

Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 35, Number 4

October, November, December 2008

President's Letter

Another summer season is coming to an end. We had a successful county fair. We had fewer entries this year, 125 -- down 20-25 from previous years. The juniors had several entries and they came up with great ideas. We want everyone to continue to encourage the juniors to look into their ancestry. Start thinking now about what you can do for next year's competition. Also think about what classes may need to be changed and give us your opinion.

The fall conference is just around the corner. Having it in Des Moines is so close to home and as I am no longer in the workforce, I am looking forward to attending my first conference. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

Although I am not a member, I have been volunteering with our friends at the Warren County Historical Museum. In doing so, I have found items of interest for my own family search. For instance, in doing the new school project we are working on, I learned my grandfather's sister was a school teacher. I thought I knew her well, but I didn't know she taught school. Amazing what one finds without really looking. The museum is loaded with many more nuggets of info.

The museum is also a place I have been meeting members of our WCGS. A few years ago as I was on my way to a cemetery to update records, the rain began pouring so my husband and I went to the museum instead. I was finding family info when a lady from out of state came in to research her family. When asked what names she was interested in, she told us and imagine my surprise when she started naming my research names. What a coincidence meeting a relative in the most unexpected of places.

In October our nominating committee will present a slate of officers for the upcoming year. In November, we will elect these new officers. Please plan to attend these meetings.

As some of you may have also done, I am learning life does go on as usual, so this summer I have continued the tradition my husband and I had of camping at country bluegrass music festivals. I spent a week in Missouri and had to tell many people who knew Leroy that he was gone. I think my kids worried about me going alone for several days but I knew I had a lot of friends who knew both of us who would watch out for me, and they did. Then I spent a weekend in Knoxville, Iowa, and in mid-September, I will go to Bloomfield, Iowa, for a week. I have in the past met some of my relatives at these camping trips.

This just goes to show one can research one's family tree in the most unusual places. Here's to continuing to meet new relatives past and present.

Virginia Wheeldon, President

Calendar:

Mon, Sept 15	7:00 p.m. REGULAR Meeting Warren County Historical Library/ Museum. See page 2 for more info.
Tues, Oct 14	7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
Mon, Oct 20	7:00 p.m. REGULAR Meeting Virginia Wheeldon, "Visiting your ancestors in the cemetery"
Mon, Nov 11	7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
Mon, Nov 17	7:00 p.m. REGULAR Meeting Marieta Grissom, "Putting it all together-Finishing up Certification!"

There is not a REGULAR Meeting in December.

MEETING LOCATION for 2008/2009:

WCGS regular meetings are held at the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, "Trinity PATH" - Presbyterian Activity and Teaching Hall. (New Annex south of 200 South Howard, Indianola - enter on the north side of the building) 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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Our September 15th meeting will be at the Warren County Historical Society building within the fairgrounds complex on the west side of Indianola. I have been working in the library there for almost a year now and have been impressed with all the genealogical material that is there. While looking through a file for something else, I came across a copy of this article written by Marieta Grissom for a 2001 Genealogical Society newsletter. With her permission, we are using it again to give you an idea of what you will be seeing at the library. Along with our visit to the library we will be touring the museum and historical buildings along side the museum/library building. Ruth Hall

Research Helps: The Best Kept Research Secret in Warren County - Repeated from our Volume 28, Number 2, March-April 2001 *Warren County Genealogical Society Newsletter*.

It's filled with gem after gem and it's tucked away in a windowless corner of the Warren County Historical Society's museum building. More items are stored on shelves behind cabinet doors at one end of the Society's dining room, and still more items are tucked away in environmentally controlled basement storerooms. In total, it's the Library for the Warren County Historical Society. This Library contains thousands and thousands of answers for genealogy and local history researchers. At first the casual observer will say, "OK" and move on. But look closer and things begin clicking in your head -- "There really is something here." Dig even deeper and realize the volume of materials available is nearly overwhelming.

Thelma Pehrson is the volunteer librarian who took over her position in 1996. Since then she has worked nearly full time. Though her official hours are Thursday afternoons, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., she spends many hours more every week at the library, and she often takes work home for her evenings. She is also usually available to open the library at special times for appointments. Part of her time is spent answering queries received by the genealogy society as well as the historical society. But a vast amount of her time is spent organizing the library.

Over many years Edith Conn, the previous librarian, had diligently collected an immense amount of records and other historical material. Thelma, and a handful of other volunteers, took a room filled with this precious material and have been organizing it so the researcher can find whatever they are looking for. These people have sorted, labeled, and alphabetized, then sorted, labeled and alphabetized some more. Then they have tackled the basement storerooms and worked on them as well. The amount of time Thelma and others have spent has been vast and, as a result, we have the best-kept research secret in Warren County.

Late one afternoon this winter as I was beginning to write this article, I enticed my husband to go out to the library with me. Three hours later, we felt we had hardly started looking. I have visited the library several more times specifically for

writing this and each time I have been amazed at the kinds of things I have found.

First and foremost are the **newspapers**. This is the section I am most familiar with as I use these newspapers for writing my weekly "County Kaleidoscope" article for *the Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune*. Original copies of old newspapers, many dating back into the 1880's, fill shelf after shelf of storage cabinets. Many of these are very brittle and some history is lost every time they are handled. Fortunately, most have been microfilmed and most of these films are available at the Indianola Public Library and/or Dunn Library on the Simpson College Campus, but somehow there is just nothing like seeing and touching the Original. Before digging into the newspapers, however, the research may find it helpful to check the notebooks of newspaper abstractions for the earlier newspapers and the little pink folder with the topical index for the newspapers. These will help to find specific things faster and will add a little more life to the newspapers from less handling.

Scrapbooks. These are a myriad of different scrapbooks. Sometimes people only had access to an old book that was no longer useful to them, so this book was turned into a scrapbook and obituaries were pasted into the old book. There was no rhyme or reason to how the scrapbooks were organized - they just happened. Fortunately, Thelma has indexed most of the obituary scrapbooks to make them more researcher friendly. This includes many obituaries for scattered years; some as early as 1857 and lots beginning 1920s and 1930s until current. There are also scrapbooks of births, scrapbooks of marriages and dozens of "misc." scrapbooks.

Other items in the library are:

1. **Family histories** - about a hundred or so.
2. **Tax records**. These are huge, heavy book after huge, heavy book of records organized by township dating from the earliest days until the 1960s.
3. **A Register of Old Settlers of Warren County**. This book lists the individual's name, post office, when born, county and state born, year came to Iowa, year came to Warren County, and date of death. This does not include all of the early settlers, but does include many.
4. **Militia Register 1864-1876**, names of the men who would have been eligible to serve in the military. Names are in alpha order by township for many of these years. Also, there is a **Militia Register 1917-1924**. Information included is name and age.
5. **Personal Ware Sketches** written in 1905 by Civil War Survivors. This is not all-inclusive, but does include several stories.
6. Notebook with **Petition for Naturalization** record. These are an exact transcription of the original records, which are located at the court house.
7. **Old Age Pension Fund Receipts 1935-1937 and Delinquent Old Age Pension books** for the same years.

Research Helps: The Best Kept Research Secret in Warren County

8. **Coroner reports for 1927-1935 and 1935-1942.** These are interesting accounts in cases if cause of death was questioned.
9. **Country Schools.** While there is a long shelf of country school information, the researcher needs to know that when the office of the county superintendent was eliminated, the official country school records were taken to an office in Ankeny, where they later burned in a building fire. As a result, the information available today is a collection of miscellaneous other information. The old newspapers are an excellent source for country school information. Be forewarned, however, that searching for country school information this way will take grass roots research and many hours.
10. **Church histories.** This would not be a first place to search for church membership records, but again there is quite a long shelf of records here, especially for some of the earlier churches that either suffered from lack of attendance and were closed or for churches that later merged with other congregations. However, don't overlook this resource. I found some church information here for the church where we have been members for 50 years, so it isn't all just defunct church information.
11. **Index to Original Land Entries in Warren County.**
12. **Tax List for 1855.**
13. Two notebooks with photocopies of **delayed Birth Certificates.** These copies were used to prepare the delayed birth portion of the Warren County Genealogical Society birth book.
14. A few notebooks and scrapbooks with information about **Veterans.**
15. **Indianola Library Card Holder Names** dating from the early 1900s.
16. **County Farm** notebooks with clippings, etc.
17. A book with **Medical Doctors of Warren County.**
18. A shelf of information about many of the **Indianola Clubs.**
19. A dozen or so **Family Bibles.**
20. **Post offices** in Warren County.
21. **Vertical files** packed with various topics of local interest.

The "catacombs" in the basement -- this is where the real nitty-gritty information is stored, literally as well as figuratively! Be prepared to get dirty if you are going to research in the basement.

As the Clerk of District Court has run out of storage room, documents have been transferred to the Warren County Historical Society and placed in their library archives. Some of these items include:

1. **Wills** from the earliest until 1992, these have been alphabetized and a listing has been created.
2. **Probates**, again these are the original documents, and again these have been alphabetized.
3. **Criminal records, law and equity cases.** Again, these are the original documents.
4. **Conservatorships.**

Then there is a group of very old, very large, heavy books. Included here are:

5. Executor's, Administrator's & Guardians Bonds from the 1860s and 1870s.
6. Chattel Mortgage Records.
7. Inheritance Tax Records.
8. Liens.
9. Court Docket Books.
10. Register of Claims.
11. Clerk Warrant Book.
12. Recorder's Fee Books.
13. Ledger for Auditor's Accounts.
14. Hunter's License Records.

These lists are not by any means complete. In many cases I have only included items that I could easily find. The "Thursday Afternoon Volunteers" have been working on a shelf list, but it may be a while before it is completed. There is a lot of stuff here!

The Warren County Historical Library is not a place where you can go for an hour and find everything in it for your family. Instead, it may take you an hour just to get started and you will feel compelled to return again and again, and you will find something during every visit. I encourage everyone, however, to make that first visit and see for yourself what draws people to it. I'd love to think every county would have a place like this for this is where you find the details that form the flesh over the bare bones, and, until now, it has been Warren County's best-kept research secret.

Marieta Grissom

IGS Conference, October 2-4, 2008

The annual IGS Conference this year will be in West Des Moines at the West Des Moines Christian Church at 4501 George Mills Civic Parkway. (We can make plans to car pool at our meeting and closer to conference time.) The speaker will be Meldon J. Wolfgang III, owner of Jonathan Sheppard Books and a nationally known author, teacher and lecturer. His programs will cover sources and techniques that are not in the mainstream of genealogical research but which can overcome brick walls and add valuable information to what has been collected from more familiar sources.

The conference will open Thursday night with a reception at IGS. Activities the next two days will be at the church. Speaker at the Friday night banquet will be Galen Berrier who will speak on the Underground Railroad in Iowa. Three concurrent workshops from 1:00-2:00 Friday are titled: Software Savvy to Get You Organized; Naturalization Records and Resources; and, Filling in the Gap of 1890: Iowa's Numerous Options. On Saturday from 10:45-11:45, there will be a "Multicultural Open House" with local professionals available to answer questions, offer advice, and share literature re about research in their areas of expertise. Our own Denise

IGS Conference (cont.)

Gripp has done a great job in putting this conference together.

Rumor has it that the banquet will be catered by The Machine Shed and one of the luncheons will be prepared by our own Dennis Allen and Cris Nagla.

Cost for the entire conference is \$85 for IGS members and \$110 for non-members. Membership in IGS is \$30 single and \$40 Household. Costs for individual days and the registration form will be in the brochure available at our meeting or on the IGS website at www.iowagenealogy.org or call 276-0287.

Names from files at the Warren County Historical Library

In working at the WC Historical Library, I came across files with interesting documents and lists of names that may not be available in other places. The following is from a file labeled "Association of Early Settlers of Warren County." Written along the bottom of the folder is "donated by Jack Barker and Edwin Barker." The file has a random collection of notes, mostly in pencil, which are difficult to read. Finding a volunteer to transcribe the notes is on my agenda. Also, there are other places to look for records and putting them all together would make a good historical notebook for the library.

It appears that the group began with a meeting on August 22, 1883, in the court room of the Warren County Courthouse. The next meeting was on the Summerset Picnic Grounds on September 21, of that same year. The group incorporated in 1892 and purchased the picnic grounds from Thomas Long. Attendance at the annual picnic was sometimes as high as 10,000 with special train rates being given to attendees. When the group de-incorporated in the 1970s, its assets, including the picnic grounds, were donated to the Warren County Historical Society. The land was eventually sold by the society.

What appears to be a partial transcription of an early document is in the file:

---*These articles of incorporation may be amended by the majority vote of all officers at any annual meeting of the Association. Witness our hands this "x" day of September 1892*

Jas. Laverty, E. W. Hartman, L. C. Wright, Wm. Buxton, J. H. Henderson, S. A. Lee, P. P. Henderson, M. B. McElroy, Lewis Igo

Making Rec. Ja-ie Sto-y, Dep. A. V. Proudfoot, Notary

Signers of Articles of De-incorporation

Charles Laverty, son of C. B. Laverty, son of Jas. Laverty
Faye Laverty, son of C. B. Laverty
Wm. Buxton III, son of Wm. Buxton II, son of Wm. Buxton I
Paul Lee, grandson of S. W. Lee
Ruth Shuler, daughter of Lewis Igo
Ruth Sayer, granddaughter of Wm. Buxton
Margaret Metcalf, granddaughter of E. P Wright, son of S. C. Wright

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Hugh Lundy, son of J. W. Lundy
Geo. Coon, grandson of Guy Coon
Wm. Schooler, son of W. B. Schooler
Don L. Berry, son of W. H. Berry
Chas. H. Fisher-1922 member
Marion Nicho(l)ls, grandson of Sirious (Cyrus) Nichol(l)s
L. D. McClintic, son of Otis McClintic
Fred Peck, grandson of Isaac Peck
Esta Butcher, daughter of Richard Butcher
Albert Baxendale, son of John Baxendale
John Parsons, grandson of Wes Parsons
Lou Parsons, granddaughter of Jas. Laverty
Geo. Piffer, member
Louise Kern Warren, daughter of Ben Kern
Lillian Jenner Noble, daughter of Frank Jenner
Gladys Richie, daughter of Fred Richie
Ryle McKee & Bros., sons of John McKee
Gilbert Piffer, son of Geo. Piffer
Ed R. McKee II, son of Ed R. McKee I
Harold McClintic, son of Otis McClintic

Ruth Hall

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN INDIANOLA, IOWA

I came across quite an intriguing photograph and corresponding article just the other day during a long-overdue visit to the Warren County Historical Museum. By the way, if you haven't paid the place a visit for a while, I encourage you to stop by – perhaps, during the upcoming Log Cabin Days. As for my findings, the photo below represents just one item in an entire scrapbook I came across relating to the Underground Railroad, with the people and places mentioned therein all from Warren County. The Spray house (below) was located smack-dab in the middle of Indianola, at the south-east corner of where Hwy. 65/69 and 92 intersect, basically where Cottage Inn is located. A portion of the March, 1951 Record-Herald article follows:

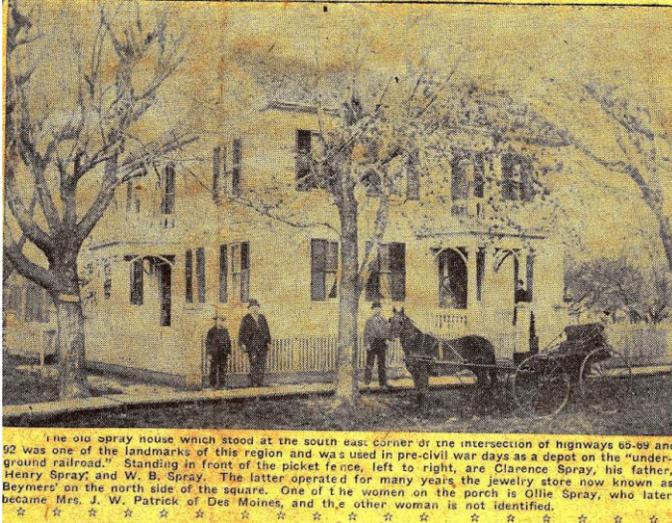
"...The land on which the old house stood was entered from the government as a quarter section by John C. Culbertson in the spring of 1850. Culbertson sold it March 15, 1852 to Mahlon Haworth. In 1857 Haworth deeded a part of the quarter section to the town of Indianola for an addition of town lots. But apparently he retained a quarter block, or at least enough for his home, in the northwest corner of the farm for his own house. This was the Spray lot. In 1864 Haworth deeded the quarter block to William L. Kircher, a pioneer merchant and flour miller. After three years, or in the fall of 1867, Kircher sold it to Henry Spray, one of the town's leading grocers, who lived there until his death." (Marion Spray, one of Henry's sons, lived in the house from 1867-1929 – 61 years, according to the article.)

A final mention -- the section of land where the Spray house stood came to be known as Haworth's Addition of

The Underground Railroad (cont.)

Indianola, Iowa – the east 75 feet thereof, my very own stomping grounds! If you'd like a copy of the complete article, I'd be glad to oblige. As mentioned, you can also find the entire scrapbook loaded with newspaper articles and artifacts at the Warren County Historical Museum. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy my digitally enhanced copy of the picture that follows!

by Denise Gripp



Caption under the picture:

The old Spray house which stood at the south east corner of the intersection of highways of 65-69 and 92 was one of the landmarks of this region and was used in pre-civil war days as a depot on the on the underground railroad." Standing in front of the picket fence, left to right, are Clarence Spray, his father, Henry Spray; and W. B. Spray. The latter operated for many years the jewelry store now known as Beymers' on the north side of the square. One of the women on the porch is Ollie Spray, who later became Mrs. J. W. Patrick of Des Moines, and the other woman is not identified.

More about the Underground Railroad in Warren County

The notebook on the Underground Railroad has several newspaper articles and some handwritten notes that contain the names of some of our early Warren County people.

The railroad was active in Iowa in the 1850s. A branch was reported to have run from Leavenworth, Kansas, through Winterset and on to Indianola. From Indianola, runaway slaves went to Des Moines through Palmyra and Hartford and then crossed the Des Moines River at Ford's Crossing at the spot where the town of Ford once existed in northeast Warren County. They then went upriver on the north side.

The Indianola Record-Herald article with the picture used by Denise in her note was dated March 22, 1851, and has the headline, "Quakers in Warren County Were Active in Underground Railroad. It states that brothers Joshua and

William Hinshaw were conductors on the run from Leavenworth to Indianola while Edd R. McKee was conductor from Indianola to Hartford. Mrs. J. E. (Alameda) Clark, daughter of Joshua Hinshaw, and P. K. McKee, the son of Edd R. McKee, were alive when the article was written.

In the "History of Warren County" compiled by Gerard Schultz and Don E. Barry and published by The Record and Tribune Co. in 1953, the Mahlon Haworth house and its owner are described. Also, the father of Joshua and William Hinshaw is identified as Benjamin and his farm, located east of Indianola, was also a station. From the book on page 217: "Dr. M. A. Dashiell of Hartford and his father-in-law, Dr. B. S. Noble, of Indianola seem to have been the guiding spirits and chief promoters of the Underground Railroad in Warren County. At one time Dr. Dashiell is said to have piloted nineteen runaway Negro slaves from his station at Hartford to Boston I. Taylor's place on the Des Moines river." Also the history recounts a story of George Epps of Palmyra who accompanied his father and a runaway slave to a point on the road from Indianola to the home of Thomas Boyd who lived west of Palmyra.

A handwritten note in the notebook appears to be part of a larger article from The Herald of August 11, 1892. "George Bailey born in Virginia June 25, 1802-----was soldier in Company H 39th Iowa Infantry. He kept a station on the Underground road from Slavery to Freedom. He lives near Indianola."

Another handwritten transcription from a newspaper, this time the January 11, 1906, issue of the Advocate-Tribune states that others involved were "James Laverty, Daniel Frazier, and a man named Pierson". Of Boston Taylors farm, it says that his land extended into the river where there was a steamboat landing called Taylor's Landing.

In an article from either the Des Moines Register or Tribune which doesn't have a date, reporter George Shane mentions that one stop on the railroad was "a log cabin on the Abraham Hartzler farm (now the Robert Piffer farm), 3 ¾ miles northwest of Indianola".

There are many interesting stories in this notebook for anyone who wants to read more about Warren County's place on the Underground Railroad.

Ruth Hall

IGS Fall Garage Sale

The annual Fall Garage Sale is September 11-13, 2008, from 9:00-4:00 at IGS. You can take things in any time. Please no clothing or "junk."

Congratulations to the following 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place people who received ribbons for their Genealogy entries at the 2008 Warren County Fair:

Senior Division 58, Photographs

Ancestral Portrait - 1. Sue Ogland; 2. Virginia Nelson; 3. Carla Anders.
Family Group Photograph - 1. Carol Croat Kubik; 2. Carla Anders; 3. Sue Ogland.
Ancestral Home, Barn or Homestead Photograph - 1. Carol Croat Kubik; 2. Denise Gripp; 3. Brenda King.
Pictorial Family History Poster - 1. Denise Gripp; 2. Carla Anders; 3. Diane Fulton.
Family Photo Album - 1. Virginia Wheeldon; 2. Diane Fulton.
Ancestral Church, School or Organization - 1. Brenda King; 2. Carol Croat Kubik; 3. Brenda Morgan.
Miscellaneous Photograph - 1. Brenda King; 2. Denise Gripp; 3. Virginia Wheeldon.

Division 59, Books and Legal Documents

Diary, Ledger or Letter - 1. Brenda King; 2. Carla Anders; 3. Juanita Ott.
Baptismal, Birth, Death or Marriage Certificate - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Virginia Wheeldon; 3. Brenda King.
Land Records - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Brenda King; 3. Virginia Wheeldon.
Military, Pension Record - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Denise Gripp; 3. Virginia Nelson.
Will or Probate Record - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Brenda King; 3. Denise Gripp.
School, Church or Organizational Records - 1. Virginia Nelson; 2. Brenda King; 3. Carla Anders.
Genealogical Scrapbook - 1. Denise Gripp.
Best Collection of Documents - 1. Denise Gripp.
Miscellaneous - 1. Denise Gripp; 2. Sue Ogland; 3. Carla Anders.

Division 60, Genealogical Research

Pedigree or Family Tree Chart - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Sue Ogland; 3. Virginia Wheeldon.
Lineage Chart - 1. Virginia Wheeldon; 2. Carla Anders.
Time Line - 1. Carla Anders.
Genealogical Map - 1. Virginia Wheeldon; 2. Denise Gripp; 3. Carla Anders.
Family Census Records - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Eric Fulton; 3. Brenda King.
Collection of Newspaper or Genealogical Research - 1. Denise Gripp.
Miscellaneous Research Notebook - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Virginia Wheeldon; 3. Juanita Ott.
Miscellaneous Research Item - 1. Sue Ogland; 2. Denise Gripp; 3. Carla Anders.
True Story Biography or Autobiography - 1. Virginia Wheeldon; 2. Carol Croat Kubik; 3. Denise Gripp.

Division 61, Heirlooms and Artifacts

Book - 1. Carol Croat Kubik; 2. Virginia Nelson; 3. Virginia Wheeldon.

Piece of China or Glassware - 1. Virginia Wheeldon; 2. Brenda King; 3. Virginia Nelson.
Small Household Item or Tool - 1. Brenda King; 2. Sue Ogland.
Needle Work Item - 1. Virginia Nelson; 2. Juanita Ott.
Personal Item - 1. Carla Anders; 2. Sue Ogland; 3. Virginia Nelson.
Bible, Religious Item - 1. Carol Croat Kubik; 2. Juanita Ott.
Small Toy - 1. Virginia Nelson.
Multi-media Display - 1. Diana Bedwell; 2. Eric Fulton.
Mixed Display - 1. Virginia Wheeldon.
Miscellaneous Item - 1. Denise Gripp.

Division 62, Iowa Heritage

Historical Poster - 1. Denise Gripp; 2. Carla Anders; 3. Virginia Nelson.
Historical Poster of Lost Custom, etc. - 1. Brenda King; 2. Eric Fulton.
Photograph Depiction Life Early Iowa - 1. Carol Croat Kubik; 2. Sue Ogland; 3. Brenda King.

Junior Division 63

Pedigree or Lineage - 1. Megan Staude; 2. Olivia Anders.
Family Picture - 1. Olivia Anders; 2. Megan Staude.
A Family Record Book - 1. Megan Staude; 2. Alex Fulton.
Genealogical - Olivia Anders; 2. Megan Staude.
Map Showing Where Ancestors Lived - 1. Olivia Anders; 2. Megan Staude; 3. Alex Fulton.
Photographs Present and Ancestral Home and Barn - 1. Olivia Anders; 2. Alex Fulton; 3. Megan Staude.

Following are a few entries that received ribbons:

True Store Biography or Autobiography

On September 15, 1939, Orville and Mary Sill had a baby girl and named her Virginia Anne. She was their first child and the first grandchild of her daddy's family. She was born in her grandparents' farmhouse (Bessie and DeMoss Crabb).

The summer of 1936 was a long, long, hot summer. In a very small town named Ford, along the Des Moines River near Hartford, Iowa, Joe and Veda Wheeldon lived with three little girls. One night after supper, Mom told Dad it was time to get the doctor. On that night, July 30, the three little girls had a new baby brother named Joseph Leroy.

As these babies grew up, their families moved several times. At first, Virginia and her parents lived with Great-grandma Mary Clary where they had an apartment. Daddy moved in with his grandmother at age 18 to take care of her after Great-grandpa John died. He also did her farming. The family lived there until Grandma died in December, 1939. Then they moved to Milo, Indianola where Virginia started school, Ackworth, back to Indianola, and back again to Ackworth. Then she road a school bus to Indianola for four years of high school where she graduated in 1957.

True Story Biography or Autobiography (cont.)

Joseph's family always called him Leroy or Buddy because his dad's name was also Joseph. Many friends and coworkers called him Joe. His dad worked on farms and helped build houses. Back in those days, most people moved March 1 so that sometimes messed up kid's education as the new school didn't offer some courses or classes were full, so high school credits for graduation were lost. Leroy lost two credits and was unable to graduate with his class in 1954. Many years later, he took a GED course and received a diploma. He started school near Ford at a little school named The Island School. He also attended Vandalia, Hartford, Palmyra, Milo and Pleasantville, not necessarily in that order.

Virginia worked a short time at two Indianola restaurants as a car hop. Leroy had a newspaper route and delivered groceries for a local store.

In September 1955, Indianola High School football team played Knoxville. Leroy was driving his friend, Gail Dunn and Gail's girlfriend, Marilyn Phillips, to the game. Marilyn was always setting up blind dates for Leroy so she asked her friend Virginia to go to the game. After that, Leroy asked for his own dates. Sometimes they went to movies at drive-ins or theaters alone or with other couples. Sometimes Gail's parents took Leroy, Virginia, Gail and his current girl to dances at an American Legion Hall in Des Moines. Sometimes they went to the old KRNT Theater in Des Moines to see popular Nashville Country singers. Most of the singers have become really big Nashville stars.

On February 15, 1957, Leroy and Virginia married at her grandparents home (Charles and Rosa Morr) with 16-18 people attending.

Virginia Wheeldon, Blue Ribbon

The Family Croat/Croatt, The Origin of the Name

The origin of our name has raised many questions down through the years. Experts who deal with the origins of names say that "croat" is derived from the word "cravat" which means a scarf. Other experts of great respect tell us most names are derived from places, occupations, and the like such as Shoemaker, Stonebridge, Miller or Wilgenbusch.

Surnames are usually derived from five ways. Surnames of relationship such as McElwee or Fitzpatrick. Mc and Fitz both stand for son of Elwee or son of Patrick. Surnames are derived from titles or professions such as Judge or Lord, or they are derived from places such as Hill or French. Other names are derived from plants, fruits, flowers, and animals such as Bull or Tree. Others are derived from nicknames such as Sharp or Wise.

Correspondence with a noted historian Omer Raveau of Attert, Belgium during the 1970's provided us with some clues. He became interested in helping us, and delved into lots of records in order to assist us.

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October, November, December 2008*

It is difficult to tell when the name Croat first appeared in Luxembourg or Belgium. The records do not extend beyond 1740 according to Omer Raveau. The earliest mention he could find was a record of a marriage of a Croat male in 1749 that indicates he was from Lannen--which is a nearby village. So it appears that the family Croat was already settled there at least by 1749.

Mr. Raveau believed that the name was originally spelled with one t. (Croat) and he also believed it probably was derived from the Croat nationality. He found instances where there were Croat troops in the country. Napoleon had hired Croat mercenaries that were present near there at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Croat troops were known to have been in the country much earlier as well. It may have well been that our forefather was one of these soldiers who may have been simply referred to as Nic the Croat (for instance). It is in this way that maybe the name just stuck. Many names were derived like this such as Joseph the Shoemaker or John the Baptist.

The name is quite unique to our family but not entirely because we have found records of other Croat's that we cannot identify with. For instance, there is a whole enclave of them in New Jersey who contend they are "Italians". Other records have popped up in old records for "Croat's" that we cannot identify with. For instance there was a Jonas Boston Croat in the Revolutionary War! Records of a John Croat show up at Sand Lake, New York, which was Civil War record. There are also Croat's in Canada and Australia that we can't identify.

Just a reminder to everyone if you are looking for this family on the web or in libraries, phone books and the like - always check for both spellings. Or if you ever decide to waste your money and order one of these genealogy books that are offered thru mailings and the like...be sure to give them both spellings. You will at least get a little bit more for your money.

Carol Kubik, Red Ribbon

Harold Rhoads (Jacob, Cyrus, William) - Grandfather and Mentor

William Rhoads, his wife, Emma and their large family, along with in-laws, David and Sarah Smith Vance and families, arrived by ox team in Guthrie County, Iowa in the fall of 1853. By 1856, part of the family, including my great-great-grandfather -- youngest son, Cyrus, had headed Northward to the Carroll County prairies and swampland. Cyrus laid claim to 340 acres of this land in Section 7 of Newton Twp. The farmstead was located one mile south of the then county seat of Carrollton. Once the railroad was established, Carrollton became virtually non-existent and Carroll City (now Carroll) became the new county seat. Cyrus and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth (Vance) raised 10 children on the farm site, including my great-grandfather, Jacob, the second to the youngest of the family group.

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Warren County Genealogical Society, Indianola, Iowa

True Story Biography or Autobiography (cont.)

Jacob married Alverda Ila Gilley, daughter of James and Louisa Cretsinger Gilley in March of 1895, two months after Cyrus' death. My grandfather and mentor, Harold, was born March 25, 1896, the first in a family of seven, five boys and two girls.

Grandpa Harold married Geneva Sapp of Glidden in 1929. From this marriage, four children were born, with one son, Abraham Lincoln ("Lynn") dying at five months old. My father, Herbert, was the oldest of the bunch. He married my mother, Shirley Michaelson, in 1956 and they had seven children, two boys and five girls, including myself. I was born 11-13-57, and the rest - as they say - IS HISTORY!

Denise Gripp, White Ribbon

Ancestral Church, School or Organization

Home Ec Class

This picture was taken in 1953 of my mother's (Bonnie Clark) Home Ec Class at Carlisle High School n Warren Co., Iowa. Pictured from left to right: Bertha Lang, Mom, Jeanette Prall, Martha Wilt, back row: Margaret Ford and Shirley Gamble.

For this picture their teacher, Mrs. Cosby wanted them to wear something they had made in class. Mom said it was to look like they were going to a tea party. Mom commented that she was glad she was sitting down because her hem was uneven and whatever else was hidden by the table. She also mentioned about a skirt she was trying to put a zipper in and wore out the material trying to do it. She hoped that the teacher would be grading her on her "effort" instead of the final product.

Brenda King, Blue Ribbon

Miscellaneous Photograph

Cecil Rhodes (Jacob, Cyrus, William) - Grandfather, Harold Rhoades' youngest brother

Cecil disappeared in the mid-1930's, with a last-known residence of Reno, Nevada. He was working in the government's CCC program just prior to his disappearance.

NOTE: My grandfather's birth certificate reflects our surname as "Rhoads", but interestingly enough, Grandpa's parents and siblings never used this spelling. Grandpa and his two sisters used "Rhoades", while his parents (at least in later years) and his four brothers spelled the name as "Rhodes".

For some yet unresolved reason, Cecil Rhodes also felt a need to change his given name to "Lewis" during the CCC

registration process. I've recently come upon additional documentation from a cousin of mine relating to his disappearance, including correspondence from J. Edgar Hoover, the head of the FBI at the time. With this new information, our family's longstanding unsolved mystery has landed at the top of my current priority list.

Denise Gripp, Red Ribbon

IGS

Beginning Genealogy - Free

Saturday, Sep 13th, at 10:00 A.M. - Noon at the IGS library.

Software Organization - CLOOZ

Saturday, Sep 20th, at 10:00 A.M. - noon at the IGS library. Members \$5 - Non-members \$10

About our Members

Thelma Pehrson is back at home after a hip replacement in August and a short stay at Good Samaritan. Look for her in the Log Cabin Days parade. She will be the first to be honored as "Volunteer of the Year" by the Warren County Historical Society.

Kay and Bob Putz have moved to California. They will remain members of WCGS. If you need their address, etc., and did not receive the e-mail about them, contact Ruth Hall.

New Members in 2008

1. Maurice "Moe" Wadle of Coralville. Moe is a frequent researcher at the public and historical libraries in Indianola. His mother was a Wachter and he is related to many of the families in SE Warren County including the Millers, Conrads, and Hellers, as well as the Wadles and Wachters.

2. Gene and Sharon Howe of Milo. Gene sent a note referring to our last newsletter. *Contains a very interesting article on the Haworth family. I was always aware that my great granddad was buried in Oklahoma somewhere in 1904. In the last few years, I finally found his grave. His son, Robert Thomas Howe married Hannah Hockett in Otter Tws., Iowa, and went to homestead in Oklahoma in the late 1890s. My great granddad, after the loss of his wife in Ackworth (1890) eventually went to Oklahoma to live with his son until his death.*

At the Collins Cemetery, Blaine/Major County, City of O'Keene, (approx. 3 miles E, 1 N); one would think he was reading the same family names as at Ackworth (as well as other Warren County names): Duncan, Emmons, Fergerson, HAWORTH, Hockett, Howe, Phillips, Patten, Hunter. O'Keene is NW of Oklahoma City approx. 100miles. This area was known as the 'Cherokee Strip' - opened 9/16/1893, along another strip opened just to the south in 1892.

Many of the above names can be traced from Kentucky to Clinton County, Ohio, to Ackworth area to Oklahoma.

New Members (cont.)

- 3. Robert Pascoe of Arizona is researching Burmisters in Warren County.
- 4. Darlene Burkett of Burlington, IA.

From our Newsletter Exchange:

Madison Co. GS: Madison County has almost all of the death records index for the county from 1880-1919 on line. They also have 33,619 headstone photos on their website and hope to have at least 20,000 obituaries there by the end of the year. www.rootsweb.com/~iamadcg/ They also have on CD the 1869 "History and Business Directory of Madison County, Iowa," for \$50 post paid. It can be ordered through the society, PO Box 26, Winterset, IA 50273-0026.

Excerpted by Mary Ann Banks from the Winterset Madisonian of Jan. 13, 1876: "Married at the home of the bride's father, in this city, Jan 5th, Rev. J. H. Potter officiating, Mr. J. N. Chapman, of Harford, IA., & Miss Elsie Compton."

Lucas Co. GS: On Memorial Day this year there was an inaugural raising of a flag at the Doulass Pioneer Cemetery in memory of Gwen Sims. Gwen was an enthusiastic member of the society and had also led the effort to reclaim the cemetery from poison ivy and other overgrowth. There is a small memorial to Gwen at the base of the new flag pole.

KEO-MAH (Keokuk & Mahaska Co.s) GS: Mabel Daniels has completed the 1886-1896 Keokuk Co. Birth Book. \$22.50 + \$3.00 shipping. 209 A Ave. East; Oskaloosa, IA 52577-2807.

Officers 2008

Elected Officers:

President	Virginia Wheeldon
Vice President	Juanita Ott
Secretary	Brenda Morgan
Treasurer	Cathy Miller

Appointed Officers:

Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Wheeldon
Registrar	Ruth Hall
Historian	Dorothy Stearns
Newsletter Editor	Ruth Hall & Judy Richards
County Fair Superintendents	Virginia Wheeldon Brenda King

Other:

Immediate Past President	Ruth Hall
IGS Liaison	Dennis Allen
IGS Regional Representative	Ted Lussem
Web Site for Warren County	Juanita Ott

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iawarren>

Indianola Public Library www.HeritageQuest.com
(Library Card Required)

Active Committees:

Library	Thelma Pehrson
Records/Projects	Dorothy Stearns & Peggy Kruse, Obituaries
Family Records and Surname File	Dorothy Stearns & Brenda King
Nominating	Dorothy Stearns, Chair, & Maxine Weinman & Ruth Hall
Auditing	Peggy Kruse & Dorothy Stearns

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2009. Our new year will start on January 1, 2009. This will be the last newsletter of 2008. Those of you who joined at the fair or since the end of July do not need to renew. Your memberships are good through 2009. Cost is \$10.00.

WCGS Dues Form

\$10.00 per person or family

Membership in Warren County Genealogical Society

_____ \$10.00 for membership (____ individual or ____ family, no distinction in price, but please mark which one.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Vital Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Records | |

Comments:

Mail this form to Cathy Miller, Treasurer, WCGS, PO Box 151, Indianola, Iowa 50125

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Page 6 lists the names of the people receiving ribbons at the 2008 Warren County Fair. Pages 6-8 have names from the entries, including Bonnie Clark, John and Mary Clary, Mrs. Cosby, Bessie and DeMoss Crabb, Jonas Boston Croat, Gail Dunn, Margaret Ford, Shirley Gamble, James and Louisa Cretsinger Gilley, J. Edgar Hoover, Bertha Lang, Charles and Rosa Morr, Marilyn Phillips, Jeanette Prall, Omer Raveau, Abraham Lincoln ("Lynn") Rhoads, Cecil (Lewis) Rhoads, Cyrus and Margaret Elizabeth (Vance) Rhoads, Harold and Geneva Sapp Rhoads, Herbert and Shirley Michaelson Rhoads, Jacob and Alverda Ila Gilley Rhoads, William and Emma Rhoads, Orville and Mary Sill, David and Sarah Smith Vance, Joe and Veda Wheeldon, Martha Wilt

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