

Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

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Center Stage: Maxine & Jim Weinman

by Ev Brightman

Initially I planned to write two separate articles on Maxine and Jim. However, when you are married and research partners, the history appears to merge. Both shared information of interest about the other's family. I gave up.

Maxine first became interested in genealogy by attending family reunions on her mother's side. She had the opportunity to meet her cousins and other extended family members. Maxine and Jim's daughter, Jane, had a school project. Maxine's mother-in-law also shared an interest in family history.

Jim also gives his mother credit for his initial interest. She liked to share information about ancestors and Jim states that he took the time to listen. "When Maxine became interested in genealogy, we took off from there."

Part of Maxine's family originated in England and Ireland. Martin Smith, her father's great-grandfather traveled to Ohio from Connecticut after the Revolutionary War. An interesting note is that both Maxine and Jim can trace ancestors (Morrison and Browne) to County Tyrone in Ireland. Her grandfather A. M. Smith came to Iowa as a Methodist minister. He and his wife, Mary Ellen Kile (German) settled in Blue Grass, Iowa. He remained in southeast Iowa preaching in several areas. Her mother's family settled in Davis and Appanoose counties in the 1850s.

Howard Kile Smith (H. K.) met and married Mabel More (Maxine's mother and father). H. K. Smith was the editor of the Moravia Union paper. Her mother was living with her grandmother in Unionville. Her grandmother was blind. Mabel attended the church where H. K. Smith's father was minister.

Maxine grew up in Moravia. She says she went to Indianola to attend Simpson College and never returned to Moravia to live.

Jim's grandfather, Joseph M. Browne, came to Iowa from the Pittsburgh area to homestead 640 acres south of St. Charles. Mr. Browne also had a dry goods (general store) and bank in St. Charles. After the death of his first wife, Joseph returned to Pennsylvania and married Jeanette, Jim's grandmother. Joseph was a Captain in the Civil War, having been part of a National Guard company which

Calendar:

- July 28 WARREN COUNTY FAIR
Exhibits due by 12:00 Noon;
Judging begins at 1:00 p.m.
- August 10 RESEARCH DAY
State Historical Library and Tour of State
Archives, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Meet at Trinity United Presbyterian Church
parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to carpool
- Sept 10 BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
NOTE SPECIAL DATE!
- Sept 12-15 FGS/Quad Cities Conference
River Center, Davenport, IA
- Sept 17 REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
Program: Maxine Weinman "Doing our
Family Research"
Roll Call: Something you remember about a
grandparent or relative visit
- Oct 27 IGS Annual Meeting
"Computers, Technology, and Family
Research"

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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Jim & Maxine Weinman, continued from page 1

was called up. Mr. Browne was shot off his horse and lived to tell about it. In later years he sold his properties in St. Charles and moved to Indianola. Joseph and Jeanette had two children. Agnes Browne was Jim's mother. From Maxine I learned that Mr. Browne had the first indoor plumbing in Indianola.

Jim's paternal grandfather, Christian Karl Weinmann came to Iowa where he met and married Eva Ries. C.K.'s father, Harry, chose to drop the second "n" in the Weinmann name. C.K. was determined to come to America from Germany. He borrowed his older brother's birthright (service to military completed) to emigrate. At the first port he tried, he was caught. He had already purchased a pass which was "non-refundable." C.K. tried another port and was able to make the trip. As he had to purchase two ship passes, he arrived in America with the equivalent of 10 cents in his pocket. He made his way to the Chicago stock yards. A farmer he met there encouraged him to come to the Indianola area and work for him. C.K. came to work for the Schrier family. During the first winter, he froze both feet. The Schrier family cared for him until he could again walk.

Surnames: Maxine: More, Morrison, Byers, Noland, two lines of Smith, Kile and Armstrong. Jim: Weinman, Riese, Browne, Watt, Carnahan and McCaskey.

Maxine and Jim became aware of WCGS as they turned to assistance of society members for information. Louise Pilmer and Thelma Pehrson were fellow church members and good resources. Both enjoy attending meetings and programs, but with eight grandchildren in the Indianola area, meetings have had to compete for a time with school programs. Maxine has served on the nominating committee.

Jim and Maxine enjoy planning trips around their research. They plan to research libraries in the area as well as walking cemeteries. Jim says, he is "Go for" when Maxine gets into her research. They have researched in the Pittsburgh area and Ohio. They are planning a trip to the Houston area after finding a woman who had a picture of the Browne/Watt family. This find came through a young man Maxine began corresponding with on the Internet. During their trip to Pennsylvania they visited with this family and the Houston connection was discovered.

Jim says he enjoys the challenge of running all the different machines at the libraries. Like most of us, he states he wishes he had asked more questions of grandparents such as passenger ships.

Maxine enjoys learning new things about ancestors and

connections with other people. She finds it exciting to discover "why people did what they did" --the stories. She found a will of an ancestor on a research trip. From Jim I learned the particulars of this will. The animals were specified to the children. One son was given the home, however, his wife was given one bedroom, bed and bedclothes. I guess he felt secure that she could use the kitchen?

Jim and Maxine met and married while at Simpson. Jim worked at the family lumber company (J. M. Harlan Company 1884), then joined Browne & Schrier Insurance. They have three married children and eight grandchildren. Their daughter was the first girl born on Jim's side of the family for 68 years.

Maxine has volunteered at the National Balloon Museum, Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, the Red Cross and various other groups.

Regarding their research, Maxine says "check your facts!"

Look for "Marieta's rambling comments" on page 17.

Officers 2001:

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	Kay Putz
Newsletter Indexing	Mary Cae Pancratz

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

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County

Philip Colclazier

Death of a Centenarian—Philip Colclazier, who had reached the ripe age of one hundred and five years, died in Jefferson township, this county, on the 11th. He was ten years old when the Revolutionary war commenced, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. Without doubt the venerable veteran was the oldest man in the county at the time of his death.—*The Leader*, Indianola, IA, 18 May 1871.

Linn Grove Cemetery:

COLCLAZIER Phillip, d. May 11, 1871, age 105y 1m 26 day, husb of Mary
COLCLAZIER Mary, d. Apr 2, 1872 about 93 y, wf of Phillip

Bernard Tallon

A man one hundred and eight years old, Bernard Tallon, now living in this county, was born April 19, 1763, in the parish of Angnamallen, Ireland, and notwithstanding his extreme age enjoys perfect health and reads without glasses. He was on the streets of our city yesterday and as usual attracted a good deal of attention. We have before us a specimen of his chirography which would do honor to a man a half-century his junior. We believe that Mr. Tallon is the oldest man in Iowa, and vote him the best as such.—*The Leader*, Indianola, IA, 8 June 1871.

J. R. Hursh

Anti-Goose Party—A goodly number of bachelors held a party at the residence of Mr. W. H. Hursh last Wednesday evening to celebrate the centennial birthday of his brother Mr. J. R. Hursh. It was an anti-goose party, and as a consequence no ladies were present. It was resolved by this forlorn class of men that they had rights which must and should be respected by the world at large, and therefore they came together for such a party and never did they enjoy themselves better. There were eleven of them and they seemed perfectly satisfied to let the wide world wag along without once interfering with it so long as they were permitted to thus peaceably assemble in such a pleasant home, and to receive such a welcome as that afforded them by Mr. and Mrs. Hursh. Nothing that would contribute to their comfort was left undone, and, we doubt not, last Wednesday evening will remain a bright spot in the memory of every bachelor present. At the close of an evening so well spent, Mr. Kimball, in a very neat speech presented Mr. J. R. Hursh with a fine silver-headed ebony cane. Mr. Hursh was taken completely by surprise, and could only respond with his thanks. The cane bore the

inscription, "Presented to J. R. Hursh by his bachelor friends, June 7, 1876." Thus passed and ended a very pleasant evening.—*The Indianola Tribune*, 9 June 1876.

Katrina Anglesburg

St. Marys--Grandmother Anglesburg(er?) has been quite sick for three weeks past; but is now considerably better, being able to knit and sew. She is 101 years old, and can see to read as well as ever, without glasses. —*The Advocate*, Indianola, IA, 26 Oct 1880.

Katrina Anglesburg, mother of Stephen Anglesburg, of St. Marys, died at his home, Saturday morning, at three o'clock, aged 101 years, three weeks, and two days. —*The Advocate*, Indianola, IA, 30 Nov 1880.

Mr. Gallagher

In his professional journeyings last week, County Superintendent Stanley stopped overnight with Mr. Lee in Jefferson township, near Churchville. Here he met Mrs. Lee's father, Mr. Gallagher, who says he was 108 years old last Christmas. He is a native of Ireland and at the age of 18 helped build a bridge there. His son recently visited Ireland and saw the identical bridge bearing the date 1800. Mr. Gallagher has always been a day laborer, has lived on plain common food and worked hard and has never owned any property. He is now in what might be called good health. He cuts and carries in wood and does little chores. He is a devout Catholic. He attributes his great age to his simple habits of life and his freedom from care and worry. His temperate habits have no doubt also added to his years, for he has never been addicted to the use of intoxicants. —*The Advocate-Tribune*, Indianola, IA, 5 Feb 1891.

Joseph Michael

A most notable occurrence was held at Milo Aug. 19, 1905, where the people gathered together for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of Joseph Michael, a centenarian. The day was bright and beautiful, and nature seemed to contribute her share to the memorable occasion. Gathered together from all parts of our county the good people wended their way to the beautiful park in Milo, where the stand was erected and seats prepared for a large concourse of people, at an early hour of the day.

At ten a.m. Rev. Knoll called the assemblage to order and announced the order of the exercises of the day.

In the midst of the people sat Joseph Michael, cool, calm,

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

and happy, bearing the weight of one hundred years wonderfully well, surrounded by as many as twenty-five hundred citizens of all ages and sexes anxious to add their part to the success of the occasion.

They commenced by song and prayer service, just like an old fashioned camp meeting, led by Rev. Farley, of Milo. Immediately afterward Rev. John Goode delivered an excellent discourse, alluding to many scenes which came to his personal knowledge, as he has been acquainted with Father Michael for fifty years.

At 12 o'clock the people gathered together in groups or families and partook of a basket dinner in the grove and renewed old acquaintances as they referred to the "long ago." At 1:30 p.m. the audience was called together by song and prayer, after which I was called upon to present Father Michael with a Bible as a token of esteem and warm friendship on the part of the citizens of Liberty township.

Joseph Mosher was called upon and in a lucid manner related his acquaintance of over fifty years with Father Michael, and the early scenes of a pioneer life. He carried us back to the log school house and the puncheon floor.

At 3 p.m. Rev. Martin, of Indianola, preached a sermon using the text: How old art thou? He handled it in his usual style, giving thought and reason in his masterly way, to the vast assemblage and exhorted them to live lives of sobriety and usefulness and by so doing make the world better as Brother Michael has by living in it. As I looked into the face of this "grand old man" I realized that his ways were ways of pleasantness and his paths were paths of peace.

Biography of Joseph Michael, A Centenarian of Milo, Iowa

Joseph Michael is of German parentage, being the fourth son of Wm. Michael and Barbara his wife, who were born and raised in Germany. His parents emigrated to Rockingham, Va., where Joseph was born Aug. 19, 1805. The family moved to Ross county, Ohio, when Joseph was eight years old.

On June 14, 1827, Mr. Michael was married to Elizabeth Dougherty by Esquire Joseph Cooly in Ross county. In the fall of 1853 Joseph and Elizabeth Michael, with their family, moved to Warren county, Iowa. In the spring of 1854 they settled in Liberty township, where he built a shop on his farm and worked for several years at the blacksmith trade in connection with his work on the farm. On retiring from the farm he bought a home in

Liberty Center where his wife died December 28, 1882, since which time he has resided with his children in Liberty and Belmont townships.

In 1835 at the age of thirty years he was converted and united with the Methodist Episcopal church and has remained an earnest Christian to the present time, having been for many years class leader of his home church. During her lifetime Elizabeth, his wife, was equally earnest and enthusiastic as a Christian worker in the church of their choice. There were twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael, of whom seven are yet living and five dead, consisting of seven sons and five daughters, as follows: John D. Michael, Wm. Michael, Joseph and David Michael, twins, Henry H. Michael, Rufus Michael, James Curtis Michael; daughters: Catherine Michael, Julia Anne Michael, Barbara Michael, Clarissa C. Michael, Huldah Jane Michael.

Deaths—Joseph died Aug. 28, 1840; Rufus died April 25, 1844; Clarissa C. died May 8, 1852; Henry H. died March 18, 1860; David D. died March 27, 1863. John D., William and Henry H. served in Company G, 18th Iowa Vol. Infantry, enlisting at Indianola. Henry died in the army. David could not enter the active service as a soldier because he was a cripple, but went as a teamster in the 24th Iowa infantry.

Mr. Michael has a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and in at least one line of descent there is a fourth generation, a great-great-grandchild.

At the age of ninety-eight Mr. Michael walked from the home of his daughter, Mrs. Turner, where he now resides, to Milo, Iowa, in a half day—nearly six miles—an illustration of his vigor in recent years. He was always temperate and industrious which accounts in part for the length of his life.

Mr. Michael has been an honored and respected citizen of Warren county for fifty-two years, and his old friends and neighbors gathered at Milo Aug 19, 1905, to celebrate his one hundredth birthday, congratulate him and his children in so long and useful a life, and hope the condition of his health will add other birthdays to the great number already passed.—G. F. Burzette, Liberty Center, Iowa—*The Advocate-Tribune*, Indianola, IA, 24 August, 1905.

Liberty Center Cemetery

MICHAEL Joseph, d. Nov 22, 1906, age 101y
3m 3 d
ss" Elizabeth, wf of J., d. Dec 29,
1882, age 74y 1m 5d

Sarah Jo McFarland

Mrs. Sarah Jo McFarland of Lacona celebrated her 100th birthday Wednesday at her home. She and her daughter, Miss Lula McFarland, have lived in Lacona since 1888 with the exception of four years in Milo and Russell.

Mrs. McFarland fractured her hip March 20 and has been confined to her bed, but maintains she is the happiest prisoner in the world. She received an orchid from the "Welcome to Hollywood" program Wednesday morning.

Mrs. McFarland was born in Vandalia, IL, and later made her home with an uncle, Judge Ross and his wife. She managed to see many notable persons. Once, when General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and General and Mrs. John Logan visited Vandalia she was included in the official welcoming party and later met all four of the honored guests.

She was born in the same room in the hotel apartment where Abraham Lincoln slept when he stayed in Vandalia to try law cases. She was three years old when she was taken to a parade in which Mr. Lincoln was riding in a barouche. She says she remembers he wore a tall silk hat.

Mrs. McFarland was always very active before she fractured her hip and made hundreds of quilts and rugs. She finished a crocheted rug in October.

She has one sister, Mrs. Edna Stephens, 80, of Buena Park, Calif. She visited Mrs. McFarland last November.

Cochran Cemetery

MCFARLAND	Lulu A. 1881-1963
ss"	Sarah Jo, 1850-1951
ss"	Benjamin W. 1839-1904 GAR marker

Nicholas E. Stickel

The one hundredth birthday of Nicholas E. Stickel was celebrated at New Virginia last Friday, July 21st. Between three and four hundred relatives and friends gathered there during the forenoon, all laden with baskets, boxes, sacks, suitcases or other receptacles filled with that delectable variety of eatables peculiar to a picnic dinner.

"Uncle Nick" as he is known by the old-timers, was brought to the banquet in a wheel chair, having a stroke of paralysis last fall which left him unable to walk.

He was placed at the table of honor upon which reposed a cake of enormous dimensions bearing one hundred candles.

After dinner the picture man got the crowd and also the relatives and immediate family, after which a program of music and speeches was given in the church. A. V. Proudfoot and Rev. Shaw of Indianola and Rev. Caarder of New Virginia were the speakers. The members and ex-members of the Mt. Tabor church led the singing.

The weather man departed from his usual custom regarding picnic weather being content with a little cloudy period and a very few drops of rain in the evening.

Few of those present will be likely to have an opportunity to celebrate another hundredth birthday.

The following is a brief account of the life of this venerable man whose clean habits, genial disposition and earnest effort to live up to Christ's teaching has enabled him to span this unusual number of years.

Righteous living, which means clean living, has made it possible for Nicholas Edward Stickel of New Virginia, Iowa, to round out one century of usefulness on July 21, 1922, his one-hundredth birthday anniversary.

With living descendants numbering 101 men, women and children, large and small, Grandpa Stickel looks back with pride upon his one hundred years of usefulness and enjoys the fruits of old age.

Always content with his lot, asking not one thing of any man, Grandpa Stickel has lived his own life, never grumbling as year after year he became more feeble and since suffering a paralytic stroke one year ago, he has suffered patiently, never grumbling, never despairing, confident that he would realize his one hope, his one ambition, to live to reach the century mark.

Nicholas Edward Stickel was born July 21, 1822, in Loudon County, Virginia. His father was George Stickel and his mother was Sarah Swick.

During the early days of the slave agitation in the south,

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

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

George Stickel moved his family to West Virginia, (West Virginia was still a part of Virginia) where he reared his family.

Grandpa Stickel had two brothers and three sisters, Jake, John, Mrs. Martha Johnson, Mrs. Eliza Thompson, and Mrs. Jane Talbot. John Stickel of Avon, West Virginia, is the only brother living. He is now 88 years old.

Although western Virginia was still a part of the state of Virginia, Virginians who were not favorable to slavery moved to that section and with this group moved the Stickel family.

Following the trade of a carpenter, when he reached his majority, Grandpa Stickel met Martha Ann Proudfoot, while working at Taylor's Drain, Barbour county.

His meeting with his wife was the first romance in his life. He was working for Thomas Proudfoot, building a house, when he met Martha Ann. He wooed and won her and on October 8, 1846, he was united in marriage to Martha Ann Proudfoot.

Of this union nine children were born, Harriett McGee, Eliza (deceased), Mary Catherine Greene, Elias, Sarah and John (deceased), Cora Bolyard, Cyrene and Edward Stickel. The three oldest, Harriett, Eliza and Mary Catherine, were born in Virginia, Barbour county, which is now in West Virginia.

As California is now known as the promised land of the United States, so was Iowa, then a territory known as the land of milk, honey and fine crops. So, Grandpa Stickel and his then little family started for Iowa, traveling overland in a covered wagon.

Leaving their Barbour county home in the fall of 1854, the small party succeeded in reaching Iowa safely, stopping in Mahaska county for a short time before going to White Oak Point, Warren county, where they settled for the winter.

Members of the party coming to Iowa were, the three children, Thomas Proudfoot, father-in-law of Grandpa Stickel, and the latter's three children, Charles, Emily and Caroline; also a brother-in-law, Samuel Van Scoy and his wife.

The Stickels made their home the first winter with a family by name of Bussell, in a two-room house. Grandpa Stickel was given the promise that he could stay in the house with his wife and family if he would build the Bussells a new home and equip it with homemade furniture.

Later Grandpa Stickel moved to Clarke county for a short

time, where he farmed, but again he went back to Warren county.

A short time after the family reached Iowa, Eliza died and was buried in the cemetery at New Virginia, Iowa. She was the first white girl to be buried here and the second person buried. An unknown man had died and was buried in the cemetery.

Grandpa Stickel was not a slacker in the line of work and in his working day did twice as much as is now accomplished by workers.

He not only operated a good sized farm, but worked as a carpenter, a cabinet maker, repaired and made boots and shoes and did other odd jobs.

As Grandpa Stickel advanced in years, he continued to work, although in 1895 he moved from the farm to New Virginia. He built his own house in which he is now living. The last building constructed by Grandpa Stickel was a barn on the Elza Freeman farm near New Virginia. It is still in use and in good condition.

In the year 1896 Grandpa and Grandma Stickel observed their golden wedding anniversary. Grandma Stickel died November 1, 1901.

In the year 1913, the month of August, the clean life led by Grandpa Stickel came to his rescue and undoubtedly saved his life and enabled him to reach the age of 100 years.

He was walking down an alley when an automobile ran him down. He was caught beneath the car and dragged several feet, with the result that several bones and ribs were fractured.

Physicians said he could not recover, that due to his advanced age he would not be able to withstand the shock and the injuries.

When he continued to live they said he would be a cripple, as his bones would not knit at his extreme age, 91 years. But they did and medical science was baffled.

Grandpa Stickel was soon able to walk as spry as much younger men although he was compelled to use a cane.

When he was 99 years old he drove to Des Moines in a Ford and enjoyed a picnic at Union Park, with relatives. He drove back the same day and the next day was working in his garden.

In September of 1921, Grandpa Stickel suffered a paralytic stroke and has been confined to his bed and a wheel chair since that time.—*The Indianola Herald*, 27 July

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

1922, p. 1, col 3-4. Also, almost the same story appeared in *The Advocate-Tribune*, Indianola, IA, 27 July 1922.

New Virginia Cemetery

STICKEL N.E., July 21, 1822 – Sept 19, 1922
ss” Martha A., Nov 8, 1829 – Nov 1,
1901

Mahala Battles

Mrs. Mahala Battles, negro, for many years a familiar resident in Indianola with her bulldog pipe and accumulating years, broke into print in Des Moines recently when she applied for an old age pension.

The Polk county old age pension board found that she is 111 years old. That jibes fairly well with the story she used to tell in Indianola about the Mormon war in Kentucky (or Tennessee?) when the Mormons, according to Aunt Mahala, went through killing women and children. Aunt Mahala, then eight or nine, escaped by hiding.

Aunt Mahala has had eight children by three marriages. Mrs. Susie Holden, 65, of 1050 Eleventh Street, Des Moines, is one, with whom Aunt Mahala is living. Another daughter is 80. Four children are living.

Aunt Mahala's children by her first marriage were born in slavery. She claims she was born in Kentucky, where she split rails, picked cotton, hoed corn and "generally worked." Later she moved to Missouri.

Aunt Mahala was awarded the largest pension in Polk county, a pension board member said. She gets \$20 a month.

Orlin Peck remembers Aunt Mahala well, he says. She smoked her corn cob pipe constantly, and made regular trips into the Peck store where she was always begging for a favor or gift.

One day the begging act aroused Dan Peck to remonstrance.

"Aunt Mahala," he said, "you're always asking me for stuff but you've never given me anything."

Aunt Mahala retorted: "Yo' done hain't never ast me!"

She moved away from Indianola 16 or 18 years ago, Peck recalls. —*Indianola Herald*, 28 Feb 1935, p. 1, col 1-2.

Indianola IOOF Cemetery

BATTLES Mahala, 1826 – 1937 (111 years old)

Mahala Hargis

Mrs. Mahala Hargis, who makes her home with her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clint Hargis, will celebrate her 102nd birthday Thursday, Feb. 1. Mrs. Hargis can still eat at the table and she gets up every morning. She can see fairly well, sometimes remembers old times, and is in fairly good health.

She is one of the few living persons in the country who still remembers Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Hargis was at the dept in Sidney, Ill., when the train went through taking Lincoln to Washington, D. C. She saw and heard him make a short talk as he held on to his big stovepipe hat.

Mrs. Hargis was born in Darl county, Ohio, Feb. 1, 1843. After her marriage to Jasper Hargis, Oct. 1, 1865, at Hartford, they lived on a farm near Carlisle until they took charge of the Warren county poor farm. They were there eight years.

Mrs. Hargis has three sons, Clate of Fresno, Calif., Mart of Ogden, Utah, and Clint of Indianola.

Since her birth in 1843, there have been 22 different presidents elected. She has also lived to see the United States in six wars, the Mexican, the Indian, the Spanish-American, the Civil War and World War I and World War II.—*Jan. 1945.*

Carlisle Cemetery

HARGIS Jasper N., Jul 18, 1845 – May 6,
1902 GAR
ss” Mahala, his wf, Feb 1, 1843 – Mar
21, 1945

Cynthia Hutchinson

Mrs. Cynthia Hutchinson, who will observe her 102nd birthday Tuesday, is the oldest person living in Warren county and one of the oldest living in the state.

She is in fairly good health and while she cannot read, she listens to the radio in her room at the Black Nursing home where she has lived for the past 14 years. She enjoys company and is always ready to see her friends when they call.

She was born Oct. 16, 1849, in Pulaski county, Indiana, and at the age of eight came with her parents to Davis county. At that time Iowa had been a state only 11 years. She has been a resident of Warren county about 40 years, living near and in Carlisle until 14 years ago when she went to live at the nursing home.

She visited friends in Adams county in 1878 and there

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

met Alfred Hutchinson. They were married March 26, 1879. He died in 1900.

She has three children Elmer of Cromwell, and Mrs. Theron Bierma and Mrs. Bird McClintic of Carlisle.

She plans to take an auto ride on her birthday.

(Mrs. Hutchinson died in 1952 at age 103.)

Lucy New

Mrs. Lucy New, who lives at the Godwin Nursing home will observe her 100th birthday Saturday. Mrs. New is in fair health although hard of hearing.

She has three children, Ralph New of Indianola, Mrs. Anna R. King and Mrs. G. D. Shaver, both on rural route 1. The family is planning a special observance Sunday.

In a story carried in the Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune July 14, 1949, when she observed her 97th birthday, she told how she had to do a man's work in the fields during the Civil war while her brothers were away. She was nicknamed "Jake" by her father, who called her his hired hand. She chopped and hauled wood, and helped plant and cultivate corn.

One of her brothers, Miles Ramey, was in the south at the start of the war and joined the rebel forces.—*The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune*, 1952.

When I checked the 1949 newspaper referred to above, I also found:

She gets around reasonably well, although she does not walk very fast. She enjoys reading and can hardly wait until the newspapers arrive in the evening.

Mrs. New recalls that a band of Indians lived near their home when the family was in Louisa county, and that they were very friendly.

Two cakes were presented Mrs. New on her birthday. One was from her grandson, Howard King, and another from a granddaughter, Mrs. Jud Herron.

She has one son, Ralph New, and three daughters, Mrs. Kate Mock, Mrs. Anna R. King, route 1, and Mrs. G. D. Shaver, route 1. She also has 21 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Indian Valley/Condit Cemetery

NEW	W. E. 1850 - 1918
ss"	Lucy 1852 - 1952

G. D. Grant

A single candle on his decorated birthday cake repre-

sented one century—all of it spent in Iowa—as G. D. Grant was honored at a birthday dinner Sunday at the Jefferson Home.

Present for the occasion were his son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Grant of Indianola; his daughter, Mrs. Lola Williams of Ames; three granddaughters and their husbands, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams of Humeston, Mr. and Mrs. John Morrissey of Ames and Mr. and Mrs. Lorance Pemble of Leawood, Kansas; two great-granddaughters, Priscilla Pemble of Leawood, and Mrs. Sarah Lee Lovett of Overland, Kansas; and a nephew, and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Heflin of Creston.

Mr. Grant was born Nov. 13, 1866, at Nevinville, a small town in Union County founded by his father and a small group of New Englanders who settled there in 1859. His father was known as the "Bard of Nevin."

After his marriage to Catherine Bartlett Oct. 22, 1890, they began farming in the Nevinville community where they stayed 10 years, moving to Elliott in 1900 and again in 1904 to Diagonal.

Here Mr. Grant established a brick yard, later entering the real estate and insurance business until his retirement in about 1958.

When the Grants observed their 69th wedding anniversary in October, 1959, they received a congratulatory message from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and on a similar occasion a few years later they were congratulated in a message from President John Kennedy.

Mrs. Grant died in March, 1965, and the following month, Mr. Grant came to Indianola to be near his son.

(George D. Grant, died November 5, 1968, at the age of 101 years, 11 months and 23 days.)

Betha Bledsoe

Mrs. Betha Bledsoe, a resident of the Jefferson Home for a little more than 3 years, will observe her 100th birthday, Friday, Oct 2.

Her children are planning an open house and card shower that day from 2 to 3 p.m. in the east lounge at Jefferson Home.

Mrs. Bledsoe was born on a farm near Liberty Center, which her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Johnson, had purchased from the government for \$2.50 an acre.

Longevity seems to be a family trait, for her father lived to be 90 and her mother 96. Although one of her three

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

sisters died quite young, another lived to be 87 and the other 90. Her brother was 98 at the time of his death.

After Mrs. Bledsoe had attended grade school at Liberty Center, her parents moved to Indianola to enable their children to attend high school here.

Mrs. Bledsoe was enrolled in the art department at Simpson College and attended an art class with George Washington Carver. An attack of meningitis ended her college days. She later taught in rural schools in the county.

After her marriage to James Bledsoe March 31, 1898, she lived on a farm near Lacona where three of her four children were born.

While living on the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe operated a sorghum mill to which farmers for miles around brought their cane to be processed. The sorghum sold for 50 cents a gallon. In 1912 the family moved to a larger farm in Madison County and later to Union County.

In 1916 Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe came to Indianola where he was engaged in carpenter work and painting. He died in 1953.

Mrs. Bledsoe enjoyed many hobbies during her lifetime. She continued to paint after leaving Simpson College, was an expert seamstress and did all kinds of fancy work and crocheting. Failing health and eyesight eventually forced her to give up these activities.

She continued to live in her own home until Jan 2, 1967, when at the age of 96, she entered the Jefferson Annex. She was transferred to the Jefferson Home Sept 1, 1968.

Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe had a family of two girls and two boys: Audrey (Mrs. Hillis Andrew) of Indianola, Inez (Mrs. Harry Brodie) of Sonoma, Calif., Jessie Edwin of Vallejo, Calif., and Elmer William, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1933.

The three children will be with her for the birthday observance. There are five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Indianola IOOF Cemetery

BLED SOE Jessie Bethiah, 1870 - 1972
 " James Robert, 1866 - 1953

Effie Trueblood

Services for Mrs. Effie C. Trueblood, longtime resident of Indianola, were held this afternoon at the Indianola Friends Church. Burial was at the Motor Cemetery.

Mrs. Trueblood died Friday morning at Schomburg's Guest

Home where she had been a resident for the past 10 ½ years. She had observed her 101st birthday last December.

She is survived by three sons, one daughter, 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorial donations be made to the Quaker Scholarship Fund in care of the Rev. Lowell Rasmussen, pastor of the Friends Church.

The following resume of Mrs. Trueblood's life was written by her son, D. Elton Trueblood:

Mrs. Samuel J. Trueblood, a resident of Warren County for 96 years, has long been recognized as one of the last of the pioneer women. Born Effie Crew Dec. 23, 1867, in Chesterfield, Ohio, she was brought by her parents, David, and Lydia Crew, to Iowa in March, 1873.

Arriving at Indianola in a blizzard, the Crew family had to remain three days with strangers before her uncle, Frederick Smith, who had settled in what is now the Motor community, could bring horses and sled to take them to their new home on the extreme eastern edge of the county.

The little girl, the only child of her parents, grew up on the county line on what was in those days such genuine prairie that she could not see a single tree or shrub. The Crew's house measured 16 feet square, with an attic room above, reached by a ladder. The pioneer house had no plastering and the only heat was provided by a tiny cookstove in the middle. Mrs. Trueblood has often wondered why she and her parents did not freeze in their first terrible winter. Her mother was homesick and very lonely. When the little girl started to her first school she followed the cattle paths across the open prairie for two miles.

As soon as possible the Crew family, with the help of Joseph Smith, planted maple seeds and cultivated carefully the little plants which grew. These were shared, when they were large enough for transplanting, with other pioneer families. Some of these are still standing in the grounds of the Friends Meetinghouse at Motor. When Mrs. Trueblood spoke, after the age of 90, at the Motor Homecoming in 1958, she was the only living person who could remember having worshipped in the first building erected for that purpose in the community.

Ackworth Academy

After attending local schools, Effie became a student for two years, from the age of 15 to the age of 17, at the

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

Ackworth Academy, then in its prime. She completed her education in December, 1884, and immediately qualified as a teacher of the rural school. In her first year she received \$22 a month for teaching 42 pupils, some of whom were older than she was.

On Nov. 20, 1889, Effie Crew was married to Samuel Trueblood, whose family had come to the same community in the spring of 1869, from Washington County, Indiana. The Truebloods and the Crews, like nearly all of their neighbors, were Quakers who represented an unbroken tradition of more than 200 years.

Five Children

Mrs. Trueblood bore five children, one of whom died in infancy. The four surviving children are Oscar C. Trueblood, a retired merchant of Ames, Mrs. Loyal P. Thomas, a housewife of Escondido, Calif., D. Elton Trueblood, professor at large of Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., and Dr. Carl A. Trueblood, well-known Indianola physician.

Samuel J. Trueblood, after many successful years as a farmer, died in November, 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Trueblood's living descendants number 43, including four great-great-grandchildren.

In the spring of 1910 the Truebloods moved to the Indianola community in order to take advantage of the excellent schools. At that time they purchased, near the northeastern city limits, the farm which has been in their possession now for more than half a century. Soon after her husband's death Mrs. Trueblood leased the farm house and moved to an apartment. In September, 1959, she moved to the Schomburg's Guest Home in order to have the care she felt she needed.

Remarkable Memory

All who have known Mrs. Trueblood have recognized in her remarkable powers of mind and body. Her memory was so good that, on many matters, it constituted almost complete recall. Her energy and initiative were so great that, after the age of 85, she baby sat for young couples in order to give them freedom in the evening.

In her younger years she helped scores of families, when her Motor neighbors had new babies, going with her team of horses almost as though on professional call.

She traveled widely both to the East Coast and to California and, even after the age of 90, maintained a keen interest in world affairs. What was most remarkable, however, was her courage; and she was never heard to complain. This was true even after she lost her power of walking, which she had greatly prized. She kept up a voluminous

correspondence though for years she had the use of only one eye. In her vigor Mrs. Trueblood was following a pattern, for she had nine aunts and uncles who lived beyond 90. Her first experience as a hospital patient did not come until she was more than 93 years of age. —*The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune*, 19 May, 1969.

Motor Cemetery

TRUEBLOOD Effie M., 1867 – 1969 (102y)
ss” Samuel J., 1866 - 1938

Edwin Earl Todd

Edwin Earl Todd, who observed his 100th birthday March 4, died at the Jefferson Annex Friday morning. . . . An Indianola resident for more than 70 years, Mr. Todd had earned his livelihood as a painter and interior decorator.

He was born at Van Wert, Ohio, in 1871, the only son in a family of six children. His father was a Civil War veteran, whose health was affected by that conflict. He died in 1888 at the age of 44.

Following the father's death, Mr. Todd's mother brought the children to Griswold where they grew to maturity.

Mr. Todd married Mable Edna Overstreet at Winterset Nov. 28, 1900, and they made their home in Indianola.

He is survived by two children, Mrs. Frank Berry of Ames, and Donald Todd of Fountain Valley, Calif.; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Two children preceded him in death. Loraine, who made her home with her parents, died Oct. 8, 1963; and Mrs. Clare Wiley died in December, 1970.

Following the death of Loraine, Mr. and Mrs. Todd moved to the Jefferson Home and later were transferred to the Jefferson Annex. Mrs. Todd died in January, 1968.—*The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune*, 1971..

Indianola Manoah section

TODD Mabel Edna, 1881 – 1968
ss” Edwin E., 1871 – 1971

Mary Estes

Mary Walker Estes, second child of Susan Bales and James Walker, was born June 13, 1881 in the town of Milo; according to Mary, there were few houses in Milo at that time. At the time of this writing (1979), she is the oldest living person born in Milo.

Mary was married to James W. (Jim) Estes in 1905, and this union was blessed with one daughter, Hazel Estes

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

Carey, who lives in Fonda, Iowa. Mary had four grandchildren. Her three grandsons are all deceased, and her granddaughter, Mary Ann Nielsen, lives in Des Moines. Mary has two great grandchildren, Robert and Kathleen Nielsen, whom she enjoys very much.

Mary has had a busy and useful life. She cared for her parents, worked in cafes, and did household tasks for other people. Being the eldest sister, she watched over the three children left in the home after their mother died (in 1906). Mary saw to it that Clara, 13, John, 10 and Esta, 7, were fed and clothed while maintaining her own home and caring for her own family.

Mary's formal education was limited. She says, "I went to school to the eighth grade, and then Mother took sick and I had to stay and raise the family. I just read and listened to people." When she was "so small her feet wouldn't touch the floor," she went to a subscription school taught by Mattie Hall. It cost \$2 for two summer months.

She lived in Milo until 1924 when her daughter, Hazel, graduated from high school, the last class to graduate from the old east building. They they moved to Indianola so Hazel could go to Simpson. After two years, Mary moved back to Milo. In later years when it became necessary for her to be near her doctor, she moved again to Indianola. She is now living in the Indianola Good Samaritan Home.

Mary has been faithful to her God and the Milo Christian Union Church of which she was a charter member. She was always content and early learned to adjust to circumstances as they were. —*Milo 1880-1980.*

Grandma Amos

(by Marieta Grissom—"Biography" entry for 2001 Warren County Fair exhibit)

Mary Emily Stephens, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Adler) Stephens, was born September 13, 1831 in Rockingham County, Virginia. When about one year of age she moved with her parents to Madison County, Ohio, and resided there until about 18 years of age. They then moved to Knox County, Illinois.

Mary was married to James Monroe Amos on August 27, 1850. They lived on a rented farm in Knox County for four years, and accumulated, by industry and thrift, between \$300 and \$400. In the fall of 1854 Mr. Amos proposed to come to Iowa to spy out the land and return for his wife and two little girls, if he liked the county. "I told him," said Mrs. Amos, "just to wait two or three weeks until we got the spinning and weaving done and could get

our clothes ready and we would all come together and make one trip do it."

The couple came to Warren County in 1854. Just before her one hundredth birthday, Grandma Amos wrote: "We started for Iowa in a covered wagon drawn by horses. A great many others drove oxen, but my husband always had horses. We arrived in Warren County in early November and entered three forties lying north of where Dode Sarchett now lives and preempted forty acres of timber lying in the fork of Clanton creek and Middle river. By preemption we were given the first right to enter the land at a later date."

They immediately erected a log cabin about 12x14 feet in size on this timber land and lived there for the first winter. Mr. Amos worked in the timber getting out logs to take to the sawmill to make lumber for the house he proposed to erect on their three entered forties, and cutting and splitting rails for the fences. The cabin had a dirt floor with grass growing on it, but "we lived happy as larks." They had two little girls, Orra and Laura, when they moved into the cabin and had another baby girl, Ida, born there during the winter.

In the spring they built and moved onto their farm and sold the preemption right on their timber forty to "a couple of Irishmen" for \$100. They did their trading at old Greenbush.

"Money was scarce," said Mrs. Amos. "I remember that Amos bought a spade from Mose Barker and Mose inquired if he had the money to pay for it. One time he was worried over getting his corn planted. We had no money to hire hands. I told him to put the cover on the wagon and put the cradle in it. I put a couple of comforts in the wagon and we went to the field. The two little girls and the baby staying in the wagon and I dropped corn. They got along just fine. Amos would mark out the rows, I'd drop the corn, and then he would come along and cover it with his plow. I could drop as fast as he could mark and cover and we got the crop planted in good shape without paying out anything for hired labor.

While living on this farm, five more children were born: Nancy, John, James Liberty, Mary and Lourena (my great-grandmother). However, during 1863 a severe epidemic of diphtheria occurred and took the lives of Ida, 8, Nancy, 6, and John, 4, in less than two weeks.

After living on this farm west of Indianola about 13 years (approx 1867), they sold it and Mr. Amos made a trip back to the vicinity of Baltimore, where he was born. One story of Mr. Amos' youth is that his father died when he was a small boy and his mother, not wanting

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

her sons to be brought up around a city, found a place for them with a good family moving to Ohio, where they lived until able to care for themselves.

However, Mary Amos Smith (James and Mary's granddaughter) wrote, "My father (Sherman) told us that his father said he was descended from French Royalty. Also that one time he went to see his sister in Maryland who had been adopted by wealthy aristocrats and she wouldn't have anything to do with him. He also told my father that a wealthy couple wanted to adopt him, but he told them he was older and could make his own way, and asked them to adopt his younger brother, John. So they did and gave him the education to be a minister.

Upon his return to Iowa, Mr. Amos bought land on Otter Creek south and east of Indianola, northeast of the Highway 205 and Highway 65 intersection. They lived in an old red house on the Hammondsburg road from about 1867 for twenty years or more. Grant, Sherman and Alice were born in this red house.

Then Mr. Amos purchased land on the southwest corner of the current Hwy 205 and 65 intersection. Many people know this as the "Amos" corner; at one time the Amos family owned the land on all four corners.

Mrs. Amos told an amusing story of the purchase of this place, which belonged to a man by the name of George Hutt. Hutt was not doing well on his farm. He had a job as road supervisor and didn't like that. He made the remark in the presence of Amos one day that if he "could get \$30 an acre for the place, he would sell out and leave the d—n country." Mr. Amos had \$100 in his pocket. In the presence of George Pearson he handed it over to Hutt saying: "Hutt, your place is sold, and George Pearson is a witness that I've paid you \$100 to bind the bargain. We will go to town tomorrow and fix up the papers." By the next day Hutt was sick of the sale, but Amos held him to the deal, took the place, moved onto it, built a large new house, and lived there until his death.

"After we were married in 1850," said Mrs. Amos, "Amos had 95 cents in his pocket. That was all he had in the world; but God was good to us and seemed to help us get things together. When he came from Ohio to Illinois as a young man, he had saved a hundred dollars, which he had in his pocket. While he was asleep on the steamboat somebody picked his pocket and he arrived in Illinois with almost nothing. Many a day he worked there, both before and after we were married, for 50 cents a day, splitting rails."

Mr. Amos died May 8, 1898. Their son James Liberty

had died May 22, 1893. For a time, Mary lived with her daughter Ora, in the Milo area. However, for the last 12 to 14 years of her life, she lived at 717 West Third, Indianola, with her daughter Lorena.

Grandma Amos lost her sight at about 76 years of age, and she suffered a fall at about age 93, which caused her to be confined to her bed. Since this was after the invention of the radio, she enjoyed hours of listening to KFNF and KMA.

My mother recalls visiting Grandma Amos. Grandma's room was on the southeast corner of the second floor and was the nicest bedroom in the large house. Her room was adjacent to the bathroom, though she could not use it. My mother can still remember hearing Grandma Amos yell for her daughter, "Ree-nee!" (short for Lorena) to come tend to whatever was her need at that time. Her sons Sherman and Grant would come periodically to lift their mother out of the bed so Lorena could change the bedding.

Grandma Amos smoked a pipe! One time my mother asked her why she smoked. The answer was that when she and her husband would finish with their day's work and relax after supper, they would sit on the back step or back porch and each would smoke a pipe and review the day or plan the next day or year's work, and it became a habit. My mother remembers that in later years Grandma Amos smoked after dinner and supper and Lorena could hardly wait until her mother was finished smoking to come up to the room, open the windows wide, and air out the room!

Another story is that one time a neighbor that lived a half mile away wanted to go back to Indiana to visit the home folks, so Grandma Amos walked the half mile morning and evening to milk the cows and look after everything. She churned the cream and sold the butter and with this money bought a set of dishes—English ironstone, Tea Leaf pattern, that was popular in those days.

As children, my mother said she and her brother always dreaded having to trudge up the stairs to visit Grandma Amos. However, Mom says that she is sure Grandma Amos enjoyed having visitors, especially children.

According to the newspaper accounts, her surviving children apparently tried to visit their mother for her birthday or for the holidays. Ora lived in Artesian, South Dakota, Laura, lived in Council Grove, Kansas, Mary in Marquis, Sask, Canada and Alice in Omaha, Nebraska. Lorena, Grant and Sherman all remained in the Indi-

Bits and pieces about ... The Centenarians of Warren County, *continued*

anola area.

Among the 150 or so visitors at her one hundredth birthday was B. F. Lucas, who boarded at the Amos home in 1864, a boy of 14 years just arrived from Pennsylvania, a strange lad in a strange land. He had helped drive a herd of 1100 sheep from Pennsylvania for Tom Lucas and L. A. Prior. They were twelve weeks and three days in making the journey. Arrived here the owners of the sheep bought the crop on the Amos farm and put the sheep there for the fall and winter, left Ben Lucas to look after them, and arranged for his board with the family. Mr. Lucas has written the following account of his association with Grandma Amos: "I presume that I am as well, or perhaps better acquainted with Grandma Amos than any other man in Warren county, having met her for the first time in the month of September, 1864. At that time I was a boy of but fourteen years of age. I boarded with the Amos family for six weeks and although my own mother was almost a thousand miles away, that deficiency could hardly be felt, or at least the situation was materially relieved, as long as Mrs. Amos had charge of the boy's welfare.

"I was the recipient of three well cooked meals each day for six days in the week with something extra for the seventh. My clothes were kept clean, always mended and buttons well sewed on. All done cheerfully and with a motherly spirit, and when I dropped the washpan in the well, there was no display of bad temper. Mother Amos just appointed J. Garlow a committee of one to go down and get it.

"The Amos family were living at that time on a farm just north of where T. H. Sarchett now lives. I have enjoyed many interesting visits with Mother Amos since she has been confined her her bed, each of which was an inspiration, and after I had visited her on her last birthday I came away impressed with the thought that Mother Amos really is not old, but has just simply lived a hundred years."

Grandma Amos died February 18, 1933, at the age of 101 years, 5 months and 3 days.

Sources:

1. "Will Celebrate 100th Birthday, Sunday, Sept. 13," *The Indianola Tribune*, September 8, 1931.
2. "Mrs. Amos Will be 100 Next Sunday," *The Indianola Herald*, September 10, 1931.
3. "Grandma Amos Rounds Out Her Hundred Years," *The Indianola Tribune*, September 14, 1931.
4. "Grandmother Amos Is 100 Years Old," *The Indi-*

anola Herald, September 17, 1931.

5. "Mrs. Mary Amos, 101, Passes Away," *The Indianola Herald*, February 23, 1933.
6. "Mrs. Mary E. Amos," (obituary), *The Indianola Herald*, March 2, 1933.
7. "James M. Amos", 1908 History of Warren County, pp. 425-427.
8. Letter written by Mary Amos Smith March 1, 1988.
9. My mother's memories of her grandmother.

Mini-Genealogy Classes at the Warren County Fair

We will be offering Mini-Genealogy Classes at the Fair this year. Each class will be taught by Marieta Grissom, each class will last approximately 1 hour and there will be no fee, no pre-registration. It will be a "stop by and learn" opportunity.

Sun, July 29	1:00 p.m. Basics 3:00 p.m. Where to go from here 6:30 p.m. Time Lines
Mon, July 30	1:00 p.m. Census Records 3:00 p.m. Time Lines 6:30 p.m. Basics
Tues, July 31	1:00 p.m. Basics 3:00 p.m. Where to go from here 6:30 p.m. Census Records
Wed, Aug 1	1:00 p.m. Time Lines 3:00 p.m. Basics 6:30 p.m. Where to go from here

This will be a wonderful opportunity to brush up on your research skills and to ask those "what do I do about this" questions.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Marieta Grissom, Thelma Pehrson, Joanne Amos, and Jane Godwin for sharing some of their fair exhibits with the Lucas County Genealogical Society in Chariton on June 11. Lucas County is preparing for their first experience with a Genealogy Open Class at the Lucas County Fair. The well-prepared exhibits and creative ideas were appreciated.

Thanks,
Ev Brightman

Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford

Much of this information was taken from the late Mary McCaughey's collection. At the request of Louise Pilmer, this article was written by Ruth Rawson and Caroline McNamar during the spring of 2001 and given to the Warren County Genealogical Society for publication.

Our Presbyterian beginnings here in the Hartford area were with those first few men in 1846 and with many others in 1848, who came up along the Des Moines River. They climbed the bluff and looked to the south at the land that lay before them with its many groves and timbers of trees, the flowing creeks, the lush grasses and the wildlife abounding. Here was the ideal place for their future homes and a place to worship God, each in their own free way.

These few laid claim to a parcel of land and started building crude shelters to live in while more substantial homes could be raised later. In these few early years families would gather in one of their crude homes or under a shade tree to sing praise and worship God.

Stopping to encourage the Presbyterians was one Rev. Thompson Bird of Ft. Des Moines. Rev. Bird was the Missionary preacher appointed by the Presbytery to this area extending from the southern boundary of the state north to Cedar Rapids and west to Ft. Des Moines. The home of Boston I. Taylor was one we have record of where he stopped sometimes.

When the village of Hartford was laid out and named by John D. Hartman in 1849, the Methodist Episcopal Circuit established its headquarters here with the minister caring for the little churches as far away as Madison and Polk counties. They built a small building on the north side of Wall Street and invited all religious groups to use their building.

This was called the Three Rivers Mission and George Washington Teas was the head of that circuit. In 1850 a greater rush of settlers came, many stopping at Hartford, and still many more going on to other villages, or even up the Oregon Trail to the Far West. The rough tracks made by these moving settlers were called roads. The moving of so many individuals, families, and whole communities from the eastern states soon made these roads solid and clearly marked.

The Presbyterians met in the Methodist building until 1862. At this time Rev. Hughes of Des Moines was Moderator at a meeting and organized them into a firmer group.

They chose the name "The First Presbyterian Church of Hartford." Members at this time were: Mr. & Mrs.

Boston Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. William Tidball, Mr. & Mrs. John Park, Mr. & Mrs. T. O. Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Kerr, Miss Serissa Kerr, and Mr. & Mrs. William Cochran.

Other members who were found by examination and by certificates at a later time were: Mr. & Mrs. James McIntyre, Mr. & Mrs. William Cart, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Moore, Nancy Tidball and Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Layner.

The first regular minister serving them was Rev. William Candlish serving 1866 and 1867. Elders at this time were: Taylor, Cochran, Kerr and Marshall. Deacons were: T. O. Matthews, John Park, James McIntyre.

The Presbytery reported 24 members at this time. (Iowa Synod History of Presbyterian Churches of Iowa owned by Joan Schooler.)

The statistics for the years 1861 through 1870 show there were 70 members.

A petition for membership into the Presbytery was signed and presented at the meeting in Pella in 1864.

The Presbyterian Judicatory System is:

The Session: Men and women elected by the congregation. They are ordained, and with the ruling Elders and the Pastor, direct the life of their particular church. The Presbytery is a balance of Ruling Elders and Clergy.

The Synod: Lay people and Clergy commissioned from each Presbytery. They carry out the decisions and policies, and see that the day-to-day work of the judicatory gets done.

The General Assembly is made up of an equal number of lay and clergy commissioners who are elected by the Presbyteries. They meet annually to make decisions and set directions and establish policy.

In 1868 Rev. S. Johnson was the second pastor.

It was during that year that 6 lots were purchased for the building of a church. They lay along the north side of Paint Street, between Vine & Washington Streets. James D. McIntyre gave the Trustees a 7th lot, located centrally between the others, to be used for building a church on.

The year of 1869 was a busy year planning and erecting a place of worship.

The building was located in about the middle of the land purchased and facing west. The pulpit and pews were of black walnut timbers supplied by Nathaniel Corzatt, a local cabinet and coffin maker. Several of those pews

Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford, *continued*

and the pulpit are still being used in our present building.

The building was simply built but solidly with a rectangular shape, having a small square bell tower on the front. The lumber was hauled to the building site by James, McIntyre, John Park, Orval Kerr, and Orval's father. It was hauled across South River during flood stage. There were 2 large black wood burning stoves for the cold weather—one stood on the north side and the other on the south side of the room. The pews were lined in an orderly fashion facing the east through the center of the room. In the front was an area large enough for a dozen or so chairs and here, also stood the small pulpit.

Rev. David Craig was pastor from 1869 to 1900. The church had a considerable increase in membership in the fall of 1899. A congregational meeting was called to be held Feb. 17, 1900. At the meeting the church was reorganized and new officers elected as follows: Elders: W. R. McElroy, T. J. Pyle and Frank Smith; Trustees: W. H. Morris, J. C. Richards and T. J. Pyle. T. O. Mathews continued as Deacon, which office he had held for many years. W. B. Schooler was an added Elder sometime before 1903.

Rev. Richard Spengle (Stanton) was a supply pastor from 1900 to 1903. The following was found on a sheet of tablet paper written by Rev. Spengle: "Received into Hartford Presbyterian Church: James Pyle, age 73, Jessie Pendry, age 16, Phoebe Smith, Josephine Sever, Mrs. Kate Ray, Alex Pendry, Mrs. Fannie Sever, and Homer Smith. Funerals: Mrs. Mathas, Wm. H. Morris, Angeline Smith, Rev. David Craig, James E. Pyle, Mrs. McIntyre, Edna Kerr and Jack Wilson."

The fifth minister was Rev. L. O. Sutherland from 1903 to 1905. In October 1904 Reynolds McElroy and Allie Bagley served on a committee for building a new manse for the church. Walt McElroy and B. E. Bruce hauled materials for the new house which was located east of the church on the corner of Washington and East Paint Streets. Rev. Sutherland's family was the first family to live in the new manse.

Rev. H. W. Ewart was the next pastor serving from 1905 to 1907. Rev. William Henry Kelley was the seventh pastor from 1907 to 1910. Membership was one hundred. The Sunday school had an enrollment of seventy members, the Ladies Industrial Society fifty, and the Junior Endeavor Society twenty.

This had long been recognized as an influential and prosperous church. (taken from the *1908 History of Warren County, Iowa*.)

The pulpit was supplied by different ministers until 1912 when Rev. A. G. Beecham served until 1914, with Elders W. B. Schooler, W. R. McElroy, R. W. McElroy, T. J. Pyle and D. E. Bruce.

The fall of 1913 showed the evangelistic spirit starting with great enthusiasm. The Presbytery sent Rev. Horace Bethel as representative to conduct an Evangelistic meeting. The Rev. Beecham and Gillespie from the Christian Church co-operated with this meeting. The *Des Moines Globe* gave this news of our town at that time, saying "The religious excitement at Hartford is gaining in fury. The Material for an old fashioned revival at this place is inexhaustible."

In the years just preceding this, one old resident remembers that each religious group stood strong for the "Belief" they held. He even remembers several resulting "fisticuffs" as different ones defended their belief!

The result of the Revival meetings held in the Fall of 1913 led the leaders at that time to try and organize ONE church for our town. They even got so far as to draw up "Articles of Federation" for this purpose. During this time, the Presbyterians joined with the other religious sects in planning for one church in Hartford.

About 1915 the Presbytery build a "Billy Sunday" type tabernacle at Reynolds and Elm Streets for evangelistic meetings to be held there.

Rev. Bethel continued in the effort to establish one church here. He lead in preaching at the Tabernacle while the Christian Church minister led the music. Many Evangelists came to preach during the year or two of the Tabernacle's existence. This movement led to the organization of the Community Church with 165 members.

Bible study groups met and they studied our Lord's Word, they hoped to have this Community Church. But the Presbytery decided against the Presbyterians having a part in this adventure. So the Christian Church purchased the tabernacle building and continued using it until they could plan a new building.

In the beginning of the year 1916, the Presbyterians set about raising funds and making plans to build as the old building was in need of much repair. The congregation numbered about eighty. They appointed the following to serve on the building committee: Rev. H. O. Bethel, who designed the church, W. B. Schooler and W. R. McElroy. John Fash was employed as the builder. They erected a new brick edifice at the cost of \$18,000 and dedicated it debt free in December of 1916.

Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford, *continued*

The following names were taken from the Dedication program: Elders: W. B. Schooler, Clerk; W. R. McElroy, J. D. Hughes, G. D. Schooler; Deacons: S. A. Shetterly, R. W. McElroy, Clark McIntire; Sunday School Supt: G. D. Schooler; President Ladies' Industrial Society: Mrs. Alex Pendry.

One of the interesting things was a perfect circle in the center of the ceiling in the sanctuary. The circle symbolized the Unity of God with us, the Trinity of God. It was painted blue like the sky with white clouds. When the ceiling was painted in later years, the sky and clouds were painted over.

The Victory Outreach, formerly named the Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church and located at 1931 SW First Street in Des Moines, was also designed by Rev. Bethel in 1923. They have since built a new church east of Des Moines close to Easter Lake. However, this building is still being used today for worship.

The old building which stood just back of the new church was later sold to Rev. H. O. Bethel and moved to its new location just north of the school at 620 North Vine Street and made into a modern home where the Rev. Bethel and his family lived. Rev. Bethel later built the house at 300 North Vine.

Rev. H. O. Bethel served during 1914 and 1915. The pulpit was supplied during the summer of 1915 by a student, Hugh J. May, and again by Rev. Horace Bethel from July 1916 to July 1921.

Summer supply for 1921 was Rev. W. H. Thompson. In November Rev. C. E. Wilson became pastor until 1923 when Rev. G. E. Chapman of Knoxville and other supply pastors served until September 6, 1925 when Rev. S. J. Huffman came.

Rev. Sylvester J. Huffman was born Dec. 1, 1869 at Mt. Crawford, Virginia. He came with his parents and settled in Ogden and later in Scranton, Iowa. February 6, 1896 he married Cora Ball who was born May 9, 1876 in Cambridge, Iowa. One of their daughters, Bernice married Myron Dale Shetterly in 1932. The Shetterly family was one of the first families in the Hartford, Iowa area. Bernice recently moved to Des Moines to a care center. Myron passed away February 3, 2001. Some of their family still attend the same church.

Rev. Huffman was concerned with the youth in the church and also in the community. He organized the Boy Scouts and worked with them several years. The end of December 1930 Rev. Huffman left Hartford and Rev. Wm. Miller of

Des Moines served for two years. The next two years Rev. L. C. Isley served as pastor.

In 1934 and 1935 Rev. Bethel returned to the pulpit of the Hartford Presbyterian Church. He worked in the Presbytery as Superintendent of Church Extension, and later as "Pastor at Large." He kept his home in Hartford until his death in 1950. In November of 1934 the residents of Hartford joined in a plan which was spoken of as "A movement in unity," which would bring together the Community and Presbyterian churches under the name of the Hartford Church. This was not a third church, but a coalition of the spiritual forces in Hartford and vicinity in a program of definite action in a common task. (Taken from *The Indianola Tribune*, November 28, 1934.)

Rev. W. R. Tuttle served from 1937 to 1940. He was noted for his activity with the choirs.

Rev. Gilbert Cook came in 1940 to 1953, at which time he asked to be retired. The manse was partially burned. It was repaired with a new kitchen added on the south side. During the repair, Rev. Cook and his family lived in the basement of the church.

On November 1, 1942, a Hartford Church Homecoming was held. Morning Worship was at 10:00 a.m. A basket dinner and fellowship followed at noon, and an afternoon service was held at 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Gilbert Neal Cook was a "friend in need." Even though it was necessary for him to purchase a tractor so he might farm 111 acres to supplement his salary, he did many favors for the people in his care. He did chores for one who was ill for a month, helped fill silos, haul furniture for those moving, take patients to doctors and dentists in Des Moines, plow snow out of driveways and many other things. He never would take money for these favors, but much to his protest, he received surprise gifts from them, like new tires put on his car while it was being serviced at a garage, an armchair delivered to his home, a new bumper installed on his tractor when it was in the shop for repairs, etc. His congregation regarded him as a personal friend to all, as well as their pastor.

The next several years, student pastors served: 1954, Kenneth Lester; 1954 to 1957, Marvin Miler; 1957-1959, Wm. Hanson; and 1959-1960, Hugh Ghormley. Wm. Hansen organized the Youth Fellowship and the Mariners, with the following charter members: Charles and Roberta Spurgin, Dale and Maxine Pendry, Delmar and Lois Coon, Russell and Vadis Isley and others.

In 1959 a negotiating committee, with Rev. Ed Esler as

Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford, *continued*

moderator, was appointed to plan consolidation of the Community Church and the First Presbyterian Church. The resolution submitted was accepted at a congregational meeting January 4, 1960. The Presbyterian Church had 127 members and the Community Church had 135 members. The new name for the united churches under the Presbyterian government was Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford.

Rev. Nadium Saikaly came to serve as pastor of the new formed church in 1960. He resigned in August of 1964.

The next minister was Rev. Donald Freeman who moved to Hartford in October of 1964. He retired in 1969. He was the last pastor to live in the manse. After Rev. Freeman retired, the manse was rented for a few years before it was torn down. He lived in Hartford for many years until his health began to fail. At this time he and his wife, Louise, moved to Des Moines.

Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church in Des Moines and the Hartford church shared Rev. George Mason. He was installed in Hartford November 2, 1969. During the next few years many changes took place around the church. The church was remodeled, including new doors were put on the front of the building, a new piano was purchased, the heating system was upgraded and new sidewalks were installed on the south side of the church. Rev. George Mason retired in 1985 after many years of faithful service.

Rev. Gayle Miller was our Interim Pastor until 1987.

In August 1987 Hartford was blessed when Pastor Tom (Theron) Conrey, his wife, Sue and son, Theron, Jr. moved to town. Pastor Tom, as he is known by all, has guided us in worship for the past twelve and a half years. He started the LOGAS program for the youth. It has grown each year. In the spring of 1998, a new two-story addition was started. It was completed in the summer of 1999. This has many classrooms and the Pastor's study. The lower level, connecting with Fellowship Hall, doubled the available space for use by the church and surrounding community of Hartford.

Pastor Tom was actively involved with the Hartford Boy Scouts for 8 years and served as an EMT and firefighter on the Hartford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for 10 years.

In September 2000 the bell from the old church was refurbished and placed on the south side of the front door with a cross above it.

In February 2001, Pastor Tom resigned as Pastor of Community United Presbyterian Church and became the pastor

at First Presbyterian Church, Perry, Iowa.

Community United Presbyterian Church is currently in the process of searching for a pastor to fill the pulpit.

Marieta's rambling comments

Warren County Fair - Plan to "sit in" on the judging that will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. Also, plan to attend one or more of the Mini-Genealogy Classes on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Research Day - On Friday, August 10 we will go to the State Historical Building for a tour of the State Archives, lunch and spend the remainder of the day using the library for research. Some people have expressed an interest in the tour, but not stay for the afternoon of research. We will try to accommodate them. Sign up at the fair so we know how to plan.

IGS News - IGS will have a booth in the newly air-conditioned Varied Industries Building at the State Fair this year. I will be working for a few hours on Saturday, August 11. IGS is in a serious fund-raising campaign for their new building to be located at 301 East Court Avenue in the historic district of East Des Moines and very close to the Historical Building.

September Board Meeting - Please note this will be held on Monday night, rather than our normal Tuesday night.

FGS/Quad Cities Conference - I am particularly excited to be attending this conference and hope I am bubbling with information at our September meeting.

September Meeting - Program will be Maxine Weinman discussing the research she and Jim have done—where they have gone, what lead them to these places and how they have "checked their facts."

IGS Annual Meeting - October 27 - Information is indicating this will be an excellent meeting for computer users! I will have flyers at the county fair for people who may be interested in attending. It will be held in Des Moines for just one day, so no overnights involved. I will be going.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter!

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Publications about Warren County

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

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

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

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

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

<i>Warren County Marriages</i>			
◆ #0473 1849-1879, 72 pages	\$ 9.40	call to verify price and shipping costs	
◆ #0474 1880-1899, 96 pages	\$12.50		
<i>Warren County Newspapers-Deaths, Probates & Obituaries</i>			
◆ #1947 1857-1876, 55 pages	\$ 7.20	call to verify price and shipping costs	
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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, 641-942-6557, 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.
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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 &
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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, 641-
828-8743.

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