

# Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 26, Number 5

September-October 1999

## Center Stage: Ev Brightman

*by Ev Brightman*

It is 4:30 p.m. Labor Day and I have just learned that the interview I had scheduled had to be cancelled. I am leaving tomorrow morning for a workshop in Minneapolis, which lasts through Friday and I promised Marieta an article tonight. What to do? A gorgeous day and folks are making the most of summer's end. The only one home, taking my wash off the line, appears to be . . . me. Now, there's an idea! By default, Ev Brightman, Center Stage.

I have never known what it would be like to "not" be interested in genealogy, although I did not hear the word for many years. I come from a long line of storytellers in the old tradition. We did not have electricity until I was nine years old. Looking back, it seems that communication was a way of passing time. Neighbors and family visited and talked. I was introduced to the world and my family's place in it by hours of spellbound listening. Daily life, joys, tragedies and skeletons were told and retold until I knew every detail by heart. It suddenly occurred to me, around age 40 something, that if I do not write down these stories, they will be lost forever.

While visiting a Warren County Fair, I found both my grandmother Brown and my father in the Warren County Genealogical Society's Birth Book. I had no idea my father had been born in Warren County. In search of answers, I joined the Warren County Genealogical Society in 1983. Since that time I have learned a great deal from our programs, trips and our very knowledgeable members and have taken a turn as secretary and president. My favorite thing remains our county fair competition and meeting people as they come to our booth. The fair also gives me the structure to move toward one of my goals. Under the pressure of the fair deadline, I manage to get at least one family story written. One a year is not bad.

My mother's parents met and married in Iowa after having emigrated from Sweden at ages 12 and 16. Robert Hagg and Alida Constanca Teresa Sander settled and farmed in northern Lucas County. Laura Sarah Hagg married George William Butrum. They continued to live on that farm. Through them that same century farm is now in my family. My father's father grew up near Sully, Iowa. In 1910-11 he attended Simpson College, where he met and married Pearl Brown of Indianola. After moving to Indianola, I became aware of a rich family history unknown to

## Calendar:

- September 20 CEMETERY MEETING, 6:15 p.m.  
REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.  
"Time Lines - Remembering What Happened When" Roll Call: Genealogical gleanings from the summer
- October 7-9 IGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- October 12 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- October 16 BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS  
See page 2 for details
- October 18 REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.  
Program: Mark Koskamp will talk about finding his Dutch relatives  
Roll Call: Your Dutch Connection?

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:

We had 132 people sign our letter 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. I am surprised, but I have not received a response.

Eleven people went on the trip to the Iowa Historical Library on Friday, August 13. I found some good information, including a piece of land information for David Grissom I. However, according to my husband, for me to have found something valuable, I need to find something on the parents of David Grissom I (my husband is David IV). The father is believed to have been Thomas Grissom or Thompson Grisham, or something of that sort.

I will be giving the program at the September meeting: "Time Lines - Remembering What Happened When." I am very excited about this topic and have been working on it for several months. This tool will help you remember when various events, etc. occurred and it will help you with research and family history writing. Bring a pencil!

The exchange newsletters are ready for members to check out. They will be available at the September meeting.

Helen Simpkins and I are planning to attend the IGS Annual Conference in Marshalltown on October 7, 8 and 9.

The Beginning Genealogy Class will be held 9:00 - 3:30 on Saturday, October 16 at the Warren County Historical Museum building at the fairgrounds. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$10.00. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Each participant will receive a 3-ring Beginning Genealogy Notebook. Call me at home to register—just leave a message if I'm not there.

Mark Koskamp will be giving the October program on finding his Dutch relatives. He has visited them in Holland twice; the most recent in 1998.

I found the Mills topic for this newsletter to be fascinating. I had no clue about the 3 or 4 floors/stories of a mill and how it would have operated. I also had no clue there would have been so many mills in Warren County. Does anyone have information on the specifics for a Warren County saw mill?

Hope you enjoy the newsletter!

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## Center Stage: Ev Brightman

*continued from page 1*

me in detail prior to that time.

Names I am researching are: Hagg, Sander, Butrum, Campbell, Brown and Gregg.

While I have learned many research and resource techniques through my association with WCGS, the greater learning has been the joy of putting the facts and the story together.

P.S. I cannot wait to retire to spend my time researching!!!

## Dues are due for Year 2000!

Please send (or give) them to  
Jane Godwin  
before December 31, 1999.

### 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 & Willia 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 ... Mills of Warren County

### The Mill

author unknown,  
but I suspect Edith Conn either wrote it  
or found it somewhere

What the club is to the city man, and the general store and the post office to the citizens of the country village, the mill was to the pioneers.

Made to saw the rough lumber he needed for the primitive home, or to grind his corn into meal, which was his staff of life, the mill did more for the early settler than this; it brought together the scattered population, it was the news media, the heart of the social life and the hub of the industrial wheel.

On grinding day, the early settler went to the mill on horseback, his grist in a sack lain across the horse behind the saddle or even taking place of the saddle itself. The rule was first come, first served. So, while waiting his turn, or waiting for a neighbor who would be riding his direction, the pioneer had time to contribute his share of the gossip of the country side and to take part in the discussions of vital interest. When the talk ran slow, there were games: pitching horse shoes borrowed from the blacksmith shop—there always being a blacksmith shop nearby, running or jumping contests, or wrestling or shooting matches.

### Map Made in 1859 Discovered by Wm. Buxton, Jr., in an Attic Shows Milling Was Thriving Industry in County

appears to be from an Indianola Newspaper, no date given

A farm house on the old Walton place owned by William Buxton, Jr. was torn down recently. The house was located at the two-mile corner west of town near the Jacoby school-house.

While rummaging about in the attic, Mr. Buxton came upon an old trunk. Lifting the lid, he discovered an old map of Warren County.

### Population 150

The map was evidently published around 1859, for it has population figures as of that date. The map, an old stone lithograph, measures four by five feet. It is lithographed in light yellow, light green and has a rose border.

It was published in Chicago by Dan A. Poorman and lithographed by Ed Mendel of the same city. It gives the date of the founding of the county, Jan. 1, 1849, and the population of that date, which was 150.

### Names of Founders

The names of the organizing officers of the county, Samuel Haworth, Daniel Barker and Alexander Ginder, are also given. The population 10 years later in 1859 was 9,189. There were 1,871 voters.

Only 16 townships are listed. What is now Lincoln township was then called Washington township. There were only nine towns in 1859. They were New Virginia, Lawrenceburg, Lacona, Greenbush, Hammondsburg, Indianola, Sandyville, Carlisle, Hartford and Palmyra.

Palmyra is shown as a thriving little community. Palmyra's diagonal streets are shown, which, according to legend, were laid out on the paths imbibers made as they returned home from the saloon at the northeast end of town.

### Palmyra Woolen Mill

In those days there was a woolen mill north of the town. The mill was there years before the map was made.

The milling business thrived in those days. Fourteen mills were operated. Mills were on Middle river, South river, North river, Clanton creek, Otter creek, White Breast creek and near the town of Lawrenceburg. Parmalee and Watts ran two mills in the northeast section of the county. Potter's mill and Spray's mill also were on Middle river. Coffey's mill, Ackley's mill, Carpenter's mill, Haworth's mill, and Braucht's mill graced South river. On Otter creek was the Lewis mill.

### Old Homesteads

Potter's mill was on a creek emptying into Middle river. Spray's mill and a mill with no name were also on Middle river.

The homesteads are located by a picture of the farm house, with the owner's name underneath. Many names still well known in the county are represented.

Names such as A. Felton, W. Van Scoy, J. Van Scoy, and Amos Barker over in Virginia township. J. Proudfoot, George Braucht, A. J. Stover and Sam New in Squaw. Then there was Dan Braucht over in White Oak. The Brauchts lived in the northwest corner of Squaw and in the southwest corner of White Oak. This was known as the Braucht neighborhood up into the 80's. Dan, Adam and George Braucht all lived there. M. J. Latimer lived over in White Oak.

Sandys were abundant in Union township. There was J. Sandy, W. Sandy, J. C. Sandy and H. Sandy.

## Bits and pieces about ... Mills of Warren County, *continued*

E. Labertew had established a farm in Washington township.

In Belmont lived another Sandy, whose name was H. Sandy. J. and A. Van Syoc also lived in Belmont, near where the town of Milo now stands.

*The following is a collection of articles taken from a folder at the WCHS Library entitled:*

### "When Mills Played an Important Part in Warren County"

researched and assembled by Edith L. Conn.

Warren Co. flour and grist mills in 1860 = 6 mills, 17 employees

Warren Co. flour mills in 1880 = 9 mills, 34 employees

#### South River Mills:

Coffey's Mill	Ackley's Mill
Carpenter Mill	Haworth Mill
Braucht Mill	Bundy Mill
Pritchard	

#### North River Mills:

Hoover Mill	Lockridge Mill
Thurston Mill	

#### Middle River Mills:

Parmalee Mill	Watt Mill
Potter Mill	Spray Mill
Beach Mill	John Polly Mill
Baker and Edwards Flour and Grist Mill	
Wright and Davis Mill	
Brazelton and Thurston Mill	
Glascocock Mill	

#### Otter Creek Mills:

Lawrenceburg Mill	Condit Mill
Lewis Mill	

#### Other Mills:

Cockran Mill	Felix Mill
Milo Mill	Bryson's Mill
Hursh and Pritchard Mill	Indianola Roller Mill
Carlisle Flouring Mill	Hartman Grist Mill
Novelty Mills	Nicholson Mill

*Indianola Tribune, Feb 11, 1875:*

We have been greatly benefited by the enterprise of a few people. First to John Parmalee who built the first two mills on Middle river, to Samuel Haworth for the mill on South river and to John Spray who conducted the Sum-

merset mill with so much satisfaction to the public, and to John Leas and others for the Carlisle mill, and to many others that might be named.

### Reminiscences of Going to the Mill

by T. T. Anderson

*Indianola Herald, May 30, 1901*

From 1857 until I went into the army in 1861, it was part of my work to go to Spray's Mill at Summerset, at regular intervals with a sack of shelled corn and return late in the evening with a sack of meal. The conveyance consisted of a pair of wood trucks upon which was secured a store box, this was drawn by a small yoke of oxen, known all over that area as Duke and Dime. In this same conveyance our father would go to church at Scotch Ridge riding in the store box, wearing a silk hat. Much could be written of runaways, upsets, break-downs in which that old silk hat and its blessed wearer took an active part.

In the spring of 1861 I was at the mill as was also Sam Ferrell, who lived several miles west of the mill. Getting our grinding about the same time, we started home, but we had not gone far when he began making fun of my outfit, which resulted in our "fighting it out" and this required three sessions. We would fight as long as we could, then drive on for some distance, and then clinch again. This was kept up until he came to the road leading to his home and I drove on three miles farther to mine. Our faces were well scratched up but neither had yelled, "Enough." We intended to fight it out sometime but we never did for war clouds were bursting all over the country. Living in different neighborhoods, Ferrell and I never met again in civil life, but did in the army.

When my regiment was to camp opposite Cairo in Missouri, our boat landed in the evening of a raw and disagreeable day, we were put ashore without tents to spend the night as best we could. Someone on shore called my name, and looking in the direction from which the sound came, saw my old enemy Sam Ferrell. I ran down the gang plank and we clenched but not to fight.

After asking and answering a multitude of questions of home and friends, Sam said, "Come, you will come with me tonight," and after black coffee, hard tack and side meat, we visited others we knew. At taps we retired to bed in a small pole and canvas hut like two girls to talk until wee hours of the night, but not a word was said of that fight.

### Parmalee Mill (Middle River)

One of the old mills that played an important part in the early settlement of Polk, Warren, Madison, Dallas and Boone counties was the Parmalee Mill, erected on Middle River in 1843 on a site that was later in Polk County and is now in Warren County. John D. Parmalee, founder of the mill and one of the first settlers in the vicinity, was a native of Vermont who found the valley of the Des Moines much to his liking. He referred to that region as "the flower of Iowa, and the garden of the world." If he could have his friends on the banks of the "lovely Des Moines," he declared, he would "bid a long adieu to old Vermont."

When Parmalee arrived, the nearest mill was at Oskaloosa, fifty miles away, so he set about to provide milling facilities. First he built a sawmill, which supplied the lumber for the barracks at Fort Des Moines. In 1847 the first run of burrs was added for the grinding of corn. There was no wheat in this region, it is said until the harvest of 1848. When the gristmill was completed it was a three-story frame structure, forty-five by thirty-five feet in dimensions—as fine a building, Parmalee said, as any of its size in Vermont.

At first the mill was overworked and was frequently out of order. Sometimes the settlers had to help repair it before their grinding or sawing could be done. Moreover, for the operation, management, and repair of the mill, Parmalee was not always available. Although a good miller in many respects, he was unfortunate in his associations with "John Barleycorn," and his milling interests were then neglected. With the passing of the years, other mills were established and the business of the Parmalee Mill subsided. It became a significant landmark, but its importance diminished.

In January 1850, the *Fort Des Moines Gazette* published a list of sawmills in that vicinity, which included Parmalee's two mills on North River.

In 1850 John D. Parmalee gave to the census enumerator that his annual product included 5,400 barrels of flour valued at \$27,000.

On May 1, 1851, Parmalee sold the mill to John Watts. In 1847 the first run of burrs were installed. The mill, which was located on Middle River about three miles above its confluence with the Des Moines River, served settlers not

only in Warren county but in neighboring counties as well as the northern part of Missouri. The Parmalee and Watts Mill was located in NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 12, Township 77 North, Range 23 West.

In 1859 it was reported there were fifteen flour and grist mills in the county.

There was no wheat grown in the county until 1848. It was grown by Ulysses Berger. The following year about 633 bushels were produced, as well as 23,900 bushels of corn. The winter of 1848-49 was so severe many settlers ground their own corn by pounding or by boiling it, then grating it.

The millers received in payment for his milling bill, a certain amount from each sack. The rate was fixed by Iowa law as follows: If steam or water power was used for grinding and bolting wheat or rye, 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the grain was taken. If it was corn, oats, barley or buckwheat, 1/7<sup>th</sup> was taken. If an ox or horse powered mill was used, 1/4<sup>th</sup> might be taken.

The trip to mill might require three or four days as the miller ground in the order in which they arrived at the mill.

In the newspaper *Warren Eagle* of May 31, 1859 we find a notice that the Parmalee and Watts mill would be sold. It is April 27, 1871, nearly 18 years later, in the newspaper *Warren County Leader*, we find that the Parmalee mill located on the Major Suder place was destroyed by fire. It was also stated at this time that it belonged to B. F. Roberts.

### Parmalee and Watts Mill (Middle River)

The obituary of John Watts found in Indianola papers in March 1897 tells of the milling business of this mill.

John Watts was born in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania on July 23, 1819. Here he grew up and learned the millwright trade and followed the trade in the state of his birth. He came to Iowa in the fall of 1848. He spent the winter in Des Moines. In the spring he built the Summer-set mill on Middle River, crossing North River somewhere between where Carlisle is now situated and the Indianola-Des Moines road, with a one-horse vehicle in a canoe as a ferry boat.

*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.*

In the spring of 1851 he went into partnership with John D. Parmalee in milling, farming and general merchandise business at the old government mill on Middle River, two miles east of the present Carlisle. This business continued until the financial crisis of 1857-58-59, when with others they met with total failure.

He then helped run the Middle River Mill which his brother, William Watts had purchased from M. T. Taylor of Baltimore, who was a creditor of the firm of Parmalee and Watts.

#### Beach's Mill (Middle River)

from *Iowa, Land of Many Mills*, page 80, by Jacob A. Swisher, publ by Iowa Historical Society, 1940

In 1855 two pioneers of Marion County made a trip to Beach's Mill on Middle River near Summerset in Warren County. At that time there was, on the route to this mill, "neither a tree, trail nor mound to guide the traveler" on his way—only a few stakes had been driven in the prairie sod at wide intervals. The pioneers with a wagon and two yoke of cattle had arrived at the mill and remained their two days waiting for their grinding.

Being in some haste to return, they set out in time to reach Hammondsburg before nightfall. Arriving there they decided to remain only long enough to get a lunch and feed their teams, hoping to reach home before midnight. After dark, however, they were unable to discern their way, and so thought it advisable "to trust to the instinctive sagacity of their cattle to pilot them through." But, alas, the oxen, too, were lost, if indeed they gave heed to direction. At all events, after plodding along for a time, the pioneers made new calculations and found they were going in the wrong direction. To add to their vexation their wagon "ran into a slough," and caused some delay. Again on solid footing, the pioneers sighted certain stars and, following that guidance, arrived at home before morning.

#### Glascoc Mill (Middle River)

Jacob Glascoc, grandfather of Mrs. Donald Bellman, was born in Ohio in 1836. He was principally raised there. He later went to Whiteside County, Illinois. He married there to Miss Anna M. Guise, a native of Germany. They married in 1859 and had a family of nine children.

Jacob Glascoc came with his family from Whiteside County to Warren County, Iowa in the fall of 1866. He located on a farm seven and one-half miles northwest of Indianola and here built, what is traditionally known in Warren County as Glascoc's Mill. It was located on Middle River.

The mill was torn down and later the river bed became part of the Bellman farm.

#### Hoover Mill (North River)

Ephraim A. Hoover, was a native of North Carolina. He went to Indiana when a young man, where he met and married Julia A. Howry, a native of Ohio. There he lived a number of years, farming and operating a lumber and flour mill.

In 1850 he disposed of his milling interests and moved to Warren County, Iowa where he located near Spring Hill. He later purchased a saw and grist mill on North River, which he ran for six years, when he sold it and farmed for a couple of years. He then purchased a saw-mill in Greenfield township which he ran until his death in 1865.

#### Lockridge Mill (North River)

The Lockridge mill was located on North River in section 30 of Greenfield township.

Samuel Lockridge was born in West Virginia in 1809. He lived there until September, 1834 when he emigrated to Henry County, Indiana and lived there four years, and then to Brown County and lived there sixteen years.

Mr. Lockridge came to Warren County in 1853 with his wife and nine children. He was killed by an accident in his mill on March 17, 1866. He had noticed a broken pulley but thought he could continue the rest of the day with it, but before the day's work was done the pulley broke killing Mr. Lockridge. He was buried in Webb Cemetery.

#### Carpenter Mill (South River)

*Advocate-Tribune*, December 17, 1903

James Carpenter now lives in the southeast corner of Richland township. Mr. Carpenter is seventy years old, his long white beard and hair reminds one of the patriarch of old. He settled on the banks of South River, north of Sandyville at what is known as Carpenter hill. In 1848 he and his brothers, Charles and Normus built a saw and grist mill on South River. The burrs for grinding grain were brought from Ray County, Missouri. The Millstones were cut from a stone called "lone rock" in Ray County, Missouri by Mr. Carpenter's father. One of the burrs or millstones is now in the possession of Mr. Switzer and Joseph Morris has the other. Mr. Switzer remembers as a small boy going to this mill with his father for meal.

## Bits and pieces about ... Mills of Warren County, *continued*

The Carpenters first used water power, later steam. At one time there was a town laid out at this place called Union Hill. O.K. Butler of Indianola spent part of his boyhood there. The mill burned down shortly after the Civil War.

### Old Grist Mill History

by Merva T. Mosier, 1929

An old mill was built in 1849 by Charles H. Carpenter and his brother, James, three miles north of Sandyville where for years farmers could go with their what and corn and have it ground.

The Carpenter brothers had come here from Ray County, MO., where their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Carpenter resided. They completed the mill and then returned to Missouri to get their families, settling here in 1852.

The burrs used in this mill were made by the father, Charles N. Carpenter, out of rock which, in Missouri, was known as "niggerhead," a flint-lick rock. The burrs were chiseled out with a set of stone cutter tools, and had to be furrowed perfectly true. It required a keen eye and a knowledge of tools to get them just right. They were hauled from Ray County, MO., to Iowa, a distance of some 170 miles, with a team of oxen.

While the Carpenter brothers were at work one day on the roof of this mill, a lone horseman drove up and without a word of greeting from the Carpenter men, was asked what was wrong, as only in case of great importance, was any news ever sent. This time it was to tell them that the cholera had broken out in the father's family and that eight members were already dead. A child of Charles H., one of the brothers, was also a victim of the dread disease.

### Mills at Ackworth (South River)

We often hear of the Bundy mill at Ackworth and I found it is believed by our present inhabitants to have been the only mill in the vicinity...but...was it?

In the *Indianola Weekly Herald*, June 24, 1886, the following news item was found: "The Chapman and Bundy Mill will be completed soon. The motor part came yesterday and we are informed grinding will begin in about a week."

In the same issue we find, "Ackworth...Link Pritchard is repairing his mill. He put in a new boiler."

In the September 23, 1886 issue of the *Indianola Weekly Herald*, we again find, "Ackworth Mills 1 1/2 miles east of Ackworth. A. L. Pritchard, proprietor."

The biographical sketch of John W. Bundy in the *Warren County History 1879*:

John W. Bundy was born February 29, 1816 in North Carolina. He later went to Indiana with his parents; later to Illinois. In 1844 he came to VanBuren County, Iowa, then to Oskaloosa, Iowa; coming to Warren County in 1855.

He learned the milling business early in life and went into the milling business in a fine steam grist and saw mill east of Ackworth known as "Ackworth Mills." (He was an ancestor of Mrs. Alice Barnes Flesher and Edd R. McKee.)

The 1872 *Atlas of Warren County* has Haworth mill marked at the site we now know as the Bundy Mill site. The 1879 history mentions the Haworth Bros, Jeremiah M. and John operated a saw mill on South River for sixteen years. We find other statements that Samuel Haworth operated a milling business at Ackworth.

### Novelty Mill (a.k.a. Bryson's Mill - Indianola)

*Indianola Tribune*, February 3, 1876

We enter the office located in the northeast corner of the building and find Mr. Jesse Bryson, the proprietor. The office is furnished with chairs, desk, safe and mirror.

In front of the office on the east side of the building is a pair of scales and from the office everything is weighed. From the west side of the office a convenient stairway leads to the second floor and on the north we open a door leading to the main room and the first floor, where are located immense bins having a capacity for 2000 bushels of grain. Here also is the foundation of solid stone masonry and ponderous framework upon which is secured the machinery for running the burrs. These are immense iron shafts three in number propelled by heavy belting attached at one quarter twist, thus, giving greater power and steadiness. Here is the main pressure of running the entire machinery of the mill and with all the weight and strain, it runs smoothly, quietly and without scarcely any perceptible jar. Upon this floor is constructed a graham flour chest, so arranged that fresh graham may be secured whenever desired.

Thence, we descend to the second and main floor where we find three burrs running, two for grinding wheat and one for grinding corn and middlings. Mr. John Kerlerman is head miller and N. C. Westerfield, his assistant. Here the machinery is so compact and simplified that it would seem a pleasure to manage it. The burrs are fed by a combination feeder. Simply by changing a slide,

## Bits and pieces about ... Mills of Warren County, *continued*

grain can be conveyed from either of the numerous bins above to the burrs, which are located on an elevated platform at the west side of the room. Adjoining them on the east is a chest divided into three parts for the reception of meal: number one, number two and number three, white, yellow and bolted meal respectively.

In the center of this room are eight stands of elevators so compactly and tastefully arranged that they serve as an ornament as well as value. They connect with bins above, bins below, bolts, burrs and scores of mysterious things known only to the lad who sings, "happy is the miller" etc. Here also are four flour chests connected in one for the reception of different grades of flour manufactured. So, also, is the smut machine finely fixed in the floor of this room which causes the Insurance man to rejoice because of its safety.

From the floor of this room every valve about the mill upon all other floors is regulated and controlled at will, so that he who commands here wields the accepter easily.

Now we ascend an easy stairway to the third floor where we behold four bolts, two of them twenty feet long and two are ten feet, flour stock hoppers, used in supplying the burrs. To these are attached feeders easily managed from the second floor. The famous wheat and oats separator is located on this floor and does its work well.

We are now upon the topmost round, within a room on the fourth floor where we find a receiving separator which industriously performs the duty to the letter. Here is a funny little arrangement called a "shaker" and it is rightly named to a certainty, the way it shakes up corn is a caution, and to see all the dirt, silks, etc go "up the flue" gives no room imagining one's teeth will be filled with corn silks and sand from "Novelty Mills."

Then here comes one of those mysterious Middlings Purifiers from Barnard and Lee's of Moline, Illinois. The advantages claimed for it are, first, the brush attachment which goes upon its regular rounds keeping the sieves constantly clean; secondly, the patent adjustment obviates the necessity of new clothes so frequently during cold weather.

From here we will descend to view the motive power of all this machinery. Entering the boiler room, which is a brick structure on the west, entirely separated from the main building twenty-eight by thirty feet with a smoke stack forty-seven feet high, built under contract by Cyrus Coryell and is substantial and well constructed.

Here we met the efficient engineers and machinist, Mr. H. C. White, who kindly escorted us through his dominions. The boilers are two in number, forty-two feet in diameter

and twelve feet long, containing thirty-seven flues each. They were built by the popular and justly renowned firm of McDonald and Meara of Des Moines. Here also is a fifteenth amendment boiler, vulgarly called a nigger, thirty inches in diameter and six feet in height, which is used in pumping water into the boilers and fights bravely in case of fire, it is a great addition to this department. A number six heater and lime extractor is also situated in this room.

Entering the engine room proper, we find a neat little apartment, clean as a parlor, where the ponderous engine moves noiselessly and smoothly. The engine is a "piston valve" from the celebrated Lafayette Foundry of St. Louis, Missouri. Messrs Smith, Briggs and Co., proprietors. It is a forty-five horse power and for economy, simplicity and power, it is said to exceed any in the west. The governor attachment is the only one of the kind in Iowa, of the Huntoon patent of Lawrence, Massachusetts. It's peculiarity being there are no flying balls attached. Then there is the "doctor" a separate machine used in supplying the boilers with water; thus, rendering them always safe from accident by explosion on account of low water.

Mr. White put up the entire engine machinery himself, and has ingeniously arranged the water gauges so that he try them from the engine room at any moment without going to the boiler room. He is doubtless one of the best machinists in the State and Mr. Bryson has secured a prize by retaining him as engineer.

Thus, we have taken you through the excellent flouring mill step-by-step, endeavoring to present its conveniences and many excellencies impartially. We now give it's dimensions: the main building is thirty by forty feet, four floors in height and was erected under contract by Messrs. Fortney, Martin and Co. of Indianola and its excellence in every part is highly complimentary to their skill as builders, as it is undoubtedly one of the neatest and best constructed flouring mills of Iowa.

There is not an old timber or any other old article connected with the institution unless it be "Old John" the faithful old family horse, and Arthur Boss declared he is the main spoke in the wheel of fortune.

All the grain elevating machinery, separators, etc, throughout the entire mill are from the firm of Barnard and Leas of Moline, Illinois.

The millwright work was all done by William John of Des Moines and is a model of good work, and substantial in every way.

The burrs, belting and bolting cloths are from G. W. Todd



## Bits and pieces about ... Mills of Warren County, *continued*

of St. Louis, Missouri and are all good quality.

The mill machinery and gearing are by Brooks, Wilson and Stein of Des Moines and speaks volumes in favor of their machinery.

In closing, it is but just to the enterprise of Mr. Bryson whose skill in the milling business is so well known, to state that the entire business is under his immediate supervision, and his present facilities for meeting every want of both producer and consumer should meet the hearty acknowledgment of all classes. None but the most experienced millers will be in his employ.

### Novelty Mills

On April 25, 1885, a fire alarm sounded and in less than an hour Novelty Mills went up in smoke. The smoke stack, walls of the engine house and the engine were the only part to escape destruction.

It was a great financial disaster to the owners and a serious misfortune to the town. Jesse Bryson's reputation as a miller is known all over the state, many invitations were extended to him from a number of cities to superintend their mills.

In a few weeks the debris of the old mill was cleared away and a new structure was rising from the ashes. The foundations were enlarged and now we see a perfect mill on the full roller system. The roller system is an innovation in milling that people have not learned, except in choice flour produced by this process.

There are six double sets of E. P. Alice's standard rolls; one single set 9 x 18 porcelain; one Garden City Brake machine in all fourteen sets of rolls. There are seven flouring reels; six scalping reels; three centrifugal reels; three number zero Smith purifiers; one Gray purifier; two large number five dust collectors; a full line of cleaning machines; twenty-nine stands of elevators; also flour packer and chest, of fifty barrels capacity; storage bins with a capacity of 5,000 bushels of grain; with all other machinery and appliances to make a complete roller mill. All machines, speed shafts and the mill are completely driven by leather belts. The power is furnished by a sixty horse-power balance valve engine, a perfect and smooth running piece of machinery.

The building is forty-six by thirty-six feet, four stories high. The engine room is thirty by thirty feet, which is outside the main building and is built entirely of brick. The smoke stack is brick, sixty-three feet high. The basement is brick, ten feet in the clear, with floor just above the ground level. This of course contains the drive shafts, base of elevator

lines, etc.

The office too is a wing off this floor. The second story is the roller floor, twelve foot in the clear. Aside from the labyrinth of elevator shafts that permeate the entire structure from ground floor to roof. It contains a monotonous array of those wonderful roller machines that have worked a complete revolution in merchant milling.

The third floor or story is the bolting floor, fourteen feet in the clear, filled with bolts and machinery nameless to the uninitiated scribe.

The upper or fourth floor is twelve feet in the clear with a "Texas" running up six feet above for heads of elevator lines.

All the inside work is finished with two coats of shellac and one coat of varnish.

Steam has been up in the boiler for some days and other machinery tested.

George L. Jarrett of Des Moines is the contractor. The superintendent in the work of building this mill is Oscar Morris of our town. He is well known in this state as well as others, as a millwright. Two mills, the mill at Avoca and one at Davenport are the only mills to approach the claim of equal to the Novelty Mills.

Lee Armstrong purchased an interest in the mill a short time before the fire.

### Flouring Mills of Indianola

*Indianola Tribune, February 12, 1878*

This mill is known as Novelty Mill but is often referred to as Bryson's Mill. Jesse Bryson is the owner. Mr. Bryson has been in Indianola since 1869, having owned an interest in the Indianola Mills until 1875 when he sold out to W. H. Hursh. He then built this mill in the spring of 1876. The mill burned in April 1885. Mr. Bryson rebuilt on the same site, six months later. At that time Lee Armstrong was a partner, having purchased into the company shortly before the fire. A. H. Swan also had an interest in at this time. It was at the time of the rebuilding that it was named Novelty Mills.

This mill has had several owners. In 1902 Mr. W. H. Brown was the owner. He sold to Mr. Chillcoate of Superior, Nebraska and Mr. Hulen of Crawfordsville, Indiana. Mr. Chillcoate's son was managing the mill and both families were making arrangements to move to Indianola when the mill burned.

## Bits and pieces about ... Mills of Warren County, *continued*

This mill was located at the site of the Harlan Lumber Company. A portion of the foundation remained until the Fareway Store was constructed a few years ago.

*Indianola paper, August 30, 1939*

Among the numerous former residents of Indianola who attended the Courthouse Celebration were C. W. Groom, associated with Meredith Publishing of Des Moines and his brother W. Groom of Los Angeles, Calif, at one time he connected with a machinery company as salesman, but is now retired.

Both were born on a farm located three miles east of Swan. The farm was entered from the government by their father, who received a clear title and deed following the Mexican War in which he fought. Later the brothers moved to Hartford, where they were reared. Both learned the millers trade and were employed in the Novelty Mills, owned and operated by the late Jesse Bryson, father of Mrs. Harry Watson.

C. W. Groom was assistant engineer at the mill under Charlie Bryson, engineer. His brother was a helper in the milling operations. Also employed at the mill at that time were H. E. Hanna and Tom Purcell.

### Old Mill Foundation Comes Down

*Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune, February 1965*

For the past 50 years the residents of Indianola have known the above pictured (sorry no picture here) brick building as a warehouse for the J. M. Harlan Lumber company. It is being demolished by Fareway Stores, purchasers of the Harlan half block. It was originally the foundation of the Indianola Novelty Mills, owned and operated by Jesse Bryson, father of the late Mrs. Harry Watson of this city. The mill, a frame structure, extended three stories above the foundation. It burned in the fall of 1902, but had not been operating for some time before it burned. It was the second mill built and operated by Mr. Bryson, the first, on the same site, having burned some time around 1886. Don L. Berry, publisher emeritus of The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune, remembers watching the first mill burn from the back stairs to his father's law office, which was in a second floor on the east side of the square over the present Jones shoe store. The Bryson mill turned out a high quality product. "Bryson's Best" made the best bread for Indianola housewives, and sold at retail for \$1.25 for a 49 lb. sack. (The sacks made the tea towels for wiping all the dishes in town.) After closing the mill, Mr. Bryson went into the grocery business in partnership with C. B. McLaughlin in a frame building located on the corner now occupied by the Hall &

Ewalt law office. Mr. McLaughlin was the retired station agent of the Rock Island railroad. He was the grandfather of Bill Buxton. When the first Bryson mill was built is not known, probably in the '70's. Mr. Bryson is listed as a miller in the George Parker history of the county, published in 1879. The fire in the first mill was started by a wheel that had become loose on the shaft and was rubbing against wood. The second mill fire was probably of incendiary origin.

### Flouring Mills of Indianola

*Indianola Tribune, February 21, 1878*

Pritchard and Hursh Flouring Mill – It is the oldest of the mills here and has long been known as "Indianola Mills." In 1869 Jesse Bryson and A. L. Pritchard purchased the mill. Ten months later W. H. H. Hursh came to Indianola from Iowa City and bought an interest in it. In 1875 he bought Jesse Bryson's interest. Mr. Pritchard has since died, but Mrs. Pritchard still owns an interest in the mill. Mr. Hursh keeps five men employees. Mr. Jake Rapp is the foreman.

(The Hursh and Pritchard Mill stood on the lot where the city water tower and wading pool now stand.)

### Nicholson Mill (Carlisle)

Robert Nicholson was a native of England. He was born near Newcastle, England on June 8, 1832. He learned the trade of miller in England.

In 1852 he emigrated to America, landing at New York. He settled in Stark County, Ohio and there worked as a miller about a year. He then moved to Will County, Illinois where he secured employment in a mill. He spent four years there.

Mr. Nicholson then came to Iowa and found work in a mill in Cedar Rapids. A year later he came to Des Moines, where he started the City Flouring Mills, which he conducted for six and one-half years. In 1862 he came to Carlisle. At Carlisle he purchased a steam mill and engaged in merchant milling, buying wheat which he manufactured into flour. He shipped thousands of barrels to Des Moines.

His mill was destroyed by fire in 1888, he erected a new plant, putting in a full roller process and up-to-date machinery. He successfully carried on the business until 1905 when he retired.

### Carlisle Mill

*Warren County Tribune, January 27, 1876*

The Carlisle Mill is four stories high. The first or ground floor is divided by an arch or wagon way, through which a team can be driven and their freight of grain elevated to the proper place above. On the west side of this archway is the container for all grain for milling purposes which is raised through ingenious elevators to pass through the cleaning process preparatory for the burrs. On the east side of this archway is located the "corn burr" and buckwheat department, also immense bins of grain. Thence we passed up the long broad stairway cases to the fourth story to which all grain is elevated. It passes first through a McLane Ware House Separator. After passing through three of these machines of different grades and through a smut and brush machine it is ready for grinding and is transferred to the second floor where three sets of burrs are ready to crush it and send it on an upward flight back to the fourth floor, through a Whitmore Middlings Purifier. It now passes to the third floor and through the several "bolts" according to the quality desired of which there are three: (1) second rate, (2) Carlisle Best, (3) new process.

In the third floor is also the office where everything is covered with flour, of course. Here we find the shipping scales into which grain flows from above and by simply touching a spring after weighing is precipitated into cars ready for a glide across to the eastern market. The shipping bins hold at least nine thousand bushels of grain.

It is no wonder the Carlisle Mill under the management of Mr. Nicholson has become familiar with all creation and that Carlisle Best has become a favorite among housekeepers through out the land.

### Milo Mill

The Milo Mill had several owners. It is said Sinclair Wright built the first grist mill in Milo, but we do not have the date of its construction.

The 1884 *Gazetteer* lists Wright and Pennington as owning the Milo Flouring Mills. Sinclair A. Wright sold to Henry Clark in February 1885, who sold to Thomas A. Davis in December 1886. T. A. Davis and his son Lawrence had previous owned the Summerset Mills, with Lawrence as manager. T. A. soon retired, leaving Lawrence and his son Albert to run the business.

The October 3, 1902 *Des Moines Daily News* reported: "The mills are located on the C. B. & Q tracks which

makes loading very handy. . . The largest part of their business here has been in the wholesale buckwheat flour line, although their retail business has been quite large. At this time this mill sells their buckwheat goods to about 125 retail dealers in southwestern Iowa and northern Missouri, besides two large wholesale houses that handle its product . . . The mill turns out all kinds of feed, corn meal, graham flour, and an especially fine whole wheat flour. but their specialty is pure buckwheat flour. They give this flour no fancy name, but just guarantee it to be 'buckwheat flour.' It is a rare thing to get this article now in the genuine, and consequently these mills have built up a large trade in this line. Everything is shipped from the mill in cloth sacks, which is a great advantage to the dealer, there being no loss from breakage of sacks, and those who handle feed and flour know that the loss from this source is considerable in the course of a year."

The Davis family sold to J. J. Steele in 1906, who owned it when it was destroyed by fire June 22, 1911.

There are no records of another mill in Milo until June 21, 1917: "A. C. Thomas will install a stone burr mill with flour and meal bolters for making first-class corn meal, whole wheat and Graham flour, also a steel feed mill for grinding feed, also to be operated by electric power. This machinery will be placed in the building now occupied by the Thomas & Horr blacksmith shop, which will be moved into the new west addition where the business will be carried on the same as formerly. The work of installation will commence at once and as soon as completed the mill will begin operation."

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### The Birds' Farewell

*Lois King, 1932*

In Autumn crystal cold, there comes a tinkling note,  
A farewell song that flows from pulsing wee bird-throat.  
Like molten silver dripping from the moon  
Like sweetest rose-buds breathing their perfume.

Ah! is the summer beauty gone away so soon?  
'Tis only but a step from flower-laden June.  
Still, flaming colors, golden, red, and brown  
Are touching leaves as they come drifting down.

The faded apple blossoms once so fragile sweet  
That made for tiny birds their new-born world complete,  
Have faded, fallen, and their fragrance fled;  
Few songsters now remain among the dead.

So 'tis the time for feathered artists to depart,  
Their song of parting lingers, throbbing, till the dark.  
Then, yesterday forgotten, they shall seek  
Some newly-greening woodland, hill, or deep.

## Mark your calendar

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

## 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.*

**YOUNG, McCOY.** James and Sarah Young had 6 children in Washington Township, Warren County, IA in 1870 Census. Sometime between 1870 and 1880 I believe Sarah died and James remarried. I am trying to find Sarah's maiden name. Also, about 1879 in White Oak Township (probably near the Young family in Washington Twp, their daughter Emma Flora Young and her husband William McCoy had a daughter Sarah. Douglas Hartman, 59 Winthrop New Road, Aurora, Illinois 60506 or Cassivy11@aol.com

I plan to produce a program book for Y2000, so need to have everyone pay their dues by December 31, 1999.

## October is Family History Month

1. Sort old photographs, put names & dates on them.
2. Interview your oldest living relative, preferably on tape.
3. Have a new family photograph taken.
4. Start writing a journal, or bring it up to date.
5. Start writing a few pages of your own personal history.
6. Write a genealogy-related letter to a relative.
7. Cook up a favorite family recipe and surprise someone.

## Book Reviews

"Everyone has a story" – a concept promoted by CBS News on Friday nights. Real life is better than fiction; it is so important that everyone write their story. The following are a couple examples of books I have read recently.

### *Following the Alaskan Dream: My Salmon Trolling Adventures in the Last Frontier*, 1999

Former Iowan Marilyn Frink Jordan George has written an adventure-filled biography of her salmon-trolling days in Southeast Alaska. With a Home Economics degree from Iowa State, in 1946 she left the security of Midwest life to follow her Norwegian born, World War II United States Navy sailor husband to discover a new world and she fell in love with all of it. The beauty of the Alaskan islands and coastline is incredible. The conditions aboard their first troller were very primitive and salmon fishing rivals farming in being a risky occupation. They had little money and eventually had four children, who fondly remember their youth for the joy of being a close-knit family, doing things together. When her husband died, too young, she struggled to support the family. Marilyn got her Master's Degree in Journalism and all four children graduated from college and the older three found their way back to their homeland in Southeast Alaska. Marilyn's book is more than an adventure story, it tells of family love and her key to a positive attitude – "Joy is an Inside Job."

*Self published, this book can be ordered by sending \$24.95 (plus \$4 p&h) to Marilyn George, PO Box 1031, Petersburg AK 98833.*

### *Good-Bye, Boise... Hello, Alaska*, 1994 *"Dear Cora..."*, 1997

Very enjoyable, these are companion books by Cora Holmes, who with her two sons left their high-pressure life in Boise, Idaho in October 1979 for a new life on a 200-square mile sheep ranch on the remote Unalaska Island in the Aleutian Island chain. A registered nurse, she worked as secretary and housekeeper for the rancher who had placed an ad in the Boise paper. She fell in love with the rancher and the land. What a change from the city lives they had known. She tells it like it was, full of adventure, emotion, friction, learning, and silence. She tells about getting mail only 5 or 6 times a year, ordering everything through mail-order catalogs and how she tried to cook when they ran out of flour. Times were not easy, but lessons were learned and strength gained.

*Published by Reiman Publications, 5400 South 60th Street, Greendale WI 53129, credit card orders call toll-free 1-800-558-1013. Unfortunately I do not know the price, as the copies I read belonged to someone else.*

## Computers, Software and the Internet

### Oxymoron: Privacy and the Internet

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

Clark County Genealogical Society, Vancouver, WA

Genealogists use RootsWeb and the incredible power of the Internet to learn more about ancestors and to find far-flung cousins. However, we are caught in an incongruous position on privacy matters.

Everyone wants their privacy respected, but are you invading that of your relatives? Technology enables us to share genealogical information easily and quickly via e-mail, mailing lists, chat rooms, bulletin boards, newsgroups, GED-COMs, CDs and Web sites.

In our eagerness to obtain and to share data we forget that our living family members have a right to privacy. We also post personal details about ourselves that we would not put on the local supermarket bulletin board.

Aunt Martha might reveal her real birth date and confess that she had a child out of wedlock when she was 19. Sweet old Uncle Jim may tell you that he has been married and divorced six times. However, you are invading their privacy if you publish this information or if you share it with others via a GEDCOM or family group sheets.

Information on home pages, bulletin boards, and mailing lists is electronic publication. It is OK to collect and compile information about your living relatives, but don't share it (unless you have their permission, of course) with others—in any format via any means.

During the preparation of a talk for my local genealogical society on this subject, I searched hundreds of genealogy-related home pages. At one I found the names and details about everyone in the family, including when and where they were all born, right down to a one-month-old grandson, listing the hospital in which he was born.

One researcher reports, "In just one file that I downloaded...I found more than 200 names of persons born within the last 70 years..." Another notes, "I was shocked and dismayed to find that someone had copied my entire GEDCOM and put it up on their Web site. While I have no objection to anyone using my dead ancestors, this person had included the living as well..."

Now, I've heard from several genealogists who claim it does not matter what we put up on our home pages or share on the Internet since "this information is all public information anyway." Another one argues that "unless and until they quit putting births, deaths and marriages in the newspapers the basic relationships and names are and will remain public info."

I have no quarrel about marriage and death records—if they are really obtained from public sources. However, I asked several correspondents to provide me with the source of the birth information posted on their home pages, and guess what I learned? In every instance the data were either supplied by a cousin or obtained from a GEDCOM that someone had sent them. In other words, they had not found the information in a public source at all.

Take a look at the policy posted at "Don't Mess with the Living, Texas" <http://home.sprynet.com/~harrisfarm/warn-ing.htm>: "It is the policy of the Texas GenWeb Project to protect the rights and privacy of our living relatives. We strongly encourage all involved to do their best not to place information on the Internet about anyone who is still living, unless you have their express permission to do so."

Among the suggestions for ways to protect living family members are:

- When requesting information (via e-mail, chat queries, etc.) do not include personal information on living persons.
- When responding to requests for information, especially to someone you really do not know, do not provide them with personal information about living persons. They could post it on the Web or do who knows what else with it.
- Before sharing GEDCOM files with others, expunge information on all living persons. Programs such as GED-Clean, GEDLiving, and GEDPrivy will do this for you.
- If you have a genealogy Web site, remove information about all living persons. (Check Cyndi's Genealogy Home Page Construction Kit <http://www.cyndislist.com/construc.htm> for tips and links to the several GEDCOM utility problems that will exclude such data.)

British genealogists are using the "GEN100" logo to signify that their Web site respects a cut-off date of 100 years, and to advise that information which is less than 100 years old will not be divulged. Many Americans use January 1920 as the cut-off point, since that is the most recent federal census available to the public.

We should exercise good manners and respect the privacy of our families—those generous relatives who have shared information with us or who shared with a cousin of a cousin. Additionally, there is another and growing problem—identity theft. Why make it easy for cyberthieves to steal your or a loved one's identity?

When you post public messages about your research, it is sufficient to say you are researching a Cynthia Jones line. You don't have to reveal relationship by saying she is your mother or maternal grandmother. To learn more about identity theft and other privacy issues visit: <http://www.identitytheft.org/> and <http://www.privacyrights.org?>

In the pursuit of our ancestors, let's not hurt ourselves or our living family members. Think before you post or share data.

## Research Helps

### The value PROOFREADING to present TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION

by Marieta Grissom

Do you proofread your work? In genealogy, even the smallest error can be very misleading and ruin a reader's trust.

When doing research, we run into many chances for error. Copying from microfilm or published materials can be tedious and there is always room for error. This is where reader/printers and photocopiers come in so handy. At least we know when we photocopy something we are getting the information as it was presented—and is not subject to our own errors.

An example: One of my exhibits at the county fair this year showed census records for my great-grandmother throughout her life. I included the first census in which she appeared (1870 when she was a child) through her youth, marriage, raising children, death of her husband, and then in 1925 when her mother was living with her. I thought this was a unique way to show a person's life. But I only got a white ribbon on the exhibit. Why? I think it was partially because I had copied the records by hand and had not used copies of the microfilm. Microfilm copies would have shown more authenticity of the information. **The closer we can come to the original information, the less chance of error and the more we can trust the information.**

Many genealogical societies publish information abstracted from local newspapers. Think about the number of chances for error when someone abstracts information from newspapers and someone else types that information for publication. First, the newspaper could have printed incorrect information. Second, the person copying the information could make an error. Third, the person typing the information could make an error. If no one proofreads this information along the way, how accurate is this information going to be by the time the researcher finds it?

Similar chances for error occur when copying tombstone information or when copying vital records—except we hope the grave stones and original vital records are more likely to be correct than are some newspaper articles.

For example: Recently a query was received inquiring about the probate records mentioned in a WCGS publication. When investigating it was discovered that the publication should have referred to the death notice in a newspaper rather than the probate records. **Integrity of publications is key.** When I am looking at publications I want to trust their accuracy.

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

**PHOTOCOPY**, whenever possible. Yes, it is easy to get considerable money tied up in photocopies, but if you consider the alternatives—authenticity and the possibility for inaccurate information—you have to weigh your priorities.

**PROOFREAD**: Two options for proofreading are:

1) You can put two items side by side and follow from one to the other with your hand, finger or a ruler. This is very tedious and often it is still easy to overlook errors, especially because it is always difficult to proof your own work. You often overlook the same errors each time—and you may not even realize that something is an error.

2) You can ask someone to help you. One way to handle this is for one person to read aloud from the original and the other person follows along on the copy. The reader spells out any uncommon words and identifies punctuation. Even better is if two people follow this procedure, neither one of which prepared the copy. Fresh eyes are often a good idea. The time required to do this is always time well spent.

An example: The first time I was involved in using this proofreading procedure was as a member of the publishing committee for *MILO 1880-1980* and I feel results were worth the effort. I have used this procedure several times since and it is very effective in catching errors. **If you have something you consider to be worth publishing, it is worth doing right.**

Computers are a great help for proofreading, but are not the entire answer. Computer spell checks don't catch errors in names and dates.

Some people seem to take offense to proofreading or don't really understand the process of proofreading. To some people proofreading probably signifies failure—having to admit we make mistakes. But look at the long-term effects if we detach ourselves from the product and "let it fly" with errors and all. What has been accomplished?

**ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS preserve the integrity of your information by proofreading your work!**

## Research Helps - Land Records, *continued*

### Tip of the Month

*Eastern Nebraska Gen. Soc., Fremont, NE, Dec. 1995*

A well-known genealogist told a mere beginner several years ago the three most important records to check are Land, Land & Land!

Land records may tell you one or more of the following: name of wife, possibly her maiden name; occupation; age and marital status, names of children, including sons-in-law; names of heirs; location of previous and next home; description and location of property, plus number of acres; names of previous owners; length of time at one-location; religious and educational practices (as many settlers donated land for churches and schools); economic circumstances (owned a great deal of land or land was sold to pay debts) and names of neighbors and witnesses who may be relatives. Some records also contain transactions of personal property.

Most land and deed records have been microfilmed and most have at least a buyer/seller index. Land records are sometimes slow to research, however you can reap great rewards for your efforts. Often these records may serve as a substitute for birth, death or marriage records. Land records are the oldest continuous set of records in our country. Don't overlook this valuable tool.

### Using Land Records for Genealogy Research

*Poweshiek Co. Gen. Soc., Montezuma, IA Jul-Sept 1995*

Property records have probably helped solve more difficult problems in genealogy research than any other single source. Land and property records should be investigated in connection with probate and civil court records, because the two are so closely related and complement each other. It is generally advisable to investigate probate records first, then land, civil and criminal court records.

What you may find:

- Name of buyer – Grantee
- Name of seller – Grantor
- Given name of spouse
- Names of former spouses
- Clues to maiden name of wife
- Names of relatives and kinship
- Names of friends and associates
- Previous places of residence
- Dates of settling or leaving a particular area
- Places of residence or residences of relatives
- Dates and places of death (or clues)
- Approximate birth and marriage dates
- Occupation

Church affiliation

Social status

Clue to other sources

Location of immigrant's ancestral home

Adoptions and illegitimacies.

### Using land records in family history research:

1. Know the COUNTY where your relative lived, when it was formed
2. Find the Township Name or Number, if possible.
3. Record this data on your family group sheets and charts, as well as the state and town, if applicable.

*Monroe County Genealogical Society, Jan-March 1998.*

HOMESTEAD CLAIMS may give where children were born.

MEXICAN WAR RECORDS show the last lands issued for war service.

PUBLIC DOMAIN rights often issued a year after application date.

TAX LISTS always one year behind.

PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS may give the history of a piece of land, also a family history, perhaps revealing disputes and illegitimacies. Look for land records at Court Houses.

### Deeds: Greatest Clues to Maiden Names

*Greater Omaha Gen. Society, Omaha, NE, April 1998*

"In the lower left hand corner of most old deeds, you will find signatures of two to four witnesses. The first one is always from the husband's side. The next one is always from the wife's side. This is to protect her 1/2 dower right under the law. Nothing you will ever use will give greater clues to maiden names than witnesses on old deeds."

### Plat Maps

*Monroe County Gen. Society, Jan-Mar 1997*

Have you ever wished you could locate a Plat Map to pinpoint where your ancestor lived? You can write to the Title Company (sometimes called the Abstract Offices) in the town where your ancestor resided, and ask for one. Besides showing your ancestor's property, you can obtain the names of neighbors from these maps. Many times your ancestor's children married into these families.

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WCGS Y2000 dues are due by December 31, 1999

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## The following are some examples of items exhibited at the 1999 Warren County Fair:

### Category: True Story of the Past The Fire

by Dorothy Stearns, received 1st place  
My great-grandmother was Mary Nolte Boot, whose father was Herman Henry Nolte. He was born on January 29, 1829 in Hitzhausen, Germany. His great-grandfather was Adolph Theodor Adams, who married Christine Gertrud Nolte. A genealogist in Germany researched the Nolte name. He discovered in Osnabruck that some families took the name of the mother instead of the father as was the case in my family.

Herman came to America in 1840 and settled in Pittsburg working for a German farmer whom he knew from Germany. In 1846 he moved to Jefferson County, Indiana where he farmed. There he met his wife, Sarah Padget. They lived there 18 years before moving to the fertile land of Iowa near Muscatine. They had 12 children, one dying at the age of 1 month. He had rented some land from his brother who had come earlier.

They packed everything up and moved by steamboat on the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois, then up the Mississippi River to Muscatine. That many children on a steamboat for a week or so undoubtedly proved interesting for everyone.

One incident stands out, the father was granted permission to leave the boat on a regular stop for 20 minutes to get medicine for a sick child. He had not returned when the officials began to make preparations for the boat to leave. However, just before they were able to haul in the heavy plank which had been projected to the wharf for passage to and from the boat, Mrs. Nolte stepped quickly out onto the plank and announced, "You said my husband had 20 minutes and his time is not up." Of course, the captain might have tried to remove her; but whether when he saw the glint in her eye he was a little suspicious that he himself might get dumped overboard or whether his gallantry came to the rescue will never be known. Mrs. Nolte stayed put as well as the plank until her husband had returned.

Another incident was when the family was gathering corn one fall. The girls didn't work in the field except to gather corn. One fall there was a hurry and he wanted his 2 young sons to help, age 10 and 12 at the time. The mother thought they were too young but the father insisted. She said, "If they go, I shall go, too." So all went to the field. After an hour or so, perhaps a hunger pain struck, he had a terrible thought. No one was in the house to prepare dinner (no microwave then). So the mother and the 2 younger boys left for the house.

It is amazing today how a woman of that time could raise 12

children without help and no modern conveniences of today. It is said she had her children ready for Sunday School on time. Religion was an important part of their lives.

### Category: Land Record

1st Ev Brightman entered the abstract for her current home with the following explanation:  
"This is the abstract for my current home on North G Street (Indianola). While doing some re-financing a few months ago, I came into possession of the abstract. A relative had told me that she thought my great-great grandparents had lived somewhere in this area of Indianola. Looking through the abstract I had the sudden shock and joy of discovering I own my great-great-grandparents home. Absalom Gregg and his wife Evarilla (Eovilla in abstract) bought my home in 1898. I bought the same house in 1985. I think that is synchronicity beyond the realm of probable statistics!

2nd Donna Crow  
"This is the 'warranty' deed for Henry BUNN. Henry BUNN was a younger brother of my great-grandfather, Samuel BUNN. Samuel purchased his 240 acres in Madison County in 1854. This deed shows Henry purchased his 8 Sep 1855. Henry's farm was in Penn Two of Madison County and Samuel's was in Jackson Twp and only about 2 miles apart. That is basically where the similarities end. Henry's wife passed away around the late 1860s. He sold his land, returned to Ohio with his daughter and never came back. Samuel stayed in Iowa, and passed the farm to his daughter, Theresa BUNN, who is my great-grandmother. The farm still remains in the family today. Notice the deed was sold by people who lived in Ohio. Henry was still living in Polk County and yet the deed pertains to land in Madison County.

### Category: Letter

1st Georganna Morris submitted the original letter that her father sent to her mother when he was in France in 1918.

We had 142 entries at the 1999 Warren County Fair brought by 17 people (including 3 youth for the junior division).

You can enter a total of 20 items each year. Let's see—20 items for 10 years will be 200 items! These are stories told or family heirlooms that will be identified for other family members. This is especially effective if you keep your story and ribbon with the items after the fair. What a treasury of stories and memories to share with your descendants.



## Preserving for future generations -

### Care, Handling and Storage of Books

Damage to a book is cumulative. The repeated incorrect handling and storage of a book can quickly transform a new book into a worn or even an unusable one. Proper handling and storage in a stable, cool, clean, non-humid environment, can prolong its life.

The environment around the book, is a major concern because unacceptable levels of temperature and humidity will accelerate deterioration. For example, the high humidity in an attic or basement can promote mold growth, cockle pages, and attract insects. Extremely low humidity, as found above hot radiators, can dry out leather bindings.

Direct sun-light, with a large ultraviolet (UV) component, will fade leather and cloth. Blue leather fades to dull green and red leather to brown, especially along the spine of the book.

Dust, dirt and grime from handling can adversely affect books as well. Many people shelve their books in closed glass cases away from brightly lit windows or damp exterior walls to minimize the amount of dust and grime that will accumulate.

How we handle and use a book contributes to its longevity. If a book will not lay flat, do not use force it to open further. The covers should always be supported when the book is open.

Many books are damaged by the habit of pulling the books off the shelf with the head cap or the top of the spine. It is a much better practice to push the two adjoining books inward and remove the book by grasping the spine.

Place similar sized books, next to each other on the shelf vertically, packing them neither too loosely nor tightly. This will help to prevent warping of a tall book next to a short book.

The use of paper clips and marking pens to make notations should be discouraged since clips will rust or crimp the pages and pens often bleed through the pages, obscuring text. The folding down of page corners is also damaging as it will often cause the page corner to break off over time.

The practice of using rubber bands or string to tie-up a book should be avoided because both will cut into brittle pages and damage fragile covers. A flat, soft ribbon (such as cotton twill tape), can be used to tie up the books as an immediate and temporary solution. An excellent way to protect fragile books is with a box that is custom made to the dimensions of the book. Books with dry flaking leather

covers can be wrapped in paper or polyester jackets to keep the fragments and dirt from transferring to hands, adjoining books and the rest of the pages.

In the past, leather books were treated with a leather dressing; however the application of an oil or leather dressing can have an adverse effect and is, therefore, not recommended. See Library of Congress Preservation Directorate handout: "Leather Dressing."

To select the professional best qualified to treat your book, contact the referral service maintained by The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC). They will provide you with a list of professionals in your area that can help you find an appropriate conservator or conservation treatment:

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC)  
1717 K Street, NW, Suite 301  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone (202) 452-9545  
FAX (202) 452-9328  
E-mail: [infoaic@aol.com](mailto:infoaic@aol.com)  
WWW: <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/aic/>

*The preservation procedures described here have been used by the Library of Congress in the care of its collections and are considered suitable by the Library as described; however, the Library will not be responsible for damage to your collection should damage result from the use of these procedures. Revised: 12/98*

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**Register now  
for the  
Beginning Genealogy  
Class  
October 16, 1999**

**see page 2 for details**

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### Iowa Historical Library

Ruth Bartles has been Librarian for 8 years. She gave us a brief overview of the library, then some research suggestions. Her recommendations included starting with the most recent census for a given person/family and working backwards. She also reminded us of the special censuses: agriculture, social and industrial/manufacturing. She concluded by giving us a tour of the facility and helped us start our research for the day.

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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 &amp; Otter Townships</i> , hardbound, 364 pages, indexed.	\$25.00	\$3.00	5% (IA residents)
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### Available from

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

#### *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.

Warren County Genealogical Society  
306 West Salem  
Indianola, IA 50125