

Warren County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 151, Indianola, Iowa 50125

Volume 42, Number 1

January, February, March 2015

President's Letter

Greetings Fellow Family Historians,

As we begin another calendar year, many of us take the time to look back at the old year and then look forward to the new. As an organization I think we should do the same.

In 2014, the Warren County Genealogical Society identified topics that members were interested in for our programs and followed up by successfully selecting presenters for some of these topics. We made specific plans to complete our decade-long project to update and re-publish the Warren County Cemeteries listings. We settled on having our regular meetings at the Warren County Historical Museum (and also our board meetings), complete with a bit of refreshment provided by members.

Our annual activities such as the "cemetery meeting" picnic, county fair booth, and Family History Night were carried out with much enthusiasm and participation. Members were kept informed of all our activities via the newsletter that most of us now receive by e-mail and which was very nicely done by our co-editors.

Our finances remain solid. We have continued to use our logo which was created by one of our members, and we increased our promotion of the organization throughout the county.

Our newest attempt to support our members and their work on their own family histories was our first 12-hour "retreat" at the museum last fall. We received lots of positive response so we plan to repeat this activity this year. Mark your calendar for May 2 and Nov. 7 to attend these popular retreats. We will have more details in the next newsletter.

As we look forward to this new year, many of last year's activities will continue, perhaps with adjustments and improvements. The WCGS Board will soon provide a calendar of meetings, speakers, topics and activities for 2015. I encourage all members to participate in as much of the organization as you can. The WCGS exists FOR the members and the greater the input, the more interesting and dynamic our group will be.

I wish you a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Brenda Morgan, President, WCGS

2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership in WCGS for 2015. The cost is \$10.00 a year. The form is on page 8 of this newsletter. Send it to the Treasurer at our box number. About half of our members have not renewed. Please send in your money if you want to be a member of the Warren County Genealogical Society.

Calendar:

Tues., Jan. 13	7:00 p.m. Board Meeting.
Mon., Jan. 19	NO REGULAR MEETING
Tues., Feb. 10	7:00 p.m. Board Meeting.
Mon., Feb. 16	7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING Writing Your Family Story by Donna Anderson
Tues., Mar. 10	7:00 p.m. Board Meeting.
Mon., Mar. 16	7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING GEDCOM Files and warrencountygenes.org By Juanita Ott and Donna Anderson

WCGS regular meetings are held on the third Monday of the month (September through June, except no meetings in December and January) weather permitting at the Warren County Museum. All meetings are open to the public. Guests are welcome.

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Iowa Digital Newspaper Project

By Mick Kreidler

During Family History Night, which was held Oct. 20, 2014, our first speaker was Delpha Musgrave. She works at the State Historical Library in local government records and newspaper preservation. Delpha shared some of her expertise involving the Iowa Digital Newspaper Project.

The Iowa project is part of the National Digital Newspaper Project, which is managed by the Library of Congress. The Iowa Newspaper Project was originally on microfilm, and portions of it are now being digitized. The Iowa Digital Newspaper Project can be accessed through the Chronicling America web site.

“Newspapers are the first draft of history,” says Delpha. She and others are working to preserve selected newspapers throughout the state. For a second phase of the project, newspapers were carefully chosen in 10 counties across the state based on historical significance, geographical coverage and chronological coverage.

Delpha presented information about accessing the Iowa Digital Newspaper Project and tips on navigating and using Chronicling America for basic and advanced searches. She also explained how to do keyword searches and gave some tips for historic newspaper research.

“Remember that words change over time,” says Delpha. “For example, Peking is now Beijing, Thailand was once Siam, and the Great War, or the European War, was World War I, not WWII.”

She provided the following links to learn more about the Iowa Digital Newspaper Project.

1. http://www.iowahistory.org/libraries/newspaper_digitization.shtml
 2. Under Resources is the following link: <http://www.iowahistory.org/libraries/assets/IDNP-ChroniclingAmerica-SearchTips.pdf>
 3. The Chronicling America website referred to in the post is: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 4. I brought up youtube.com and typed in researching newspapers:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=researching+chronicling+america
- a. There are many examples of accessing newspapers in Chronicling America

Create a Credible Genealogy

By Mick Kreidler

Linda Greethurst, a genealogist with 35 years of experience who lives in Urbandale, Iowa, shared her experience in finding the true facts when pursuing family history. Her enlightening and entertaining talk was presented during Family History Night held Oct. 20, 2014.

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Through hard lessons of incorrectly identified ancestors, Linda offered her top five rules that she lives by when conducting genealogical research.

1. Do thorough research.
2. Use very accurate sourcing.
3. Soundly interpret the data.
4. Resolve any conflicts of data.
5. Write out your reasoning in a coherent, recognizable manner.

She related her early woes in genealogy. She lost 3,000 names of ancestors after her old Commodore computer with tape drives got fried during a lightning storm years ago. She also told of finding relatives, but without sourcing, so she just ignored what didn't fit. And she described the work of Gustav Anjou (1863-1942), who wrote three books about one side of her family that was supposedly related to William the Conqueror and Albert the Great. However, in 1991 he was deemed to be a “creative genealogist” and had made most of it up.

“So, I realized I had nothing, and decided to start over,” says Linda.

She now teaches beginning genealogy classes and advises her students to stay away from family trees found on-line because many will not be right. Do your own work. Consider family trees on-line as hints, rather than facts. They do need to be verified, she says.

“Gather all kinds of information and record the sources. If you have a death certificate, research the information on it. Who was the informant? Did they actually know the facts? Then find the obituary and the tombstone in the cemetery to check names and facts. Sometimes the oldest son was the informant and he may not have the facts right. Collect everything and don't ignore facts that don't fit,” says Linda.

Always credit the sources of genealogical information. Contact the person who has done the genealogy and give credit for their work. But beware of who is giving the information. For example, census information can be inaccurate. Perhaps a child answered questions, or maybe the census taker asked the neighbors down the road because no one was home.

Use a variety of sources and original records to do your own work, says Linda. “Use census records, family Bibles, or outside events like epidemics that killed children in the 1800s, or name changes for towns and counties, and when statehood occurred. Many things can help you in your search or lead you to new avenues to explore,” she says.

She also encourages everyone to write down their thoughts about the events in their own lives like their first bike, favorite dog, etc. Also, write your thoughts about the big outside events such as the Kennedy assassination, the Challenger spacecraft explosion, or 9-11-2001. Also, be specific. Write

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Iowa Digital Newspaper Project (cont.)

down full dates, exact locations and details to help others understand your life.

Linda says to remember to enjoy the journey of genealogy. Don't jump the generations. Lives are greater than "born, married and died."

"If someone lived from 1942 – 1999, the dash is what's important. Find out who that person was and what they did, or study their fan club of friends, neighbors and community. Genealogy is not a race. Have fun with it!" says Linda.



Linda Greethurst & Brenda Morgan, WCGS President
Photo by Mick Kreidler



Family History Night - Photo by Mick Kreidler



Family History Night - Photo by Mick Kreidler



Family History Night - Photo by Mick Kreidler



Family History Night - Photo by Mick Kreidler



Delpha Musgrave
Family History Night - Photo by Mick Kreidler



Marieta Grissom - November 2014 Program
Photo by Mick Kreidler

Newspaper Research

Marieta Grissom

The following are notes from the program I presented at the WCGS meeting on 17 November, 2014:

Availability of Newspaper Microfilm for Warren County towns:

Indianola Public Library = approximately 157 rolls through 6/26/13 of Indianola-only newspapers

Dunn Library = similar to Indianola Public Library, however, an exact comparison has not been done

State Historical Society of Iowa – Des Moines

Indianola = 147 rolls through 6/26/13

Carlisle = ? rolls (I forgot to count)

Milo = 4 rolls

Lacona = 3 rolls

New Virginia = 10 rolls

Norwalk = 21 rolls

FREE websites with newspaper information, not all have images:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Newspapers

General information about newspapers

Links to other sites, including whether \$ or free

“Digital Historical Newspapers”

“Wikipedia” List of online newspaper archives

“Google News Archive”

“Free Newspaper Archives in the US”

“Online Digital Newspaper Collections by State”

www.worldcat.org

Search example: Indianola, Iowa newspapers

www.usgenweb.org

Iowa > Warren County

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

United States > Iowa

<http://Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922

For a series of podcasts on how to use Chronicling America, see

<http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/odnp/re/sources/podcasts>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Worldwide coverage in title order; some Iowa newspapers

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<http://www.elephind.com>

Use Advanced Search-> United States, then type names in quotes

Public Libraries

Many public libraries offer access to digitized local newspapers

Example: Sioux Center Public Library at

www.siouxcenter.lib.ia.us -> Resources

Note: OLD vs NEW Newspaper Archives

Subscription Websites

These sites allow the non-member to browse the collection titles and dates, but require a subscription for access to the newspaper images:

www.Ancestry.com

Card Catalog > Newspapers & Publications >

Newspapers > USA > Iowa

www.newspapers.com

Owned by Ancestry

Papers -> Browse

www.fold3.com

Owned by Ancestry; has a few large city newspapers,

but with a membership in Fold3, can get

Newspapers.com for half price.

www.genealogybank.com

Newspaper Archives > Iowa > Des Moines

Check “List of Iowa Newspapers”

www.findmypast.com

Newspaper records > Iowa > Des Moines

“Pay as you go,” option as well as monthly or annual subscriptions available.

www.newspaperarchive.com

Browse > Iowa > Des Moines

Two ways to access this database without a direct membership to the database: 1) a membership to

Midwest Genealogy Center at Mid-Continent

Public Library in Independence, Missouri or 2)

membership to Godfrey Memorial Library in

Connecticut.

Many Iowa newspaper images are available electronically. Unfortunately, very few Warren County newspapers have been digitized.

Genealogical on Snow Birds; Tracking Down Relatives Who Moved South

by Karon King

Later in life, many Iowans flock to Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas for the winter to escape the cold and are known as Snow Birds. In some cases, they take up permanent residency there and die there, while in other cases, their children move to that state (since children inherit property from their folks who bought land there). This topic came to mind when I had an experience this fall working with probate matters in Williamson County, Texas, and discovered that this county government website has actually put their entire probate packets 1838-2014 online!
[\[https://deed.wilco.org/RealEstate/SearchEntry.aspx\]](https://deed.wilco.org/RealEstate/SearchEntry.aspx)

They've also put indexes to their birth, death, and marriage records online. What a find (only IF you have ancestors in Williamson County, TX). So, what are the odds of finding such treasures in other snow bird resting spots? Below is a list of free websites to find birth, death, and marriage records for the whole states of Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas, followed by a terrific source that lists historical and genealogical societies for counties in each state. Finally, I came across a good example of a Warren County family who moved to California, but kept in contact with their Iowa relatives and friends in an unusual way.

ARIZONA

Arizona Birth Index 1855 – 1938
[\[http://genealogy.az.gov/\]](http://genealogy.az.gov/)

Arizona Death Index 1870 – 1963
[\[http://genealogy.az.gov/\]](http://genealogy.az.gov/)

Arizona Marriage Index 1865 – 1949
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674679\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674679)

CALIFORNIA

California Birth Index 1905 – 1995
[\[http://www.californiabirthindex.org/\]](http://www.californiabirthindex.org/)

California Birth Index 1812 – 1988
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674703\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674703)

California Death Index 1905-1939
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1932433\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1932433) and
1940-1997
[\[http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ca/death/search.cgi\]](http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ca/death/search.cgi)

California Marriage Index 1850 – 1945
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674735\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674735)

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FLORIDA

Florida Birth Index 1880 – 1935
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674799\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1674799)

Florida Death Index 1877 – 1998
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1946805\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1946805)

Florida Marriage Index 1822-1875 & 1927-2001
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1949340\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1949340)
plus 1830-1993
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1803936\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1803936)

Florida Divorce Index 1927 – 2001
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1967745\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1967745)

TEXAS

Texas Birth Index 1840 – 1981
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681015\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681015)

Texas Birth Images 1903 – 1935
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1803956\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1803956)

Texas Death Index 1903 – 1973
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681049\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681049)

Texas Marriage Index 1837 – 1973
[\[https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681052\]](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681052)

Texas Divorce Index 1968 – 2011
[\[http://texasdivorcerecords.org\]](http://texasdivorcerecords.org)

LIST OF HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES IN EACH STATE

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness
[\[http://www.raogk.org/society-archives/\]](http://www.raogk.org/society-archives/) lists historical and genealogical societies first by state, then by region, then by county, township, and towns.

Here is an endearing example of a Warren County family, John & Hulda Johnston, who moved to California, but wrote letters back to relatives and friends in Iowa. Published in the Indianola Herald newspaper, Jan 21, 1915, page 4, from Mrs. John H. Johnston (maiden name, Hulda E. Way):

FROM MRS. JOHN JOHNSON, 133 SOUTH BRIGHT AVE., WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA, JAN 5TH, 1915 –

Dear friends; As an Indianola Herald reader, here I come to wish you a Happy New Year, hoping you may have health and happiness. We have had joys and sorrows in the past year, have two more great-grand

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Genealogy on Snow Birds (cont.)

children, a son to Daisy (Douglass) Howell, a daughter to Madge (Smith) Nail. Our grandson, Leo F. Douglass, was married September the 22d to Gertrude Perry, a very nice girl and a grand wedding.

As many of you know Mr. Johnston had a stroke of paralysis the third of May, his left side was useless for several weeks, but he can use his foot and hand a little now, but has not been dressed yet, so is in bed most of the time, and cannot get up or down alone, although we take him up to eat his meals. His mind is alright for which we are all so thankful. He is just waiting his appointed time. We are very comfortably situated here at our daughters (Mrs. Mary Kirby). She is running a boarding and rooming house and is doing very well, but would do better if times were not so dull.

Right here I want to tell you all, don't come to California unless you have money to take you home if you wish to go. This is a fine country, also climate, flowers, and scenery, but too many men idle. On the other hand, this is a fine place to make money, if you have money to start with. My advice to all is, come and see, but don't burn all your bridges behind you. Nine times out of ten you will want to stay.

Suppose this year there will be very many come and we hope to see many of our old friends if we live, as most perhaps will come to Los Angeles, and its only fifty cents round trip, for 10 days, from Los Angeles to Whittier. Be sure to come to Whittier.

My health is not so good this winter as last. The winter has been very nice so far, just about rain enough, but we expect more. Another thing, I wish to say is bring your heavy clothes and furs if you come in the winter. On especially nice summer days you see many women passing with their furs. It looks strange, but the evenings are always chilly, and many days all day.

I will say to my relations and friends that my youngest brother, Edwin Way, died the first day of December 1914. His death was due to hemorrhage of the stomach. Any of you that wish to hear more, please write to me and, if I am well enough, will answer. One thing remarkable to us was the fact that for seventy-three years there had been no deaths among us (except our own parents). There are seven left: five sisters and two brothers. A good many people are having very severe colds at the present time. Now I do not know that my letter of one year ago was published as I never saw or heard of it, but as we were moving to Whittier about that time we may have missed that number. May God bless you all. Any that care to write do so. Your friend, Mrs. John Johnston.

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[John H. Johnston married Hulda Elizabeth Way in Warren County in 1861. They had seven children in White Breast Township, then moved to California between 1885 and 1895. Both died in Whittier, Los Angeles County, California: Hulda in 1917 and John in 1920.]

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTERS CUT HOURS IN DES MOINES AND IOWA CITY

Effective February 1, the State Historical Society is cutting their hours from five days a week to three days a week.

Jeff Morgan, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs announced in the Des Moines Sunday Register on January 18, 2015, that the hours will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Retrievals of archives, manuscripts and special collections will be available at the following times: Thursday and Friday: 9:45 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:15 pm, and 3:30 pm. Access on Saturdays is by advance request before noon the preceding Friday.

Mr. Morgan said that during the hours the research centers aren't open to the public, the staff will be "working on a comprehensive assessment of our collections and collections management process." Through this process, the historical society will determine practices and technologies that best align with today's archival industry and with the mission, vision, values and mandate of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. The first step will be through the end of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The reduced hours do not apply to the State Historical Museum or other state historical offices.

Research Retreat

Are you ready for another Research Retreat? We have another one planned for May 2, 2015. This will be from 12 noon to 12 midnight, just like the one last fall, at the Warren County Historical Museum. The library will be open to do research. Plan to attend. More details will be in the next newsletter.

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Popular Press versus Scholarly Genealogy Publications

Marieta Grissom

What is the genealogy popular press? What is a scholarly genealogy journal?

POPULAR PRESS: Also known as the “commercial press,” publications in this category are easy to read and appeal to the general public. For these publications experienced genealogists write short articles on topics of general interest to sell magazines. Examples of genealogy publications that fit this category are *Family Tree Magazine*, *Internet Genealogy*, and *Family Chronicle*. These publications are found on the newsstands. Authors are generally paid for their work.

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL: Frequently this phrase refers to a publication that is peer-reviewed. In other words, experts in the field have rigorously reviewed the articles for excellence, content, significance, and accuracy. The articles are well documented. The intent of this process is to maintain the integrity of the publication.

Recently, members of an email list for members of the Association for Professional Genealogists (APG) were discussing the top scholarly genealogy journals. The member who initiated the discussion stated that in 1950, well-respected genealogist, Milton Rubicam, identified the top four scholarly journals as:

National Genealogical Society Quarterly (published since 1912)

New York Biographical and Genealogical Record (published since 1870)

New England Historical and Genealogical Register (published since 1847)

The American Genealogist (published since 1922)

The questions were: 1) is this true today, and 2) should any journals be added to the list?

A couple participants suggested perhaps *The Genealogist* and *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* could be added, but most people agreed that the top four have stood the test of time.

Scholarly journals are typically only available through membership/subscription. Authors are not paid for their submissions; this is essentially a “labor of love” project.

MY EXPERIENCE: Both articles I have submitted for consideration have been accepted and published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. This is a humbling experience.

The publication process is long and tedious:

1. Author submits article.
2. Experts with relevant knowledge review the article and make suggestions (the peer-review process).
3. Author makes suggested changes and resubmits article.
4. Editorial board determines whether the article is worthy of publication.
5. If accepted, author and publication representative sign a formal contract. Author retains copyright to the article, but publisher (in this case NGS) receives exclusive rights to the article for 12 months after initial publication.
6. Once contract is signed, editor starts to work. Words cost money to print/publish; authors are expected to “write tight,” but the editor will tighten it up even more. Editor may cut heavily or rearrange content for clarity.
7. Author reviews editor’s changes to ensure integrity was maintained through the editing process.
8. Proofreaders check the article.
9. Editor typesets the article.
10. Author reviews typeset article.
11. Editor makes any final changes and sends the article to the printer.

This often takes six to nine months, even up to a year and this is after the author has researched and written the original article.

One source told me that apparently many authors don’t make the suggested changes following the review process (step 2), and thus drop out of the experience.

My philosophy is: this is a great learning opportunity and the whole process makes me a better writer. It is an honor to be published in a respected journal that has stood the test of time.

My two articles are:

1. “Genealogical Research in Iowa,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 102 (December 2014): 263-306.
2. “Untangling Intertwined Branches: Caroline McNeill and Caroline Spencer in Lee County and Marion County, Iowa,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (September 2009): 195-210.

Website Update

The transition to our new website is progressing slowly, but surely. The biographies are going to be a major focus of the website. As new pages are added, names within those pages will have a link to a biography for that person. Biographies have been started for more than 600 individuals. These biographies will be expanded and more added as information is gathered.

YOU CAN HELP! If you have any information about ancestors in Warren County, biographies, obituaries, pictures, etc., send a digital copy to contact@warrencountygenes.org.

The information about churches is almost completed. Many, many thanks to Karon King for doing the research. Everyone with a first and last name in the church histories has now been linked to a brief biography about that person.

The next big project for the website is information about Civil War soldiers from Warren County. In 1933, the newspaper listed all the veterans buried in Warren County cemeteries and that is where we will begin. However, HERE IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP! If you have pictures, letters, biographies, or diaries or anything about a Warren County Ancestor who served in the Civil War send a digital copy to contact@warrencountygenes.org. We are also interested in the family members left behind if you have any information about them.

Remember to visit for updated information, and for information about our activities.

Juanita Ott

2015 WCGS Officers

Elected Officers:

President	Brenda Morgan
Vice President	Donna Anderson
Secretary	Michelle Spear
Treasurer	Judy Richards

Appointed Officers:

Corresponding Secretary	(Open Position)
Registrar	Judy Richards
Historian	Virginia Wheeldon
Newsletter Editor	Mick Kreidler & Judy Richards
Fair Superintendents	Brenda Morgan & Brenda King

Other:

Immediate Past President	Denise Gripp
IGS Liaison	Marieta Grissom
IGS Regional Representative	Ken & Mary Booth

Web Sites for Warren County

www.warrencountygenes.org - our new Web site
www.rootsweb.com/iawarren
<http://iagenweb.org/warren/>

Warren County Historical Society

www.warrencountyhistory.org/genealogy

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

Active Committees:

Library	Brenda Morgan
Cemeteries	Juanita Ott
4-H Project	Brenda King
Records/Projects	
Family Records and Surname File	(Open Position)
Nominating	(Open Position), Juanita Ott & Brenda Morgan
Auditing	Peggy Kruse

WCGS Dues Form - Due now for 2015

\$10 per person or family January through December
Membership in Warren County Genealogical Society

_____ \$10 for membership (____ individual or ____ family, no distinction in price, but please mark which one.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

We are offering members the opportunity to receive the newsletter by e-mail. Please check one of the following responses.

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail _____.

No, I would like to receive the newsletter by regular mail _____.

Comments:

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

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