the edge of town when they saw him arriving and for others stationed farther along the route to pass on the signal. The last gun went off just outside the tent immediately behind the stage where Mrs. Winters was presenting one of her whistling solos, disrupting her act and causing several members of the audience to run for the nearest exit.

"Acres of Diamonds"

Another lecturer who appeared on the same program as the Winters was Russell Conwell, whose lecture, "Acres of Diamonds", was later published in book form. "He had

only the one lecture." Mr. Winters said. "and when he was booked into a town where he had appeared before, he just added more diamonds!"

Dr. Albert E. Wiggam of "Let's Explore Your Mind" fame also traveled in their company.

The young couple enjoyed traveling by train from place to place, meeting people, shopping in the various cities and attending the theater. An opera program of "Carmen" in their scrapbook lists Geraldine Farrer in the lead. They also heard Caruso. "We had a good time," they reminisced.

Mrs. Kenneth Browne, long neighbor of the family, remembers the beautiful gowns Mrs. Winters bought for her stage appearances. She was also one of the first Indianola women to wear lipstick. "She gave me some," Mrs. Browne remembers, "but Kenneth wouldn't let me use it!"

End of Chautauqua

The advent of the movies and especially talking pictures ended Chautauqua. Mrs. Winters' parents had lived in Indianola and the couple had always considered this their home. They returned here to stay in 1929 and for six years Mr. Winters was an announcer at station WHO.

During this time Mrs. Winters was often invited to appear on programs and after entertaining one Des Moines audience an effusive woman rushed up to her declaring, "My dear, I know you'll go a long way!"

"I've been a long way and I've come back," Mrs. Winters quietly replied.

After leaving WHO Mr. Winters managed the Empress Theater here for a number of years before his retirement. He and his wife live on West Ashland in the home that once belonged to her parents. Next September they will observe their 50th wedding anniversary.

Chautauqua Program

The Advocate Tribune, July 1915

Friday, July 16, 1915

- 7:30 Prelude, Maude Scheerer and Her Shakesperian Players
- 8:00 The Play, "Twelfth Night," Maude Scheerer and Her Shakesperian Players

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.

Saturday, July 17, 1915

- 10:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- 2:30 Prelude, Bostonia Sextet Club, C. L. Staats, Director
- 3:00 Concert, Bostonia Sextet Club, C. L. Staats, Director
- 7:30 Prelude, Bostonia Sextet Club, C. L. Staats, Director
- 8:00 Illustrated Lecture, A. E. Wiggam, "Hereditary and Human Progress."

Sunday, July 18, 1915

- 2:30 Sacred Reading, Josephine Dominick Solo, Mrs. Pearl Warthen
- 3:00 Sermon, Dr. Carl Thompson
- 7:30 Reading, Josephine Dominick Solo, Mrs. Pearl Warthen
- 8:00 Lecture, Lee Francis Lybarger

Monday, July 19, 1915

- 10:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- 2:30 Prelude, Meistersingers Male Quartet and Organ Chimes
- 3:00 Lecture, Lafayette Young, "Four Months in the European War Zone."
- 7:30 Prelude, Meistersingers Male Quartet and Organ Chimes
- 8:00 Lecture, Dr. Russell H. Conwell, "The Silver Crown."

Tuesday, July 20, 1915

- 10:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- 2:30 Prelude, Ernest Gamble Concert Party
- 3:00 Lecture, Dr. Chas S. Medbury, "Forty Million Young Folks."
- 7:30 Prelude, Ernest Gamble Concert Party
- 8:00 Grand Concert, Ernest Gamble Concert Party
- 9:00 Health Lectures, Mrs. McIntire and Miss Hall
- 9:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling

Wednesday, July 21, Educational Day

- 10:00 Graduation Exercises, Rural Schools, under direction of County Superintendent, W. M. McGee
- Health Lectures, Mrs. McIntire and Miss Hall
- Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- 2:30 Prelude, The Boyds, Musical Entertainers
- 3:00 Lecture, Edmund Vance Cooke, "Pot Luck with the Pet."
- 7:30 Prelude, The Boys, Musical Entertainers
- 8:00 Lecture, D. W. A. Hunsberger, "The Montessori Method of Education." Illustrated with Moving Pictures.

Thursday, July 22, 1915

- 10:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- Health Lectures, Mrs. McIntire and Miss Hall

- 2:30 Prelude, Robert Bowman, Miscellaneous Readings
- 3:00 Concert, Hugh Anderson Operatic and Concert Company
- 7:30 Prelude, Hugh Anderson Operatic and Concert Company
- 8:00 Entertainment, Robert Bowman, Character Portrayals

Friday, July 23, 1915

- 10:00 Children's Hour, Miss Mabel Rilling
- Health Lectures, Mrs. McIntire and Miss Hall
- 10:30 Sunday School Rally, conducted by Paul S. Dietrick
- 2:30 Concert, Victor's Florentine Band
- 3:30 Lecture, Paul S. Dietrick, "The Better Way."
- 7:30 Prelude, Victor's Florentine Band
- 8:00 Concert, Victor's Florentine Band

For further information see C. D. Proudfoot, Local Manager

Chautauqua at Indianola

by Louise Pilmer

It was on July 24, 1903 in Indianola, when audiences first began to gather annually and sit on wooden plank benches, in a large tent. This tent was located on the Simpson College Athletic Strip, between Buxton Park and Simpson Campus. This assembly was attending the CHAUTAUQUA.

Chautauqua (an Indian word for "Talk it through") provided weary people with fresh, new views about lands and people beyond Warren County. By August crops were harvested or maturing and required little attention for a few weeks. Farm residents of the county and Indianola business men who served them, were temporarily "freed up." They yearned to be inspired and challenged by new ideas. They wanted to chuckle at wit and humor. The Chautauqua programs usually opened in August and provided relaxation for five to seven days.

National known political speakers (William Jennings Bryan), evangelists (Rev. Sam Jones), eloquent lecturers (Carrie Nation) were favorite speakers on the Chautauqua Circuits. The final evening program consisted of a moving picture.

Child centered programs were developed apart from the lengthy lectures of the adult programs. Personable young women were engaged to act as Children Directors. They collected the children of the performers and the audience together and supervised them in pageants—usually of very patriotic themes about "My Town" or "My Country."

Each year some new feature was added in an attempt to attract a larger attendance. The college campus provided a camping area. In early years benches were built on the benches. Hitching racks were erected to accommodate more horse drawn vehicles. The final evening of Motion Pictures was expanded to become a nightly attraction. Free tickets were distributed by some stores for sales of \$10.00 or more.

For twenty one years, 1903 through 1924, the annual summer Chautauqua program was underwritten by community leaders of the County. But in the early twenties, attendance and interest lagged. In 1925 there was no Chautauqua. In 1926 an all-out comeback attempt was made but attendance was not large. Ticket sales sold only enough to cover one-third of the expenses. No attempt was made in 1927 or thereafter to revive the summer entertainment that once was so popular. The Chautauqua period was over. Thirst for enlightenment and entertainment was satisfied daily by radio and made obtainable as roads were improved through the County leading to city theaters.

Some Indianola people who have had some kind of part in the Chautauqua movement were: Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Winters, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Sund, Lawrence and Vincent Pemble, E. J. (Slatts) Anderson, Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Grant and Mr. James Miller.

Resting in several homes are objects of memorabilia from the twenty-one years of the Indianola Chautauqua. Mrs. Delno Smith received a small hatchet when she attended the Carrie Nation lecture in the Indianola Chautauqua. Her daughter, Mrs. Robert Halderman prizes this token on display in her home.

The Chautauqua, in a manner, does live on in the memories and possessions of many local people.

Indianola Women Enjoy "Fun Night" Program

Indianola Herald, May 2, 1940

Wearing gay paper hats with such captions as "Kiss Me, Kid," "It's Too Windy," "I'm Lonesome," and "Come On, Be a Sport," 450 Indianola club women gathered at the Methodist church school Wednesday night, Apr. 24, for a gala affair called "Fun Night."

The program, consisting of musical numbers, plays and skits followed the serving of pie and coffee and was held in the auditorium.

Mrs. F. I. Moats, president of the Woman's Club, who were sponsors of the event, introduced Mrs. Harry Taggart,

master of ceremonies. Mrs. Taggart walked jauntily on the stage carrying a cane and in full dress suit, complete with top hat and tails, and announced the first presentation, that of the Indianola Music club.

Music Club

Mrs. E. G. Brockman led the group, who sang several numbers. Mrs. Ed Smith volunteered from the audience to play the accompaniment after the club's pianist suddenly disappeared.

Appearing next in an old fashioned automobile duster with a hat and veil to match, Mrs. Taggart introduced the next number by the "Bestyette" club as "A Hilly Billy Ride."

At this moment Mrs. Kenneth Browne came dashing up the aisle with a telegram for Mrs. Taggart from Mrs. Roosevelt to the effect that she was very sorry to miss "Fun Night" but just couldn't crowd it into "My Day."

Gives Reading

The Friendly Neighbors club were prefaced by the appearance of Mrs. Taggart in a "Pansy Yokum" outfit. Mrs. Frank Ford, representing the organization, gave a reading, "I Ain't Gonna Cry No More," with convincing sobs and dialect.

The Master of Ceremonies in a shawl and gray bonnet added to the atmosphere of the Monday club skit which took place in a railroad station with the following cast: Mrs. C. C. Briggs, station agent; Mrs. C. W. Honnold, a passenger dressed in an old-fashioned suit waiting for a train and his wife, Mrs. A. V. Proudfoot.

Fashion Show

Before the Ola Delphian's skit, Miss Phyllis Emmons announced that there would be an impromptu fashion show by members of the audience and called Mrs. John Gross, Mrs. Percy Guyton, Mrs. Effie Kimer, Mrs. Howard Legg, Mrs. John Horsley, Mrs. Nelle Roberts, Mrs. C. W. Honnold, Miss Winifred Boston, Miss Wilma Brewer, Mrs. Truman Burkey, Miss Beverly Newton, Mrs. Harold Anderson, Mrs. W. E. Payne, Mrs. W. J. Peterson, and Miss Verna Brown to the stage to claim their costumes for the review to be presented after the Delphian number. Miss Emmons was introduced by the "Fun Master" a vision of chicness in a stylish spring ensemble.

Delphians

The Delphians sang sheet music, "Swanee River." It was "sheet music" in every sense of the word, as the group came onto the stage swathed in sheets and were presented by the versatile Mrs. Taggart also in a sheet.

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

Following a preview of the fashion show by Mrs. Taggart in a glamorous negligee, the other models were introduced by Miss Phyllis Emmons and Miss Faithe Danielson.

Athletic Trainer Taggart in sweat shirt and cap swaggered on the stage before the Laf-a-lot club number in time to receive another flash from Mrs. Brown. This time the message was from Gracie Allen and stated that she was counting on the Woman's clubs to support her campaign for the presidency on the Surprise party ticket. Mrs. Glen Bowles read a history of the Laf-a-lot club and the group sang a chorus of their club song set to the music of "Oh Johnny."

Information

"Information Please" directed by Miss Helen Lundy with Miss Achsa Lucas, Mrs. Beulah Kramer, Miss Pauline Besore, Miss May Alice Smith, and Miss Genevieve Johnson was heralded by Mrs. Taggart, this time in judpurs and riding boots, her final costume of the evening.

"It's a Woman's Privilege," a play concerning the work of modern clubwomen, directed by Mrs. Ardeth Jameson, was presented by the following cast from the Woman's club: Mrs. Virgil Knight, Mrs. G. L. Hoffman, Mrs. Robert Burns, Mrs. Clarence Williams, Mrs. Arthur Norman, Mrs. E. G. Brockman, and Mrs. Forrest Brown.

Mrs. F. I. Moats, represented the Woman's club, expressed her gratitude to all those who helped make the evening a success.

Committees

Those who served on committees were: Mrs. G. A. Grant, chairman, Mrs. Jay Bergstresser, Miss Neola Cheshire, Mrs. Earl Barker, Mrs. Welsley Stewart, Mrs. Boyd Brewer, Mrs. E. H. Felton, Mrs. A. M. Kelley, and Mrs. J. A. Long, hospitality committee.

Miss Ruth Jackson, chairman, Mrs. C. G. Maxwell, Mrs. W. T. Hamilton, Miss Phyllis Emmons, Mrs. Vinton Watson, program committee.

Mrs. Seth Shenton, Mrs. John Lyons, Mrs. S. N. Van Vliet, Mrs. W. H. Hoyman, Mrs. Charles Conklin, Mrs. Fred Simpson, and Mrs. Carl Lane poured.

Mrs. Ed Smith played violin numbers before the program began, accompanied by Mrs. Eldon Ogan on the piano. Mrs. Ferrall Metcalf played piano numbers between skits.

Them Tobies Is At It Agin

Illinois State Register, Springfield, Feb 9, 1967
by George Derwig

School assemblies in the Greater Springfield area are rocking with laughter these days.

There's good reason.

The Sun Players—an original Toby duo—is again regaling the children with that pure corn that delighted their parents and grandparents in the Toby Tent Shows of bygone years.

What's a Toby?

Well, Red Skelton is a Toby—a comic, usually a rural rube with red wig, baggy pants, and a wit that a baby can enjoy—nothing sophisticated.

Toby is a great name in show biz. It offsets life's tragedy with pretzel bending humor—often pathetic but always sympathetic—evoking unsophisticated joy ranging from belly laughs to shrill tear-washed giggles.

Even Shakespeare found him a gold mine. Remember Sir Roby Belch with his love of cakes and ale in "Twelfth Night"?

The kids may not know him, but they do know Jess Sund, and his wife Dorothy, one of the two Toby troupes left in this country. (The Bisby Show of Tennessee and Kentucky is the other.) The nucleus of the Sun Players, they visit the same schools in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa every four years.

The kids anticipate their three-act plays of unsophisticated humor and scraggly music the way the folks around here looked forward to the Toby Tent Shows of bygone years.

The Sunds—Sun Players—are rearguard of 300 Toby Tent Shows—200 in Illinois alone—that have tickled funnybones with rustic high jinks since 1912.

They still cover a full circuit in Missouri every summer, but, when temperatures begin to make tent appearances less than comfortable, the Sunds hit the school circuit.

Heated auditoriums are more comfortable. Besides Jess and Dot like kids. That's why their 18-member troupe has avoided permanent connections with a roofed over stage, like the Beverly Hillbillies, for instance. Yes, the Hillbillies show is one of the original Toby Shows that made good in big time.

But not for Jess and Dot Sund. They'd rather crack corn with kids any day. They enjoy hearing the squeals of laughter from school children, and the "harruummmph, ha-ha-ha, ho-ho-ho's" from principals and teachers.

Just playing a violin with a baby bottle, pencil or coat

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

hanger by Jess in his tousled red mop, outsized freckles and baggy pantaloons draws "a million laughs," he says.

And when Dot shows up as a grumpy, frowzy, busybody to torment "Toby," the youthful audience is convulsed in laughter.

But when she turns up as a society grande dame, marooned at a country hotel, the kids roll in the aisles.

Why? Who knows? Maybe youngsters have a surplus of television violence and super human activity, and find the Toby performance a relief.

Anyway, Dot's line to rural hotel clerk Jess is, "Can you show me to the bath?"

Jess' reply is, "Show you? Why I'll bring it right to your room."

Not funny? The kids think so. That's all that counts.

That's why Jess and Dot will continue to be back here every four years at the same schools until he "comes down with the curtains" and she "dies at the footlights."

That's why kids around here won't forget how to play a comb in wax paper for a long time.

And that's also the reason they'll continue to be sophisticated about movie and TV gore.

"Toby" and Dot blunt its impact by showing how violent acts are simulated, during their show. For example, "Toby" will show how, by crunching a capsule in his mouth at the right moment, he can induce "blood" to flow from his mouth.

Adding to this education are lessons in make-up, Jess and Dot appear on stage in street clothes, put on fresh faces and costumes for each separate act.

The youngsters find this as hilarious as the fare of ham and corn.

Perhaps the mothers don't, for some days after the Toby Show has left town, but they get over disappearing lipstick and face creams. That's a small price to pay for clean fun.

Everywhere throughout Central Illinois, PTAs and school principals ask the Sun Players to come back.

Today the Sun Players were in New Berlin schools. Next they'll be at Mushville, Meredosia and Mount Sterling. The following week, Jess and Dot will cover Franklin, Jacksonville, Girard, Verden, Palmyra and Winchester schools.

If you want some fun, make an excuse to visit the principal

during assembly time. You'll find him with the rest of the kids in the school auditorium, laughing at "Toby" and his Dot.

Mrs. Sund, the daughter of a circus aerialist, started in Toby shows when she was 18. Sund began acting in tent shows as a young college graduate 30 years ago. Besides the Sunds and a few other pros, college students often fill out the tent show company for its 16-week summer tour. Most of the tent shows are sponsored by local civic groups.

Jess and Dot retired in Indianola in 1977. Jess died, but Dot remained active in the community and was a contributor to the Warren County Historical Society. Sadly, Dot died July 14, 1999—as this newsletter was being written.

Three Rivers Verse Corner

*Sponsored by the Jessie Welborn Smith Circle of Indianola
1942*

HOME

I could live in a mansion of costly design
As fine as the house of a king,
And bordered by beautiful tree-shaded lanes
Where golden-toned nightingales sing.
It could hold all the riches a heart could desire,
And be filled with glad voices all day;
Yet to me it would only be empty, I know,
Each moment that you'd be away.

I could live in a cottage away from the world,
Though humble and small it might be;
A wee, quiet spot with just enough room
For two, or someday perhaps three.
And though no one else ever entered its doors
With greetings to brighten the air,
To me it would always be rich, dear, and full
Just simply because you'd be there.

For there isn't a beauty a home could possess,
Be it flawless in form and in art,
That compares with the harmony, sweeter than song,
Created when heart blends with heart.
I care not if ever I wander again,
Or if all through the earth I must roam;
As long as I have you, my own, by my side,
Wherever I am will be—home!

*Verna Smith Teeuwissen,
Indianola*

Stamp Collecting Program

At our March meeting, Joe Weinman presented a very interesting program on Stamp Collecting, a hobby that has been passed down in his family for several generations. He defined philatelic as the collector and student of postage stamps, postmarks, etc. Joe described 2 types of stamps as 1) definitive—those used over the long term, and 2) commemorative. The first stamps were issued in 1847. The first one cost 5¢ and honored the first Postmaster General Benjamin Franklin. The second one issued cost 10¢ and honored George Washington. In the 1930s a contest was held to determine the most popular stamp—a 1898 \$1.00 trans-Mississippi stamp entitled, “Western Cattle in Storm.” Joe explained the 4 conditions of stamps: 1) mint, 2) unused, 3) used, and 4) cancelled to order and first day covers.

Joe’s grandfather Harry Weinman had two hobbies: raising roses and collecting stamps. Grandfather Weinman interested Joe in the stamp collecting hobby. Joe told the story of the time part of the elder Weinman’s house caught on fire. The firemen knew of Harry’s stamp collection and went the extra mile to be sure it was safe.

Joe encouraged stamp collectors to focus on small facets of stamp collecting and not try to collect everything. For example, he has focused on 1) German stamps, especially from West Germany, where he was an exchange student; 2) Liechtenstein. 3) Rotary (his exchange program was sponsored by the Rotary), and 4) Boy Scouts (Joe is an Eagle Scout). These were Joe’s primary interests as a youth when he began his hobby, so that is where his focus has continued. (Of course, Joe’s parents, Jim and Maxine Weinman, WCGS members and avid hot air balloon promoters—collect balloon stamps and covers.)

Joe explained that a cover is an envelope with a cancelled stamp. FDC means first day cover. Cache covers have special envelopes printed for a specific purpose or event.

Joe explained about using glassine envelopes for storing stamps, having a magnifying glass, and using special stamp tongs that are similar to tweezers but have rounded edges instead of points. He said to use cold water when trying to remove a stamp from the cover since hot water may cause the ink to bleed and he recommended drying stamps in a book so they will be flat.

Finally, Joe explained that some people are stamp collectors and others are stamp investors, and Joe has an Uncle Joe in Denver, CO, who became a stamp dealer in his retirement.

Is stamp collecting connected to genealogy? Yes—in the sense that it is often passed from one generation to another, and, yes, in the sense that the focus each person has will tell about the life of that individual, his interests, etc.

Thanks, Joe—it was an interesting, educational evening!

WCGS Committee Updates

1) Church Records:

No one turned in any new information this month. So far we have received and published in the newsletter information for 21 of 74+ church currently identified as active in Warren County. Hopefully, we can get several more for upcoming newsletters. Plans are to make a booklet to distribute when we have gathered as much church record information as possible.

2) Obituary Clipping:

Dorothy Stearns took over responsibility this year for clipping the obituaries from *The Des Moines Register* and *The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune*. I typed the index for the 1997 obit notebook. Ruth Henry and I are trying to get 1998 obits alphabetized and ready for pasting. We plan to have a “pasting party” in January 2000.

3) Cemetery Walking to prepare for an update to the 1980 Warren County Cemetery Book:

Dean and JoAnn Harvey have undertaken the enormous task of walking the Indianola cemetery. Please give them a call at 961-0540 if you can help them, even for a day.

4) Indexing nearly 25 years of WCGS newsletters:

I gave member Mary Pancratz of California a complete set of newsletters last fall. She wrote with her membership renewal this spring that she had worked on the project, but was currently taking a break.

More from *Three Rivers Verse Corner, 1942:*

BREEZY GOSSIP

The trees were seen conversing
One sultry summer day;
They whispered—even gossiped—
At least, it seemed that way.

The story started in the chestnut
For his leaves, they stirred and fluttered,
Then the maple across the way,
Took it up and muttered;

He wig-wagged to the elm tree
And the elm tree then did start
His leaves to shake and rustle,
The message to impart;

And so, the word went round and round—
A mere ripple it began—
The south wind told the chestnut
Whence it spread, as man to man.

Ruth Fortney Maxwell, Indianola

From our members

I have received the following e-mail messages from two of our members.

May 17, 1999

Dear Marieta,

I joined the WCGS this year but wasn't getting my newsletters. I wrote to Thelma and today I received all the back issues. A notation mentioned an error in the zip code. So I am catching up on all the back issues and enjoying everything.

I read in "bits and pieces" that you are working on a project about the Warren County church records. I need to read the records for the Baptist Church, Hartford at your library when I get the opportunity. My great-great grandfather, Simon Clark, was "A Minister Of The Gospel Of Christ." but I don't know what church he was affiliated with. I don't know if this will add to the church history or not, but maybe.

Simon Clark entered 160 acres from the United States, an 80-acre and two 40-acre parts of section 8, Richland Twp, Warren County, IA, 14 February 1850 for \$200 in gold. This land is one mile north of Hartford over the ridge south of Middle River to the south edge of the Des Moines River. It lay in the area known as the "Island" for reasons observed when the rivers were in flood. This part of Warren County was part of the "disputed land" where the jurisdiction changed from Warren County to Polk County and then reverted back to Warren County.

Simon Clark came to Iowa from Jackson County, Ohio, some of the other families from the same area were Wicker, Newell, Cottrell, Halterman, Collins, Van Scoy and Hartley. At first they settled in Wapello, Polk and Warren Counties.

In Polk County Marriage Records are recorded three marriages by Simon Clark or Simeon Clark, "Minister Of The Gospel Of Christ". They are Archibald Smith to Elizabeth Newell, March 2, 1854; Benjamin Clark (Simon's oldest son) to Julia Porter, June 8, 1854; and Jacob Freelan to Margaret Wicker, June 19, 1854.

Simon died Feb. 14, 1856 (six years to the day of his land entry) and is buried in Wicker Cemetery which is about directly north of Section 8, in Polk County. His will is on file in the Warren County courthouse indexed under the name Simeon Clark. It is a spoken will testified to in open court.

I have always wondered what his church was. I do know that his parents were married in 1795 in Hardy County,

VA, by the Rev. David Badgley, said to be a "hard shell" Baptist who by one account was recruited by the American Baptist Mission Board to establish a Protestant church in the Illinois territory because after the Revolution Americans were starting to percolate into the area and were intermarrying with the French at Kaskaskia and then entering the Catholic Church, which the Baptists wished to prevent. Badgley made a prospecting trip to Illinois in 1796 during which he preached a great deal and converted fifteen people. He then returned home (Hardy Co. VA—now Grant and Hardy Counties, West Virginia) and came back with a large party (about 154 men, women and children). They traveled by flatboat along various Pennsylvania rivers then took the Ohio to Illinois then came overland. This new colony was called "New Design". Reverend David Badgley is now credited with having founded the first Protestant church in Illinois, or anywhere north of the Ohio River.

James D. Clark
4444 Woodview Drive, NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411-6729
jdclark@cedar-rapids.net

P.S. Member Kenneth Smith is my uncle.

May 26, 1999

Dear Marieta,

Another very fine newsletter! I really look forward to them. This one had an extra bonus for me. Mrs. Bushie Long-Owens (page 3, May-June 1999) was my grandfather's first cousin and the information that she married Mr. Owens helped me a great deal! I found her marriage is listed in the Warren County Marriages that I bought a while ago. Fortunately my local genealogical society has the two great books that your society published a while back (cemetery records and births to 1920). I found Bushie (isn't that an unusual name?) and her husband in the cemetery book (Carlisle) and 3 sons and a daughter in the birth book. Will have to check for the sons in the cemetery book when I go back to the library. I did find that their son, Frederick C. died in April of 1970 in Carlisle according to the Social Security records. I just wanted to let you know how pleased I am that your lead helped me with this branch.

Sincerely,
Don Hoffer
Tustin, CA

Queries

WCGS internet query policy:

Queries can be sent to Marieta51@aol.com. However, we do not answer queries directly from the internet. If your postal mailing address is included with your internet query, we will publish your query in our next newsletter and will send you a complimentary copy of the newsletter.

Our corresponding secretary does not have internet access. You may send your specific queries to her along with a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope): *Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125. She does not charge for her research, but does appreciate a donation for photocopies, her time. etc.*

ABELL. Looking for information on my gggrandfather, George W. Abell, who resided in Linn Twp, Warren Co., Iowa in 1880. George W. Abell, born 1847/48 Kentucky married Mary E. Smith, born 1846/47 Kentucky. Children were Grace, born 1868 Kentucky; Lewis born 1873 Iowa, Charles Henry, born 1875 Madison County, Iowa, George, born 1877 Iowa, Alice, born 1879 Iowa. Linda Huffman, 2810 Cody Street, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 or lghuffman@msn.com.

BROWN, HULL, HOLCOMB. Looking for information about Charles Walter Brown who married Bertha Blanche Hull on Jan 22, 1903, Phillip Hull who married Sophronia Holcomb in 1853. Phillip died July 31, 1898. My information indicates these events all took place in Warren County, Iowa. Lisa Bartle, 3901 Pierce Str. #281, Riverside, CA 92505 or ellerbee@wcoil.com.

More Research Helps:

Finding a Maiden Name

Here are some hints that may assist you in locating the maiden name of a woman:

- The woman's death certificate, if within period of vital state registration.
- All children's birth and death certificates, if they lived into the 20th Century, should name the father and mother, and often their places of birth.
- Copy of the woman's obituary published in newspapers in nearby town. Also check to see if her father or brothers survived her. Obituaries of her children often give mother's maiden name.
- Marriage certificates, if county and husband's name is known. Check children's marriage certificate, these may give names of parents.

-Stark Co OH Gen Soc, & Jackon Co MI Gen Soc via Western Wayne Co. Gen Soc, Winter 1998.

Mark your calendar

October 7-9	IGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE at Marshalltown
October 12	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
October 16	BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Warren County Historical Museum. \$10.00, pre-registration required.
October 18	REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m. Program: Mark Koskamp will talk about finding his Dutch relatives Roll Call: Your Dutch Connection?
November 9	BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
November 15	REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m. Program: Delpha Musgrave will talk about Probate Records
December	No Meeting

More from *Three Rivers Verse Corner, 1942:*

EMPTY HANDS

Bent on an errand that made life full for me,
Unmindful if the day were dull or bright,
I passed the small gray house
Where lonely frightened women
Warded off a few years more
Their insecurity by sheltering
Some old age pensioners.

Within the window sat
A woman in a rocking chair.
Her face I could not see,
Only her lap, empty,
And hands, tho cupped to hold,
And fingers flexed to acts
Domestic and of love,
Idle.

Some time elapsed.
My task complete, again I passed the place,
And there, still, in the window of the small gray house,
The rocking chair, the empty lap, the idle hands.
And suddenly I was aware
The autumn day was full of mist, and chill.

*Besse Matson Ellis,
Indianola*

Computers, Software and the Internet

Renee Bunck writes a column entitled, "The Internet Connection" in the Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter, Fremont, NE. This column was in the April 1999 issue.

Surfing the web to find family information can be fun and productive, but it can also be frustrating, especially if you enter messages on *Bulletin Boards* or subscribe to a *Listserve*. Internet Bulletin Boards and Listserves are often provided by web sites that offer to help you connect with other people with similar interests. Genealogy related Bulletin Boards and Listserves usually concentrate on a single surname or a specific county or state. **Be sure to read any "agreement" or "conditions of use" text that is available on the site before you get involved.**

A Bulletin Board or Message Board is usually an area on a web site where you can post a message or query and others can respond to your message online. To see any responses, you must go back to the site and check for "follow-up" messages. Usually, you do not need to have e-mail to post a message on a Bulletin Board. All messages stay on the web site and are available for anyone to read. *If a Bulletin Board includes text stating that all information posted becomes property of that web site, be careful!* Don't post anything that you would not want to see compiled on a CD and sold by some company under their own copyright. It can happen even without a written agreement, so use these areas with caution. The Bulletin Board can be a useful tool in locating other researchers, but it can also lead to an unanticipated publication of your own research.

A Listserve is different from a Bulletin Board in that you must have an e-mail address to participate or even read the messages. Some Listserves are closely monitored for a specific topic and off-topic messages are tossed. Other Listserves are organized so that topics vary with the whim of the group. If you subscribe to a Listserve, depending on the activity level of the group, you may receive only an occasional message, or you may be inundated with more mail than you can possibly read. Be sure to read and keep the initial "Welcome" message that you receive from a Listserve. It will contain instructions on how to remove your e-mail address from the Listserve and information on what the owner of the Listserve considers "fair use" of the messages posted. Often an archive of the Listserve messages is made available for searching by others and it is possible that the owner could decide to copyright and sell that archived material.

Frustrating? Maybe - if you are not aware of the possible uses of the materials you send over the Internet. Of course, the Internet is not the only way that material shared with others suddenly becomes "theirs". It is wonderful to be able to share research with others and the Internet just makes it

easier and faster. Web based Bulletin Boards and Listserves can put you in touch with distant family members all over the world. I have used both to make good connections to cousins all over the world. Please be sure to read the information and any "agreement" published on any web site carefully. If you are not comfortable with the stated agreement, don't post anything.

Here is a portion of the agreement text from GenForum":

"While you will retain ownership of the copyright in the Materials posted by you, you agree that all Materials posted by you shall become part of a database on GenForum, and that we will own the compilation copyright in that database. In addition, you hereby grant us a perpetual, worldwide, irrevocable license to use, reproduce, modify, publish, publicly perform, publicly display and distribute such Materials, any portions of such Materials and any derivative works created from such Materials, in print, electronic and other media, by any means now known or developed in the future. We may sublicense all of our rights and licenses or assign them to third parties. Neither we nor any third party using the Materials in accordance with this section will be obligated to pay you any royalties or other compensation for use of the Materials"

COMPARE the GenForum "agreement" to the notice placed on every submission to the USGenWeb project:

"In keeping with our policy of providing free information on the internet, data may be used by non-commercial researchers, as long as this message remains on all copied material. These electronic pages may not be reproduced in any format for profit, nor for presentation in any form by any other organization or individual."

Marieta's note: Renee always has an interesting and informative column. Online versions of her column and their entire newsletter can be found at www.rootsweb.org/~nedodge as well as lots of other items for Dodge County, NE and surrounding area. I recently spent some time surfing their site.

Opal Henry

Sadly, long-time WCGS member Opal Henry passed away on July 14, 1999. She lived in the Norwalk area and helped with several WCGS projects over the years. She was 91 years old.

Research Helps

Tracing Ancestors by Tracing Epidemics?

In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people—and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the United States are listed below:

1657	Boston	Measles
1687	Boston	Measles
1690	New York	Yellow Fever
1713	Boston	Measles
1729	Boston	Measles
1732-3	Worldwide	Influenza
1738	South Carolina	Smallpox
1739-40	Boston	Measles
1747	CT, NY, PA, SC	Measles
1759	North America (areas inhabited by white people)	Measles
1761	North America & West Indies	Influenza
1772	North America	Measles
1775	North America (especially hard in north east)	Unkown
1775-6	Worldwide (one of the worst epidemics)	Influenza
1783	Dover, Delaware ("extremely fatal")	Bilious Disorder
1788	Philadelphia and New York	Measles
1793	Vermont (a "putrid" fever)	Influenza
1793	Virginia (killed 500 in 5 counties in 4 weeks)	Influenza
1793	Philadelphia (one of the worst epidemics)	Yellow Fever
1793	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (many unexplained deaths)	Unknown
1793	Middletown, Pennsylvania (many mysterious deaths)	Unknown
1794	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever
1796-7	Philadelphia	Yellow Fever
1798	Philadelphia (one of the worst)	Yellow Fever
1803	New York	Yellow Fever
1820-3	Nationwide (starts-Schuylkill River and spreads)	"Fever"
1831-2	Nationwide Asiatic (brought by English emigrants)	Cholera
1832	NY City and other major cities	Cholera
1837	Philadelphia	Typhus

1841	Nationwide (especially severe in the south)	Yellow Fever
1847	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
1847-8	Worldwide	Influenza
1848-9	North America	Influenza
1850	Nationwide	Yellow Fever
1850-1	North America	Influenza
1852	Nationwide (New Orleans-8,000 die in summer)	Yellow Fever
1855	Nationwide (many parts)	Yellow Fever
1857-9	Worldwide (one of the greatest epidemics)	Influenza
1860-1	Pennsylvania	Smallpox
1865-73	Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans Baltimore, Memphis, Washington, DC	Smallpox Cholera
A series of recurring epidemics of: Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever		
1873-5	North America and Europe	Influenza
1878	New Orleans (last great epidemic)	Yellow Fever
1885	Plymouth, Pennsylvania	Typhoid
1886	Jacksonville, Florida	Yellow Fever
1918	Worldwide (more people were hospitalized in WWI from this epidemic than wounds. US Army training camps became death camps, with 80% death rate in some camps (1918 was the high point year.)	Influenza

Also, cholera:

1833	Columbus, OH
1834	New York City
1849	New York
1851	Coles County, Illinois; The Great Plains & Missouri

-Ancestors West, SSBCGS, Vol 20, No 1, Fall 1993, South Bend (IN) Area Gen. Society, via Clarke County Roots and Branches, Osceola, IA, June 1999.

Postal Information

Typed envelopes will reach addresses one day earlier than those handwritten. Postal machine scanners read envelopes from the bottom up, starting with the zip code. Anything under the zip code will delay the letter due to the need for hand sorting.

-Boone County Gen Soc, Dec 1998 via Mills County Gen Society, April-June 1999

Research Helps, *continued*

Standards for Sound Genealogical Research

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently...

- Record the source for each item of information they collect.
- Test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- Seek original records or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- Use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.
- State something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- Limit words like 'probable' or 'possible' any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- Avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- State carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- Recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
- Consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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-via Westward Into Nebraska, May 1999

Marieta's note: Many newspapers probably won't print all of the items listed in the obituary article elsewhere on this page, but if you also elect to distribute copies of the obituary with the funeral card, you can even include hobbies and special interests of the deceased.

Checklist of Items to be Included in Obituaries

This is a list of items to be included in obituaries according to the American Family Records Association. The items make obituaries more helpful to persons researching family records. Items need not appear in the "obit" as they are listed, but should be included. (One editor said: When my family prepared an obituary for my father, it seemed that each person who worked on the article wanted to rewrite it and we had to tell them that this is how we wanted it. You may need to be assertive.)

1. Name of deceased, preferably full name, first, middle, last, plus nicknames.
2. Date of death by month and day, preferably to include the year so when the clipping is cut from the newspaper the date is not lost.
3. Address of deceased's last place of residence. Places of previous residences.
4. Place of death, hospital, residence, highway, city or other identifiable location, state.
5. Place, date and time of funeral service. Name of minister, if any.
6. Visitation time and date, if held, and place.
7. Name of cemetery where deceased is to be buried, or other disposition of remains.
8. Date of birth, city, county, state, and country if different than where died.
9. Name of parents, including maiden name of mother.
10. Name of spouse, with maiden name, if female.
11. Date and place of marriage, if any.
12. Organizations (and church) to which deceased was a member and offices held.
13. Occupations of deceased and employer, if any, and offices/positions held.
14. Survivors: Children, including name and place of residence; brothers and sisters, including place of residence, parents, numbers and/or names of grandchildren.
15. Statement of those preceding deceased in death, include names of children, brothers and sisters, etc.
16. Names of pallbearers.
17. Name of funeral home. In some cases, a classified advertisement is placed under "Death and Funerals," depending upon the newspaper.
18. Preference for memorial contributions in lieu of flowers, if desired.

-Northwest Iowa Root Diggers, via Broken Mountains Gen Soc, Chester, MT, via Lucas County (Iowa) Notes and Shakin' the Family Tree, July 1999

Warren County Fair

Some Tips on Helping to Create a Genealogical Poster

by Donna Crow

1. Focus on the "W" or "H" questions:
 - A. WHO?
Grandpa, the immigrant from Germany, or your whole maternal side of the family
 - B. WHAT?
Someone's Civil War enlistment, a marriage event, or a particular reunion
 - C. WHEN?
Place dates or time frames on posters so viewers know "when" you are talking about
 - D. WHERE?
Birthplace, cemetery where buried, how many different states or countries they lived in, country of origin
 - E. WHY?
A little tough to do but sometimes may explain why someone moved (famine, military resistance, death of a family member) or why someone married at 34 rather than 22 (military service, etc.)
 - F. HOW?
How did they travel? (covered wagon) How did they farm? (horse, tractor) How did they live? (sod house, etc)
2. Concentrate on general public appeal as well as correctness of genealogical material. Genealogical material can sometimes be very cut and dried. Do something to make it come to life for those who look at or read it.
 - A. PHOTOS
If you don't have the "real McCoy", what about pictures of where they lived or pictures of cemetery stones. Make photocopies, cut them up and re-group for variety.
 - B. DRAWINGS OR SKETCHES
For example, a generic sketch of someone with a team of horses drawing a plow would give the poster reader some idea of how things were done by Uncle Joe. A drawing of a woman with a washboard is also very visual.
 - C. MAPS
This is another "visual" tool. Here are some sources I use:

1. Old atlases
2. County plat books
3. Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920
4. Encyclopedias

- D. DATES
Dates give the reader some basis for relating your poster to specific time frames or historical periods. Dated maps are great and usually easy to find. If you can't find any pre-dated material, time-lines are another aid that is easy to do. A tip I borrowed from Hallmark: born in the year Thomas Jefferson was President, popular song was "Oh, Susanna", electricity would not be used for 20 years. Let the reader know we have "history."
- E. BITS OF INFORMATION
This is the story part of your poster. Long essays don't make for good poster material. Here are some things that I have found to work best:
 1. Short paragraphs
 2. Newspaper or history book excerpts: biographies, obits, etc.
 3. Footnotes and headings
 4. Excerpts of genealogical information: list of children, partial pedigree charts, partial ancestry, etc.
- F. PERSONALIZE THE POSTER
Each of us has a story to tell that is unique and interesting. Bring that famous ancestor or black sheep to life by "showing and telling" us on a poster.

Marieta's suggestion: Set up a notebook or file folder with county fair exhibit information and keep a copy of this page with this information.

More from *Three Rivers Verse Corner, 1942*:

THE BLACKBIRD CHOIR

From the maple tree top
And a row along the wire
Come the exultant voices
Of a joyous blackbird choir
"Prt! Prt!" they greet each other,
The sing "T-ree, T-ree!"
Triumphant black bird chorus
In autumn jubilee.

Edith Emily Smith, Ackworth

Preserving for future generations -

Thoughts of the 21st Century: Will the Census have less value?

Marriage Records

By 2000, it is estimated that half the births in the U.S. will be to parents who are not married. How will we fill the data for parents in those births?

Birth Certificates

Current developments in our society such as artificial insemination and surrogate mothers, have totally changed the role of the vital record for genealogical research.

Deeds

In the past, researchers were able to trace heredity and migration by checking deeds for farms and home. Americans are on the move and many live as renters. How will deeds help?

Church Records

Many churches are keeping their records on computers, but again the high mobility of the population will make the finding of church records difficult. Does the 21st Century person realize the importance of moving their church records?

*-Gurensey & Mercer Co, OH 99
via Western Wayne County Gen. Soc, May/June 1999*

Principles of Memoir Writing

1. Everyone has a story, every person's story is significant.
2. Everyone has the ability, but most people suffer enormous writing blocks which must be confronted and resolved.
3. Every family needs the information, in terms of heritage, medical, genetics, personal understanding, and social awareness.
4. Every writer will benefit, in terms of insights and satisfactions.
5. Every reader will benefit, from family to the public at large.
6. Many social institutions benefit from the information including: family and extended family; clan and one-name/surname society; genealogical, heritage and historical organizations; education, military, occupational, and professional bodies; and civic, social and voluntary organizations/societies.

-Linn County Heritage Hunters, Feb 1999.

Copyrights

Considering all of the publishing of genealogical records and increased usage of computers to do family research, you might find the United States Copyright Office website of great interest:

<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/>

It explains copyright basics and law, as well as how to register a publication. For non-dramatic literary works, which is where genealogical efforts are categorized, application form TX would need to be completed. The form includes line-by-line instructions, and should be returned with a non-refundable filing fee of \$20.00 and two issues of the publication to be copyrighted. To obtain this application form, write to Library of Congress, Copyright Office, Publications Section, LM-455 101, Independence Ave SE, Washington, D.C. 20559-6000. However, according to Section 412, you should file a copyright application within three months after the first publication of the work.

A Library of Congress Catalog Card Number is different from a copyright registration number. A book may be registered in or deposited with the Copyright Office, but not necessarily cataloged and added to the Library's collections. For information about obtaining an LC Catalog Card Number, contact the Library of Congress, CIP Division, Washington, D.C. 20540-4320. For information on International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN), writing to ISBN, R. R. Bowker, 121 Chanlon road, New Providence, NJ 07973

-Iowa Gen. Soc. June 1999

More from *Three Rivers Verse Corner*:

TODAY BEHIND MY WINDOWPANE

Today behind my windowpane
I watched a battle fierce;
I heard the cracking thunder when
The lightning chose to pierce
A blustering cloud. I thrilled to rain,
That fell like fervid tears,
And when the storm was spent, I saw,
The rainbow of by-gone years.

I love the song of the wild, wild storm
And the rain; I know it well,
But, after, I must hear the hush
Of the world in a crystal spell.

*Mary Jean Baird
Ackworth*

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Publications about Warren County

Available from WCGS

Jane Godwin, 808 West Detroit, Indianola, IA 50125 (515-961-3363):

- | | Price | Shipping | TAX (IA residents) |
|---|---------|----------|--------------------|
| ◆ <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 |
| ◆ <i>1879 History of Warren County</i> (reprint) | \$25.00 | costs |

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) |
|---|---------|--------|-------------------|

Available from

Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322 (515-276-0287):

Warren County Marriages

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| ◆ #0473 1849-1879, 72 pages | \$ 9.40 | call to verify price and |
| ◆ #0474 1880-1899, 96 pages | \$12.50 | shipping costs |

Warren County Newspapers-Deaths, Probates & Obituaries

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| ◆ #1947 1857-1876, 55 pages | \$ 7.20 | call to verify price and |
| ◆ #1728 1877-1885, 81 pages | \$10.50 | shipping costs |
| ◆ #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.

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