MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 26
WINTERSET IA 50273-0026
First Quarter Newsletter 2019

MEETING: Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the Winterset Public Library meeting room. 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 inquires to the above address or to our email address.

OFFICERS FOR 2019

PRESIDENT	Ken Callison
VICE PRESIDENT	open
SECRETARY:	open
TREASURER:	Pat Hochstetler
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	JoAnne Walker open
LIBRARY OBITS:	Shirley Keating Pat Hochstetler
DIRECTORS:	2019 Mike Mahan 2020 Pat Hochstetler 2018 Ida Morse
MADISON COUNTY WEBSITE COORDS:	Kent Transier Linda Smith
NEWSLETTER:	JoAnne Walker Linda Smith

EMAIL: madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY INFO:
www.IAGenWeb.org/madison

Message from Our President

I am honored to have been re-elected as President of the Madison County Genealogical Society. Other members stepped forward to be elected as 2019 Treasurer and for a 3-year term as Director.

We are still looking for two volunteers. One is for our Secretary. The duties are attending meetings, preparing an agenda and minutes, and meeting announcements via email and in the newspaper. If interested, let us know at a meeting or contact me directly. Currently, Pat Hochstetler is taking on Secretary duties along with her Treasurer duties, which we truly appreciate.

We are also looking for a Vice President, who will run the occasional meeting and work with members and others to schedule a program for each month.

Our meetings take place after our program each month. We try to keep our meetings streamlined. You can help by submitting agenda times to the Secretary 10 days prior to the meeting, so they can be included in an email to members. I plan to keep the meetings moving and may cut off discussion on matters not on the agenda, that need to be discussed within a smaller group, or that need to be tabled.

This issue of the MCGS newsletter is filled with resources to help you with your genealogical research. Some may be new to you and others you may have used before but revisiting the techniques again may give you more results. For personal research assistance, be sure to take advantage of the "Genealogy? Help!" sessions held each Thursday at the Winterset Library from 3:00 to 5:00 pm from January 10 through March 28, 2019.

Until later,
Ken Callison
MCGS President

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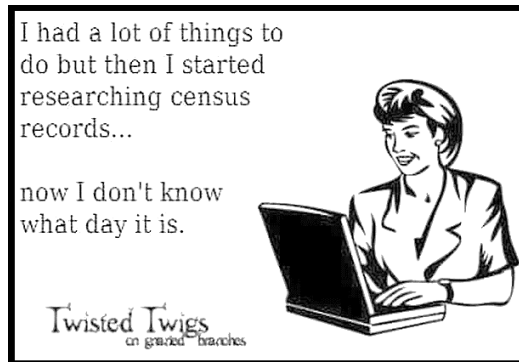
Researching with United States Census Records

By JoAnne Walker, MCGS member

I believe one of the most important parts of anyone's genealogy is the census record. The answers on the record can help tell your family's story and also provide clues that will help you find other records. Our families were always on the move. I like to record the enumeration date (the date they were counted at a location) as I have found families that were counted twice as they moved from one district to another.

The first US or Federal census was taken in 1790. Congress assigned the duty to marshals of the U. S. Judicial Districts under an act governing census-taking through 1840. The law required that every household be visited. The completed census schedules (lists) were to be posted in two of the most public places within each jurisdiction, for the inspection of all concerned. The law further stated that the aggregate amount of each description of persons for every district be transmitted to the president.

Federal censuses are taken each ten years on the "zero' years. Here are some facts about each one.

The **1790** census had six inquiries – the name of the head of the family and the number of persons in each household. Free white males of 16 years and upward, free white males under 16 years, free white females, all other free persons, and slaves. Marshals took the census in the original 13 states, plus the districts of Kentucky, Maine, Vermont and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). The final count was 3.9 million inhabitants.

The **1800** census showed the county of residence and still only the head of household name. The ages for free white males and females were broken down – under 10; 10 thru 15; 16 thru 25; 26 thru 44; and 45 and over. There was a column for all other free persons and a column for slaves.

The **1810** census retained the same format. The only name was the head of household.

The **1820** census had additional columns: foreigners not naturalized; numbers of persons engaged in agriculture; numbers of persons engaged in commerce; and numbers of persons engaged in manufactures. The slave columns for males and females were broken down in ages and there were columns for free colored persons. The only name was the head of household.

The **1830** census had additional columns for white persons who are deaf and dumb, blind, or an alien (meaning an immigrant who had not started the naturalization process). Columns were also added for slaves and colored persons who are deaf or dumb or blind. Still, the only name was the head of household.

The **1840** census only listed the name of the head of household, but added columns for family members engaged in mining, agriculture, commerce, manufactures and trade, navigation of the ocean, navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; and learned professional engineers. There was a column for the name of person if they were in the Revolutionary War or military service and their age. Columns for number of deaf, dumb, blind and insane, white and colored. Section for schools.

The **1850*** census lists the head of household and, at last, the name of each person in said household and their birthplace. Other columns were for occupation or trade of each male over 15, value of real estate, place of birth, and if married within the year.

The **1860*** census has the same format as the 1850 but it adds a column for value of personal property.

The **1870*** census adds a column to check for both father and mother, if of foreign birth. A column shows if the listed person was born within the year or married within the year. There are columns for being in school, literacy, and eligibility to vote.

The **1880*** census added a column for disability and sickness, and columns giving place of birth of father and mother, whether born in or outside of the United States.

Most of the **1890** census was destroyed by fire. at the Commerce Dept. in 1921. Less than 1% survived, covering 6,160 individuals. The 1890 Veterans Schedule , which lists both Union and Confederate soldiers, is available in some states, Nearly all of the schedules for the states of Alabama through Kansas and those for western half of Kentucky[1]were destroyed, but the schedules for the remaining half of Kentucky and the states of Louisiana through Wyoming are available. These schedules give name, rank, company, dates of service and post office address.

The **1900*** census gives month and year of birth, age at last birthday, number of years married, number of children born and number of children still living. There were columns for year of immigration to U.S.; number of years in U.S. and naturalization; education and ownership of home.

The **1910*** census added a column for a survivor of the Union or Confederate army or navy.

The **1920*** census added columns for citizenship.

The **1930*** census asked if you had a radio set. There was a column for veterans.

The **1940** census wanted to know if you had a federal social security number. The person who gave the information on the family is marked with an X that is circled.

These sample layouts were taken from excellent reference material available at Familysearch.org. Though an uncomfortable size to read, they do show how the census information changed over time.

How to Access the Federal Censuses

Images of the actual pages with search capability are available online for each census listed above at these Internet sites. Choose the one that suits your search style, has the years you want, and has tools to help you print or save the results.

Family Search.org - Free from any computer, plus great information about each census

HeritageQuest Online – Free from any computer, with you Winterset Library card number; access it through the Winterset Public Library's website: www.wintersetlibrary.org

Ancestry.com Library Edition - Free within the Winterset Public Library; must use Library's free PCs

Ancestry.com – Paid personal subscription, about $200 per year, then can be accessed from any computer and offers many features beyond the censuses

IAGenWeb.org/madison/ - Here you will find transcriptions of the year above marked with an *. Click on CENSUS RECORDS in the left column. Be sure to check out the article later in this newsletter that describes how the new Composite Census Index can help you delve into these transcribed censuses.

Using Obituaries to Jump Start Your Research

An online dictionary defines an obituary as "a notice of a death, especially in a newspaper, typically including a brief biography of the deceased person." Obituaries have been around for over 200 years, so that covers a lot of family history ground. They can be written by the deceased prior to their death or by a family member or friend shortly after the death. The actual writer is often unknown to us.

Obituaries differ and may range from one sentence to several paragraphs in length. Information may include standard birth, marriage, and death dates and places, and the names of family members. But the writing can also give you a glimpse into that person's day-to-day life by including education, occupation, and affiliations. Don't be surprised if your ancestor is even more illustrious than you imagined. Older obits tend to use flowery language and a broken heart tends to make the obituary sound like a tribute to a saint.

Obituaries often help researchers identify female ancestors' married names. For example, a daughter listed in the 1940 census by her maiden name might be listed by her married name in a parent's obituary years later. Here's another fun fact. If she's listed as Mrs. John Doe, her husband is likely still alive. If she is listed as Mrs. Jane Doe, he likely is not.

But care must be taken with the information since obituaries are most often written at a difficult time. "Trust but verify" with vital records such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, military discharge papers, etc. A grieving family member may not take time to fact check and a grieving memory may not remember dates and places accurately.

So how do you start finding these gems? If you like to work with paper and have access to the Winterset Public Library, MCGS volunteers have thousands of Madison County obituaries alphabetized on index cards plus, more recently, indexed notebooks of larger obituaries and funeral brochures. Over 34,000 Madison County-related obituaries have been posted at IAGenWeb.org/madison/ (Click OBITUARY INDEX in the menu to the left on the homepage.) The explosion of digitized and searchable historic newspapers extends your pursuit into Iowa and far beyond in other states and countries. See this newsletter's later article about online newspaper access.

Anatomy of an Obituary

Here are the most likely facts found in an obituary. This one is a sample of those posted online at IAGenWeb.org/madison/. Many, many thanks go to the dedicated volunteers who have performed for decades the nearly daily job of posting obituaries related to Madison County citizens.
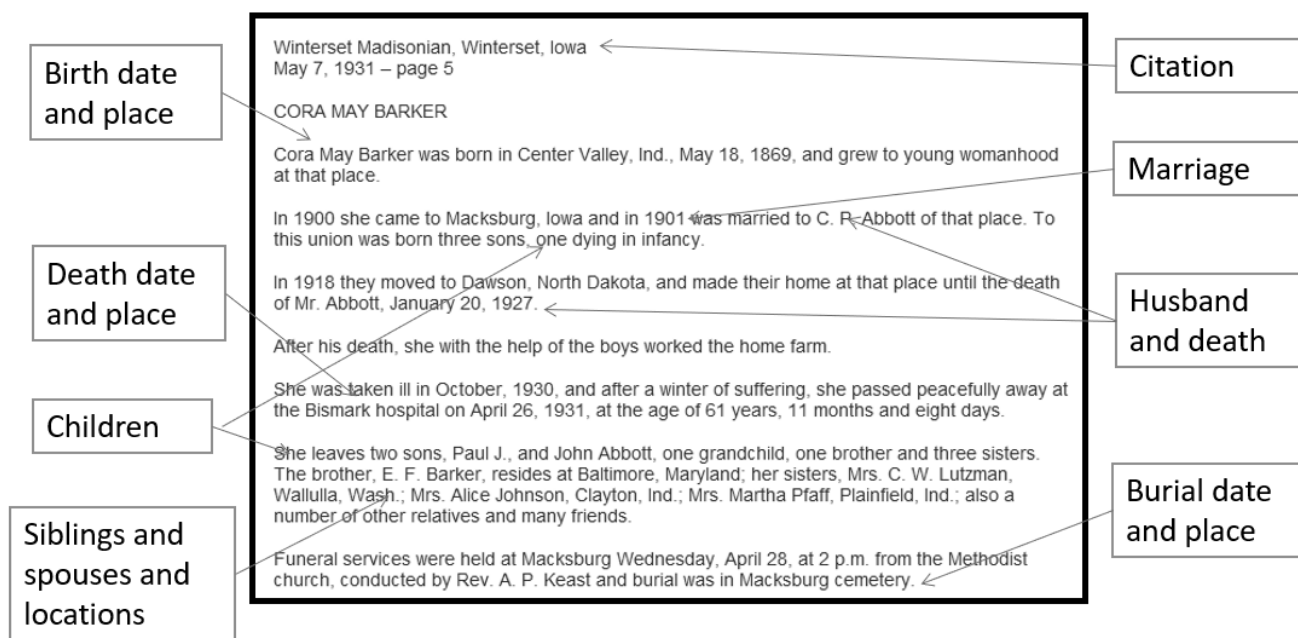
How to Start Organizing Your Genealogy

You can read article after article on how to organize your genealogy papers and files, whether you keep them on paper or on a computer. Often we just need to pull back and look at the bigger picture. Perhaps you have a load of new information that a relative left, photos copied at a family reunion, or our own research work that just piles up. The goal of organization is to be able to find that information without hours of searching. Reading though several of these organization articles show that the following are the basic steps to get you started.

Step 1: Sort Those Stacks of Paper

Go for the biggest divisions first – separate your father's family from your mother's family. Do the same for your spouse's parents, if you are tracking them as well. You can do this in separate boxes, tubs, or even separate drawers in a dresser. Later you can decide how to sort them further. Even if you don't have unsorted boxes of information, you likely have stacks of old research or papers. They will benefit from the same treatment.

One of most popular methods is keeping one family's papers together, starting with their marriage. As their children become adults and marry, they start their own set of papers. Another method is to sort the papers by activity – birth, marriage, military, death, etc. – for those with the same surname across multiple generations. Choose any method that helps you locate the papers quickly when you want to reference them. You may also need some general folders to hold papers that cross several generations for items such as group photos or history on the locations where they lived.

Step 2: Chart What You Know (or Suspect) of Your Family Tree

Two popular charts are the 5-Generation Chart and the Family Group Sheet. Many free ones are available online and can be printed or the Madison County Genealogical Society can provide you with blank copies. Start with the 5-Generation Chart where the first person listed is YOU. Then write in your parents and their parents, if you know that information. Start with a pencil because as you eventually go back through your sorted papers, you may discover new facts. Seeing "who is who" will help you sort the right people together.

Save the Family Group Sheet (details on one family - a father, mother, and children) for a time when you are more thoroughly sorting and separating the papers in Step 4.

Step 3: Create a Research Plan

Sounds complicated, but it's nothing more than your genealogy "to-do list" with a little prioritization. As you sorted papers, you will likely have plenty of ideas of various research paths (aka bunny trails) that you would like to follow. Write each one down before you forget! Then look over the list to mark the questions that are the most important to you right now, but hang onto them all.

Whittle the number of important questions down to 10 or less. Move those to a separate list and add:
- What information you already know or have on hand that will help you find the answer
- What resources you want to check for the answer
- Where those resources are located (Library, familysearch.org, a cousin, etc.)

You may find that a certain place and resource will answer several of your top questions. For efficiency (and that feeling of accomplishment!), start there.

Step 4: Carve Out a Time and a Space

No matter whether it is a bedroom closet or a corner of your basement, having all your genealogy papers, books, and other items together lowers your frustration in finding what you need. Then when you do have time, say Sunday after supper, to work on your family history, your gathered information will all be in one place.

When you begin spending more time in your genealogy space, you will become more familiar with what you have and what you are missing, leading to more lists and more prioritizing. Try sorting down a surname into individual families and begin to use the Family Group Sheet to see what more you would like to know. Read a helpful article online or that you had tucked away. Look up an online resource. You'll know what to do!

Rather than get discouraged, get started!

What's New at IAGenWeb.org/madison/

Composite Census Index

Our IAGenWeb County Coordinator, Kent Transier, created a very useful tool for Madison County family researchers – a Composite Census Index (CCI). He felt the need to replace a Google search that was no longer returning accurate results. This required Kent to create nearly 200 pages from the 150,000 transcribed census entries. Kent, thank you for your many hours of work.

Here's why it is so handy. The IAGenWeb.org/madison/ website contains transcripts of all Federal censuses from 1850 through 1930 and Iowa State censuses from 1849 through 1895. You no longer need to go through the tedious process of opening each census or census index to see if your relatives might be listed. Using the Composite Census Index, look up a surname (and don't forget its alternate spellings) in one alphabetized master list and see all the people with this name and the censuses where they are listed. In the example below, the arrow points to all the censuses where the name CATHERINE BREEN appeared.

Look up and down the surname list for those alternate spelling or other relatives. You may discover some new relatives that you didn't even know you had!

MADISON COUNTY CENSUS RECORDS

Composite Census Index

You no longer need to open each census or census index to locate your relative. For the convenience of our users, we have created a composite of all the Madison County census indices for the transcribed census shown in the table below. Census indices for all Federal censuses from 1850 through 1930 and Iowa State censuses from 1849 through 1895 are now in one alphabetized master list titled the Composite Census Index.

Composite Census Index
Breen - Brobst

Last Name	First Name	YOB	Township/Town	Page	Line	Census
Breen	Catherine	1856	Lee	198	25	1885
Breen	Catherine	1847	Lee	318	2	1895
Breen	Catherine	1894	Lee	318	14	1895
Breen	Cathrine	1856	Lee	227A	39	1930
Breen	Daniel	1882	Lee	198	30	1885
Breen	Daniel	1881	Lee	318	7	1895

(As more Federal and Iowa censuses are transcribed, they will be added to the Composite Census Index.)

Checking Further

Then you can you go looking for family details in just those censuses that are of interest. The census listing to the right is found on the CENSUS RECORDS page along with the Composite Census Index.

Click on each census year that matched the list above for more details on your ancestor and their family. Most have an index page that will tell you which census page you then need to open.

1849 Iowa State Census	1880 Federal Census and Census Index
1850 Federal Census	1880 Federal Mortality Schedule & Index
1850 Federal Mortality Schedule	1885 Iowa State Census & Instructions
1851 Iowa State Census	1890 Federal Census (destroyed by fire)
1852 Iowa State Census	1895 Iowa State Census & Instructions
1854 Iowa State Census & Index	1900 US Census and Census Index
1856 Iowa State Census	1905 Iowa State Census
1859 Iowa State Census	1910 US Census and Census Index
1860 Federal Census	1915 Iowa State Census
1860 Federal Mortality Schedule	1920 US Census and Index
1870 Federal Census and Census Index	1925 Iowa State Census
1870 Federal Mortality Schedule	1930 Federal Census
1873 Iowa State Census	1940 Federal Census

Digitized Newspapers Open a Whole New (or Old?) World

Newspapers have always been a rich source for family history. They not only help us fill in the dates of our ancestors, but they also help us fill out the LIVES of our ancestors. Who did they socialize with? What were their illnesses? What church did they attend? Papers seemed to tell every little detail, whether you wanted them to or not!

Having searchable digital newspapers is a relatively new boost to our research. For decades prior, dedicated transcribers created newspaper abstracts, especially of births, deaths, and marriages. But with online searches, practically every article, event, or advertisement that mentions a relative is available from your computer.

Available Madison County Newspapers

Over 100,000 pages of Winterset newspapers from 1871 to 2003 are available for searching at winterset.advantage-preservation.com. This website also includes known papers from Truro, Peru and Macksburg. It was recently uncovered that issues from The Reporter in the years 1910-1918 exist only in printed form at the Madison County Historical Society, but are not yet accessible online. A study is underway to determine next steps and possible cost.

Earlham Echo issues from 1899 to 1987, comprising over 40,000 pages can be found at earlham.advantage-preservation.com. Recently, 1500 paper pages of the *Earlham Echo* that had never been microfilmed were taken be digitized. They are expected to be online in late February and include weekly papers for the years 1910, 1916, and the mid 1940's plus other single papers.

St. Charles papers are not represented on microfilm or digitized images. If anyone has a stash of historic newspapers around from that city, please contact the Madison County Historical Society or Winterset Public Library.

Surrounding Counties

Some towns in Madison County associate closely with a surrounding county, such as Earlham with Stuart in Dallas County or St. Charles with St. Marys in Warren County. Looking at a surrounding county's newspaper may uncover news items and obituaries about your Madison County relatives. Check these out:

- Clarke - osceola.advantage-preservation.com
- Guthrie - bayard.advantage-preservation.com
- Guthrie - guthriecenter.advantage-preservation.com
- Guthrie - stuart.advantage-preservation.com
- Warren - warrencounty.advantage-preservation.com
- Polk - johnston.advantage-preservation.com
  (northwest suburb of Des Moines)
- Polk - An index of Polk County papers, such as the Des Moines Register and Tribune, is available online at the Des Moines Public Library site. To actually see the articles, you would need to visit the State Historical Library for microfilm or have a paid subscription to Newspapers.com.
- Adair and Union County papers are under investigation. The first step is to determine if the papers were ever microfilmed. If so, then perhaps those communities might be interested in the fund-raising techniques used by Earlham, Truro, and Winterset to make these valuable resources available online.
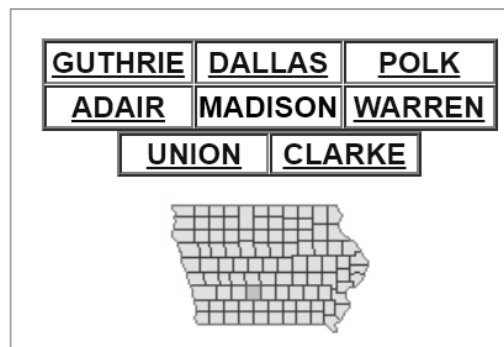
And Beyond …

Advantage Preservation (AP) is working to digitize many Iowa newspapers. AP generally works with libraries in the area, so check online at Iowa libraries in the vicinity you are interested in. Some Iowa newspapers can be found at the State Historical Society of Iowa:
iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections/newspapers/iowa-digital-newspaper-project.
There is also an IAGenWeb special project with very old papers http://iowaoldpress.com/

This trend is underway all over the United States. One terrific newspaper resource is the Library of Congress, available at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. Newspapers across America are at your fingertips.

Bits and Pieces

Reviewing Our January Program

At our January 8 meeting, a delightful and informative presentation was given by Molly Clause, Madison County Historic Preservation Commissioner, and "leader of the charge" to restore Farris Cemetery. This Madison County cemetery is on land once owned by James Farris, an Underground Railroad station agent. The first burial was in the 1850s and the last was in 1932.

Work so far has included unstacking gravestones and returning them to their place, cleaning gravestones, removing the fence in anticipation of a new, sturdier one, and analysis by ground-penetrating radar, that uncovered many more unknown burials than were ever imagined.

If you would be interested in helping with this work or providing monetary support, please contact the Preservation Commission at madisoncountypreservation@gmail.com

Previewing our February 5 Program

Skip Greenwood, MCGS member, will walk us back through his maternal KELLOGG FAMILY HISTORY in Madison County, to the east coast, and beyond. Miles Kellogg, Skip's g-g-grandfather was an early Madison County pioneer, arriving here in 1855. Hearing how he put his family history together may inspire you to do the same.

Our program starts at 7:00 in the Meeting Room of the Winterset Public Library, 123 N 2nd Street in Winterset. Our business meeting follows for those who care to stay. Our program and meeting are free and open to the public.

Time to Renew Your Membership

A new year means it is time to renew your MCGS membership. Single member dues are $10 per individual, family membership is $15.00, and a lifetime membership is $115.00. You may either mail your renewal check (made out to MCGS) to our PO Box or bring it to a meeting.

Membership dues are the way we raise fund to further the work of the Madison County Genealogy Society. Payment will assure that you keep receiving this newsletter and other announcements from the Society.

Interested in a Springtime Cemetery Walk?

Members of the MCGS are planning a walk in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Lee Township on a (hopefully) nice day this coming spring. Records of those buried there and in which row, need to be updated.

If interested, please come to our monthly meetings or contact us at our email address. You will be going with experienced "cemetery walkers" who will show you the easy process. The work will be made light if many are there to help.

Need Help Researching Your Roots?

If you would like assistance with researching your Madison County family history, you can either:
- Mail your requests to the
  Madison County Genealogical Society
  PO Box 26, Winterset Iowa 50273-0026.
- Email your request to our new email address:
  madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com

Our fee is $10 per hour plus copying and postage costs.

Iowa Genealogical Society Spring Conference

On Saturday, April 13, IGS will host Tina Beaird, who is the Genealogy/Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library in Illinois. She will speak on four topics: Courthouse Finds, the Internet Archive website, Your WWI Soldier's Experience, and Unlocking the Treasures Within Midwest Archives and Repositories. The cost is $60 for IGS members or $75 for non-members. Registration can be found at: iowagenealogy.org

Facebook Page for Madison Co Genealogy

MADISON COUNTY IA FAMILY HISTORY has been created to foster discussion about Madison County families and genealogy research on Facebook. Members, numbering 113, are looking for relatives, bragging on their finds, honoring their ancestors, plus sharing tips and other handy genealogy websites.

If you use Facebook, search for MADISON COUNTY IA FAMILY HISTORY, then click "Like".