



MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P O BOX 26  
WINTERSET IA 50273-0026  
FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER 2016

**MEETINGS:** Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the community room in the Winterset Public Library. We meet at 7:00 pm year round.

**DUES:** Payable January 1 of each year. \$10 per person or \$15 per family. Life membership is \$115.

**RESEARCH:** \$10 per hour plus cost of copies and postage. Send to the above address.

#### OFFICERS FOR 2016:

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| PRESIDENT:               | Pat Hochstetler |
| VICE PRESIDENT:          | Linda Smith     |
| SECRETARY:               | Cheryl Gray     |
| TREASURER:               | JoAnne Walker   |
| CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: | Mary Hart       |

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| LIBRARY OBITS: | Mary Hart       |
|                | Shirley Keating |

|            |      |             |
|------------|------|-------------|
| DIRECTORS: | 2016 | Mike Mahan  |
|            | 2017 | Linda Smith |
|            | 2018 | Ida Morse   |

MADISON COUNTY WEB  
SITE COORDINATORS: Judy Wight Branson  
Kent Transier  
NEWSLETTER: JoAnne Walker  
Linda Smith

<http://iagenweb.org/madison/index.html>

A new year is upon us and along with that comes new officers of the genealogical society. I look forward to being your new president for the coming year. Our Vice-President has been busy setting up some very interesting programs for the new year. Some of these will include Love Stories and More, beginning genealogy class which will be co-sponsored with the Winterset Library, Iowa's Railroad Heritage, again co-sponsored with the Winterset Library, cemetery histories and other programs as the year progresses. These programs are always open to the public.

There has been a lot of work done in the genealogy section at the library. The obituary notebooks are being indexed, thanks to the hard work of Ida Morse. The obituary team of Shirley Keating and Mary Hart is on-going and is kept pretty current.

If anyone has funeral cards they would like added to the funeral card notebooks, please put them in the bottom drawer of the file in the Winterset Library. They will be taken care of and put in the notebooks.

We are always looking for new members. If you know of anyone who is interested, get them to attend a meeting to find out what we are all about.

Pat Hochstetler  
MCGS President

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#### Queries:

Need to know the parents of John Beemer Brewer born in New Jersey about 1797. His wife's name may have been Rebecca. John died about 1864 in Winterset, IA. His son was John Brewer also, born 1827 in Greene Co., PA. His wife was Esther A. Harding born 1826 in lower Canada.

Barbara Miller  
12406 Siletz Hwy  
Siletz, OR 97380  
e-mail: [jazznbarb@gmail.com](mailto:jazznbarb@gmail.com)

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At the last update on Madison County Civil War Soldiers, Kent Transier said we were at 1,780 soldiers with Madison County connections. Check out the site. If you have an ancestor who lived in Madison County before, during or after the War and he is not on the list, please let us know and we will get him researched and added. If the soldier's name is in blue type, click on that to see his photograph. If his rank is in blue type, click on that to see his Veteran Record Transcript.

## Stagecoach Trails in Madison County

*Stagecoaches were an essential element in the settlement of Iowa. But as railroads made transporting passengers and cargo more efficient, many communities and post offices served by stagecoaches disappeared.*

*To preserve historic information about early towns and post offices, Inez Kirkpatrick wrote the book "Stagecoach Trails in Iowa" in 1975, published by the J-B Publishing Company of Crete, Nebraska. Mrs. Kirkpatrick used many historical references to patch together the stagecoach stories for each Iowa county. Below is the information she included about Madison County.*

Montpelier was the name of the first post office in the county, 1849-1869, in section 26 Union Township, at Tileville. Tileville was sometimes called Narrows. It was also the name of the railroad station about four miles southeast of Winterset. Montpelier was moved in 1849 to the center of the county where Winterset now is, and the name changed to Independence.

Peru, now called Old Peru, was laid out in 1855 near the center of section 3, Walnut Township, about one mile northwest of the town of the present Peru. It was prosperous until the coming of the railroad.

Richmond was a town laid out in 1849 in the southern part of section 12, Scott Township. Its only building was a store and its post office was called Amazon.

Webster was laid out as a town in 1855 along the central part of the north line of section 6, Webster Township. It was never much more than a hamlet, and its post office was Middle River.

Buffalo, a hamlet located in section 7, Scott Township, on the southeast side of Middle River, about one and one-half miles south of Winterset. Its mill was its main enterprise. It flourished from the 1850's to the 1880's.

The Fourth General Assembly [1853-1854] authorized additional mail facilities and a road was opened from Fort Des Moines to Council Bluffs, via Lewis, triweekly in four-horse coaches. This trail passed through Madison County.

A mail route was opened by the Fifth General Assembly [1855-1856] from Fort Des Moines, via Winterset, Quincy, Clarinda and Sidney, to Nebraska City, with post coaches twice a week.

The Sixth General Assembly [1857-1858] ordered a road from Keith's Tavern in Polk County via Carlisle and Greenbush to "Winterset" [sic], Madison County.

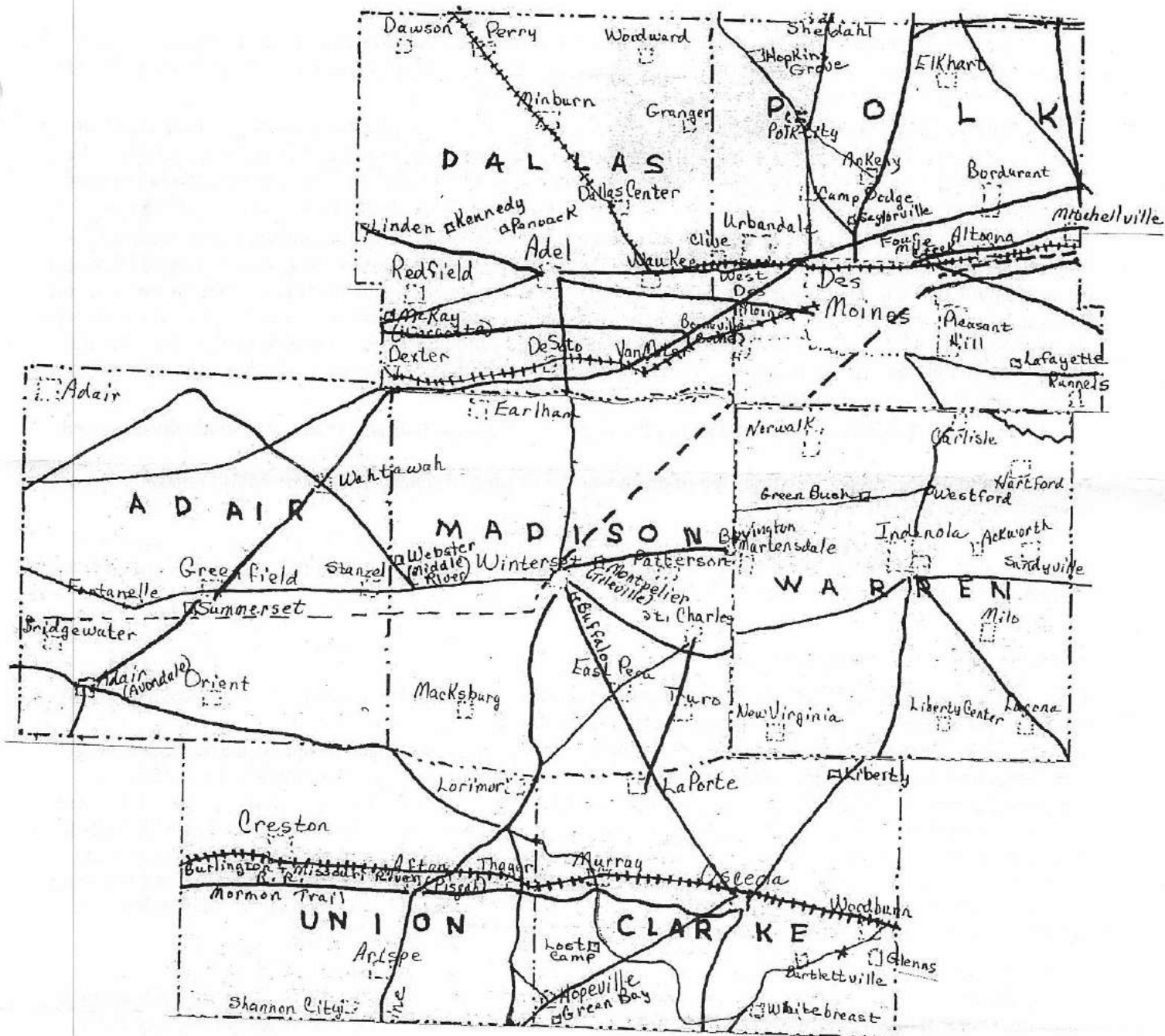
Another mail route was established from "Fort Des Moines, ... via Greenbush, St. Charles, Laport in Clark County" to form a junction with the State road authorized to be established from Fort Des Moines via Indianola, Osceola, Hopewell and "Mt. Air." [sic]

The Sixth General Assembly authorized a mail road from Fort Des Moines to St. Charles and Peru and thence to Afton in Union County.

Another State road authorized by the Sixth General Assembly was opened from "Fort Desmoines" to Pleasant Plain, Decatur County, via Indianola; Osceola, Clarke County; and Leon, Decatur County. [This road would have intersected a road to Madison County at Indianola]

The following early mail contracts are listed as passing through Madison County

| Description of Route  | Contractor            | Date       |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Raccoon Forks of Des Moines River to Council Bluffs                               | S. Swerengen          | April 1849 |
| Ft. Des Moines to Kaneshville   | J. Frink & R. Stewart | 1851       |
| Centreville-Garden Grove to intersect route from Ft. Des Moines to Council Bluffs | John Donahey          | June 1851  |
| Ft. Des Moines-Winterset  | John Wheeler          | April 1854 |
| Iowa City-Des Moines-Council Bluffs   | Western Stage Co.     | 1854       |
| Davenport-Des Moines-Council Bluffs   | Western Stage Co.     | 1854       |
| Ft. Des Moines-Macedonia  | William Vernon        | April 1854 |
| Kaneshville-Des Moines  | Western Stage Co.     | May 1855   |
| Iowa City-Des Moines-Council Bluffs   | Western Stage Co.     | 1857       |
| Oskaloosa-Lewis   | C. B. Lothrop         | June 1865  |



Map provide by Inez Kirkpatrick in "Stagecoach Trails in Iowa," published in 1975

### Frink and Walker

The stage service of Frink and Walker began in 1840, when they established a line from Bloomington and Iowa City, which was tri-weekly with a two-horse coach. Most of the passengers were men, as few women made the overland journey. The ox teams were too slow for the times and the horse team was used for a number of years.

In 1846 Frink and Walker put on a four-house coach to run daily between Bloomington and Iowa City, and from this time on, the increase in accommodations was rapid. John Frink put the traditional type of four-horse post coaches, painted red and yellow, on a triweekly run between Des Moines and Kanesville in 1851, and some months later, on a daily run from Oskaloosa to Ft. Des Moines. In 1853 the Western Stage Company purchased the outfit of the old [Frink and Walker] line, and sent W. H. McChesney to manage the Iowa City end of the equipment. Reorganization of the company was undertaken, as it was reported that the affairs of the old company were not in good shape. He furnished the employees of the former company with comfortable quarters, instead of requiring them to "lodge with the horses as heretofore."



## Western Stage Co.

In 1854 the best known of all the transportation firms in Iowa obtained extensive mail contracts. The Western Stage Company, which had formerly operated east of the Mississippi as the Ohio stage Company, bought our Frink's stock in Iowa for \$71,555.50 plus a bonus of \$5,000.00.

Western Stage, experienced from operations in eight middle western states, established a main station in Iowa City with one hundred blacksmiths and mechanics and adequate supplies to insure continuous service. The "two horse jerkey" was the most commonly used vehicle at the time and is constructed of wood painted brick red with yellow lettering on the side reading "W. S. Stage Co. No. 202." It was trimmed and topped with canvas.

In the winter of 1864-65 Nevada was the western limit of travel by rail, and connection was had with the outer world and the State Capital [then in Iowa City] by the coaches of the Western Stage Co. The State Historical Society reports that information gleaned from Polk County histories indicate that only the Western Stage Company had a mail contract for the area. For the year 1866-7 the Western Stage Company was operating in connection with six railroad lines in the State and to all points in central, southern, and western Iowa and Nebraska. The Western Stage Company bought mail contracts from small operators and individual contractors. Within a short time, they owned practically everything in the state, operating in all directions.

During the [Eighteen] fifties and sixties the stagecoach business flourished but it was gradually displaced by the railroads. The railroads were advancing westward and by January 1, 1869 there were 1,473 miles of railroad completed and in operation. The first sign of death was the shifting of schedules and terminals to make connections with the railroads.

In 1874 the last Western Stage Co. coach was sold, and the company settled its affairs with great profit for the corporation. After the Western Stage Company and competing organization disappeared, mail and passengers continued to be transported by nondescript vehicles between small towns in Iowa.

## **Stagecoaches in the Madison County News**

1856 - *Winterset Madisonian*, "Some High Lights of Iowa History in 1856" by Bruce E. Mahan, Associate Editor of State Historical Society of Iowa, November 4, 1926

The Western Stage Company as well as a number of less important concerns operated a network of stage lines throughout the settled portions of Iowa in 1856. Newspapers carried the modest advertisement of this company regularly in which the time of arrival and departure of the stage coaches were set forth. Passengers were assured that every attention would be paid to their comfort and convenience. On the route from Council Bluffs to Fort Des Moines the "important towns passed through," wrote a traveler, were "Lewis, Somerset, Winterset and Adel." The country "along this route," he added, "is rich in fertility of soil, generally rolling prairie, and the ravines deeper than at the same distance from the Mississippi. The towns and villages on this road are all growing very rapidly, and substantial public improvements are being made at each of the county seats."

1865 - *Winterset Madisonian*, "In Days of Long Ago - Sixty Years Ago", January 29, 1925

Runaway - The Western Stage Co's coach which runs from this city, met with an accident, while about 13 miles from town. They were going down a steep hill, when the breast strap broke; the horses became frightened, and all endeavor to stop was fruitless. The coach plunged madly forward and was upset. Several of the passengers and the driver were somewhat injured, but not very seriously. All damages were repaired, and the coach runs as usual.

1866 - *Winterset Madisonian*, "Forty Years Ago", January 29, 1956

The Western Stage Company will run their daily line of passenger coaches commencing on the first of July [1866], between Des Moines and Council Bluffs through this place. This is as it should be and the change in the administration of Western Stage Company has brought this about. The route to Council Bluffs, through Winterset, Fontanelle and Lewis is a shorter one, and better road, consequently can be run much cheaper, it requiring less stock {horses}.

1899 - *Winterset News* - July 21, 1899

Prior to 1862, the Western Stage company had the monopoly of the stage line. In 1862, Col. C. B. Lothrop arrived and ran his own stages from Winterset to Knoxville, then to Lewis, a small station fifty miles from Council Bluffs. Col. Lothrop is the veteran stage and 'bus man and mail contractor of this part of the country, having been in the stage business from 1858 to 1871. His four horse stage was the last one every run out of Des Moines. He still runs the 'bus and at the age of 84 years manages his own business, goes to every train and is as active as the average man of 65.

## 2016 Programs

All programs start at 7:00 pm in the Winterset Public Library Meeting Room on the second Tuesday of each month. *Any changes are noted below.* Guests are always welcomed, so bring someone along with you. Business meetings begin after the program and guests may leave prior to the meeting if they would like.

### February 2 LOVE STORIES AND MORE

Peggy Eichner; Favorite family stories (some are award-winning!) from her Madison County ancestors.

### March 1 BEGINNING GENEALOGY

*Start time will be 6:30 pm*

Theresa Liewer, Iowa Genealogical Society; Your family has a story to tell. Learn or review the basics for discovering it. Find out how easy it is to get started in this popular and fascinating pursuit. Co-sponsored with the Winterset Public Library.

### April 5 GRASS BETWEEN THE RAILS:

#### IOWA'S RAILROAD HERITAGE

*Start time will be 6:30 pm.*

Denny Rehder; Celebrate Iowa's railroad heritage with a unique blend of stories and songs. We will hear about national railroad events affecting Iowa, the race across our state, and local railroad history. Co-sponsored with the Winterset Public Library.

### May 3 WHAT'S IT WORTH? ANTIQUe APPRAISALS

Steve Hartman; Society members may bring two easy-to-carry items, at least one of which will be reviewed for general history and likely value.

### June 7 DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES:

#### MCDONALD-CHASE, STRINGTOWN, AND POOR FARM *At the Madison County Historical Museum*

Jared McDonald, Mary Welty Hart, and Linda Smith; Cemetery histories were #1 on our program poll. Learn the history, interesting facts, and the current condition of these three.

### July 5 ANNUAL SHOW-AND-TELL MEETING

YOU put on this program! Join us and don't forget to bring an interesting item or two from your family. Perhaps you would like to enter them in the upcoming County Fair Genealogy Division. We'll tell you how.

### August 2 UNDERGROUND RR: TALES AND TRAILS

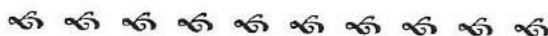
Linda Smith; Now that the team's research phase is drawing to a close, stories of runaway slaves in Madison County and the routes they used have been revealed. What is the next step for the information gathered will also be discussed.

### September 6 MADISON COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS

#### *At the Madison County Historical Museum.*

Ron Howell; Researching available school records and searching online local newspapers, Ron is beginning to piece together the story of Madison County's many rural schools.

Clip and put in a handy place.



## Where in the World is Your Surname?

Well, now you can find out! Check out website [forebears.io/surnames](http://forebears.io/surnames) to find out where possible relatives currently live in the United States or across the globe. You can even drill down to the county level. Once you search, it will show you the various spellings used throughout the world which might give you some new information as you look for ancestors in faraway places.

## Ancestors of William Ross CROFT

## Ross Edward CROFT

b: 22 Jun 1863 Perry Township, Miami, Indiana, United States  
 m: 6 Aug 1893 Patterson, Madison, IA, USA  
 d: 6 May 1936 Knoxville, Marion, Iowa, United States

## Lowell William CROFT

b: 19 Jul 1916 Winterset, Madison, Iowa, United States  
 m: Abt 1939 Davenport, Scott, IA, USA  
 d: 1 Feb 2003 Wills Point, Van Zandt, Texas, United States

## Nancy Elizabeth MCCLAIN

b: 11 Aug 1876 Patterson, Madison, Iowa, United States  
 d: 9 Feb 1935 Knoxville, Marion, Iowa, United States

## William Ross CROFT

b: 24 Aug 1922 Cheylon, Lucas, Iowa, United States

## William TEASDALE

b: 6 Oct 1833 Ereslor, Mahaska, Iowa, United States  
 m: 1908 Saint Louis, St. Louis City, MO, USA  
 d: 19 Sep 1952 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, United States

## Anna NMN TEASDALE

b: 22 Apr 1922 Hocking, Monroe, Iowa, United States  
 d: 23 Jul 1994 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, United States

## Maud Louisa WILLIAMS

b: 3 Feb 1888 Werthyr-Tydfil, Wales, United Kingdom  
 d: 8 Jan 1975 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa, United States

## Christian NMN CROFT

b: 26 Dec 1828 Peble, Ohio, United States  
 m: 31 Jul 1851 Silver Lake, Kosciusko, IN, USA  
 d: 17 Feb 1914 Winterset, Madison, Iowa, United States

## Mary Ann CAMPBELL

b: 11 May 1826 Salem, Culpeper, Virginia, United States  
 d: 23 Sep 1919 Winterset, Madison, Iowa, United States

## William MCCLAIN

b: 12 May 1832 Newtowards, Down, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom  
 m: 27 Sep 1855  
 d: 19 Feb 1906 Winterset, Madison, Iowa, United States

## Elvina MCQUOWN

b: 28 Feb 1837 Iowa, United States  
 d: 3 Apr 1903 Patterson, Madison, Iowa, United States

## Thompson Elliott TEASDALE

b: 27 Apr 1849 South Weston, Durham, England, United Kingdom  
 m: 4 Nov 1871 Kelso, Durham, England, United Kingdom  
 d: 25 Jul 1924 Albia, Monroe, Iowa, United States

## Sarah CURRY

b: 25 Dec 1850 Durham, England, United Kingdom  
 d: 29 Mar 1919 Hocking, Monroe, Iowa, United States

## John M. RICHARDS

b: 4 May 1861  
 d: 26 May 1920

## Hanna DAVIS

b: 18 Mar 1863  
 d: 31 Jul 1933

## John CROFT

b: 16 Apr 1792 Rockingham, Virginia, United States  
 m: 1812 Montgomery, Hamilton, OH, USA  
 d: 1 Mar 1880 Perry Township, Miami, Indiana, United States

## Catharine SYLER

b: 4 Mar 1792 Virginia, United States  
 d: 26 May 1872 Indiana, United States

## Arthur MCCLAIN

b: 1812 Newtowards, Down, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom  
 d: 9 Apr 1885 Newtowards, Down, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

## Mary Ann CAIRNS

b: 1811 Northern Ireland, United Kingdom  
 d: 28 Nov 1870 Newtowards, Down, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

## John TEASDALE

b: Abt 1826 Farfield, Durham, England, United Kingdom

## Elizabeth ELLIOTT

b: Abt 1830 Usworth, Durham, England, United Kingdom

## F. J. CURRY

## Sarah MIDELMUS

**John CROFT**  
b: 16 Apr 1792 Rockingham, Virginia, United States  
m: 1813 Montgomery, Hamilton, OH, USA

**Philipp KRAFFT**  
d: 1805 Rockingham, Virginia, United States

**Barbara**  
d: 1 Mar 1880 Perry Township, Miami, Indiana, United States

b: 16 Apr 1792 Rockingham, Virginia, United States  
m: 1813 Montgomery, Hamilton, OH, USA  
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United Kingdom  
m: 27 Sep 1855

**Elvina MCOUOWN**

b: 26 Feb 1837 Iowa, United States  
d: 3 Apr 1905 Patterson, Madison, Iowa, United States

by: 22 Jun 1963 Perry Township, Miami, Indiana, United States  
in: 6 Aug 1895 Patterson, Madison, IA, USA

at: 6 May 1976 Knoxville, Marion, Iowa, United States

h: 11 Aug 1876 Patterson, Madison, Iowa, United States  
d: 9 Feb 1955 Knoxville, Marion, Iowa, United States

b: 19 Jul 1916 Wingerset, Madison, Iowa, United States  
d: 1 Feb 2003 Willis Point, Van Zandt, Texas, United States

I have in my possession the directors' record from 1866 to 1878. The register of persons of school age for the year 1866 - 50 years ago and the names of the parents are as follows: Elizabeth Farris, now Mrs. Alfred Higgs, Amanda Farris, now Mrs. Alfred Cox, Levi Farris; parent Charles Farris. John W. Madison, Hannah Madison, Samantha Madison, Louisa Madison, Alpheus Madison, parent John F. Madison. Harriett Farris, parent Johnson Farris. Samuel Rhodes, John Rhodes, deceased, Jeremiah Rhodes, Winterset; parent Samuel Rhodes. Elizabeth Beedle, Winterset R.F.D, Margaret Beedle, Mabry Beedle married John Rhodes, Dora Beedle married Henry Cox, parent John R. Beedle. Marion Phillips, killed by lightening in Kansas, Agnes Phillips, Portland Ore., Hiram Phillips, Patterson, John H. Phillips, The Dalles, Ore., parent Levi Phillips. James Farris, David Farris, Allen Farris, Eliza Farris, Virginia Farris, parent William Farris. Sarah Gordon, now Mrs. Lorenzo Finney, Winterset, Clarinda Finney, now Mrs. Jester Heaton, Mary Gordon, Milton Gordon, R.F.D. Winterset, parent James Farris Sr. Joseph Atchison, Leander Atchison, parent Robert Atchison. Albert Atchison, guardian. John Cracraft. Charles Waymire, Salem, Ore., guardian, David Barrow. Marion Brown, Greenfield, Iowa, parent Jas. Brown. George Duckett, deceased, Jackson Duckett, Deceased, parent Elizabeth Duckett. Lucy Walker, now Mrs. Chas. A. McCleary, Winterset, parent Allen Walker. Malen Spencer, Laura Spencer, Mary Spencer, Martha Spencer, parent Joseph Spencer.

Any person knowing the addresses of any of the above, or anything concerning them, it will be appreciated by the writer.

From the Directors' record we find that the following persons served as sub-directors of sub-district No. 5.

1865 Levi Phillips; 1866 Robert McDowl; 1867 Charles Farris; 1868-68 Harvey Lee; 1870 James R. Davis; 1871-72 Levi Phillips; 1873-74-75 Jas. H. Farris; 1876 Levi Phillips; 1877 T. S. Love; 1878 Levi Phillips; 1879 to 1885 Abraham Beedle served; L. M. Nolan then followed a few years. Nick Nolan has served most of the time since 1883. Frank McCleary was director and had charge of the building at the new Farris school house.

Many scholars have received their start in education at the Farris, and now are scattered to the four directions of the compass. May the blessings of God be with all wherever they may be.

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## Membership Information

The Madison County Genealogical Society "year" runs from January 1 through December 31.

Dues are \$10.00 per year, per person or \$15.00 for a family membership. A lifetime membership is \$115.00.

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Amount Enclosed:

Membership Rates:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00, single - 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00, family - 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ \$115.00 Lifetime membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ New

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: MCGS - Mail to: P.O. Box 26 - Winterset, IA 50273-0026