



**MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
 PO BOX 26  
 WINTERSSET IA 50273-0026  
 Second 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
LIBRARY OBITS:	Shirley Keating Pat Hochstetler
DIRECTORS:	2019 Mike Mahan 2020 Pat Hochstetler 2021 Ida Morse
MADISON COUNTY IAGenWeb COORDS:	Kent Transier Linda Smith
NEWSLETTER:	JoAnne Walker Linda Smith

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MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY INFO:  
[www.iagenweb.org/madison](http://www.iagenweb.org/madison)

## Message from Our President

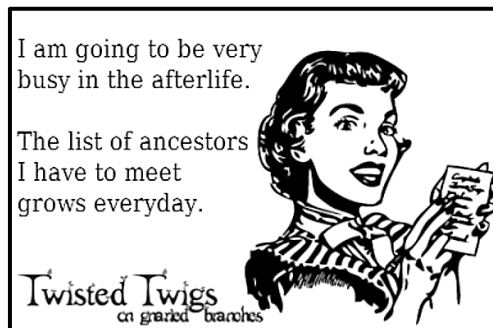
Finally, winter is behind us. Did you find some time to work on genealogy while you couldn't leave the house due the snow and cold... and then the mud? I hope you found new discoveries, wrote on the back of family photos, or organized your paperwork.

We are still looking for two 2019 MCGS officers. The first is Secretary, with duties of attending meetings, preparing an agenda and minutes, and announcing upcoming meetings via email and in the newspaper. We also need a Vice President which is the position that arranges our programs plus runs the meetings in my absences. Only two monthly programming spots are left to fill so that task is nearly complete. If interested, let us know at a meeting or use our email address.

This newsletter had some handy information. The Madison County IAGenWeb website has two new features that may assist your family search. JoAnne Walker continues her excellent analysis of censuses, this time concentrating on those done by the State of Iowa. If you've run across abbreviations that you didn't know, we have an article for that, too. AND we are selling cemetery maps.

It's never too early to start your Madison County Fair entries for the Genealogy Exhibit. The Fair is July 17-21, with entries taken on both July 16 and 17. Pick up will begin at 2:30 pm on Sunday, July 21 due to RAGBRAI preparations. Email MCGS if you would like the entry rules or have any questions. We are looking forward to enjoying your entries.

Until later,  
 Ken Callison  
 MCGS President



## Researching with State of Iowa Census Records

*In last quarter's newsletter, member JoAnne Walker provided some very helpful hints on what information can be found in the various US Federal censuses from 1840 – 1940. This quarter, JoAnne summarizes what she found about censuses conducted by the State of Iowa.*

We will continue with our census review by highlighting the census records taken in Iowa beginning in 1836, ten years prior to Iowa becoming a state. The source of this information is the Iowa Gen Web Census Project ([iagenweb.org/census/priority.htm](http://iagenweb.org/census/priority.htm)). Census years marked with an \* have a transcription and notes available on the Madison County website ([iagenweb.org/madison/](http://iagenweb.org/madison/)).

The **1836** Wisconsin Territorial Census includes the original counties of Des Moines and Dubuque and covered the area that became the Iowa Territory. It showed head of household name and number of males and females within certain age groups. This method of tallying people was followed until 1856.

The **1838** Wisconsin Territorial Census covered an additional 10+ counties that had been formed.

The **1840** Iowa Territorial census covered Iowa's 18 original counties.

The **1841** Special Census listed heads of household and is incomplete.

The **1844** Special Census only covered Keokuk and Johnson counties.

The **1846** Special Census covered Louisa, Polk and Wapello. Madison County's first pioneer settlers were arriving in the spring of this year, but were not part of the count.

The **1847** Special Census covered Clinton, Davis, Louisa, Marion, Johnson, Van Buren and Wapello counties. Madison County is not included, however its boundaries were defined on January 13, 1846, although Iowa didn't become a state until December 26, 1846.

The **1849\*** Special Census covered Benton, Boone, Clinton, Jackson, Louisa, Madison, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren and Washington counties. Madison County was formally organized as a government entity in early 1849 divided into only two townships with a population of 701.

The **1850** Special Census covered Black Hawk, Pottawatomie, Tama, Clarke, Taylor, and Page counties.

The **1851\*** Special Census covered Cedar, Clinton, Decatur, Guthrie, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, Mahaska, Page, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Scott, and Washington counties. Madison County had 6 large townships: Madison, Union, East, Center, Walnut, and South. So, you may find your relative in a township that you didn't expect. The population of Madison County was 1492.

The **1852\*** Special Census covered 46 counties, including Madison. Unfortunately, little exists - just a count of men (954) and women (878) for a total population of 1832.

The **1853** Special Census covered only Warren county, which was not part of the 1852 census.

The **1854\*** Special Census included 64 counties, including Madison whose population climbed to 3122. It only contains the head of household names with counts of males, females, voters, and those eligible for the militia.

The **1856\*** State Population Census was the first to name every member of the household, marriage status, where born, occupation and years of residence in Iowa. Madison County was divided into eight townships, with Winterset counted separately. The total population was 5508.

The **1859\*** Special Census was carried out in most counties. Unfortunately, the only information existing for Madison County are county-wide totals for number families, houses, males, females, acres, crop by type, livestock by type, etc. The population climbed to 7071.

Winterset's 16 townships were in place in 1862 with a 17<sup>th</sup> township, named Center, representing Winterset's boundaries. Sometime after 1915 (and maybe as late as the mid-1960's), Center was disbanded and the land became part of the four adjoining townships: Douglas, Union, Lincoln, and Scott.

An **1873\*** Iowa Census was found for Madison County. It lists only head of household names, numbers of males and females, and a summary of the agricultural information for each township. Madison County had 16 townships plus data was gathered for the cities of Winterset (both North Ward and South Ward) and Earlham. Here is a look at the transcription.

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CENSUS YEAR: 1873					STATE: Iowa				COUNTY: Madison				DIVISION: Crawford Twp.				ENUMERATOR: [unknown]	
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Pg#	Ln#	Dw#	Fm#	Head	WM	WF	CM	CF	Vote	Mil	Frgn	Land	Wht	Corn	Oats	Brly	Wool	Township/W
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1	1	1	1	Carson, A L	2	3			1	1		130		400				Crawford
1	2	2	2	Stout, Elvis	3	6			2	2			170	1500	400			Crawford
1	3	3	3	Stout, John	1	1			1			20	40	800	75			Crawford

Starting in 1885, Iowa began administering a State Population Census every ten years on the “fives” – 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925, then they stopped. Other non-population censuses were occasionally taken – more on those at the end of the page.

The **1885\*** State Population Census covered all townships in all 99 counties. Several Madison County townships are missing from the State of Iowa's official bound volume, so perhaps were never turned in. The missing townships are Crawford, Douglas, Ohio and Madison with the exception of the town of Earlham.

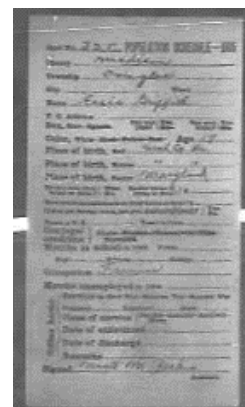
The **1895\*** State Population Census for Madison County includes all 16 townships plus the towns of Earlham, Macksburg, Patterson, St. Charles, and Winterset. Madison County residents living at state institutions are also part of this census. Some interesting topics included in the 35 columns are details of Civil War service, Mexican War service, and religion.

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nknown] MICROFILM: HQ # V221-198 (see also FHL # 1020202)																																	
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CAN RD CANNOT AGE6-17 UN-NATUR 1894 1894 DEAF/																		WAR OF THE REBELLION (CIVIL WAR)										MEXICAN WAR					
MIL	VOTE	NOT	WR	RD/WR	NO	SCHL	FOREIGNR	BIRTHS	DEATHS	DUMB	BLIND	INSANE	COMPANY	REGIMENT	STATE		RANK/ARM																
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34																	
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The **1905** State Population Census, seen at right, was not done in a ledger book but instead on individual cards. They have not yet been transcribed by Madison County volunteers, but can be viewed at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

The **1915** State Population Census was also done on individual cards, hasn't been transcribed by volunteers but can be viewed at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

The **1925** State Population Census contains much more information than the previous two with data running across three pages. Page two lists the name of the individual's parents, their place of birth, and place of their marriage. – gold nuggets for a genealogist! This census is currently being transcribed by Madison County IAGenWeb volunteers.



Non-population census records exist that contain agricultural, industrial, and “mortality” information (those who had died the previous year). The 1850, 1860 and 1870 mortality schedule transcriptions are available on the Madison County IAGenWeb site.

## How to Access the State of Iowa 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.

**FamilySearch.org** – Access is free from any computer. Includes censuses and much, much more.

**IAGenWeb.org** -Special Projects – Iowa Census Project

- List of Iowa censuses and the source for the information above at [iagenweb.org/census/priority.htm](http://iagenweb.org/census/priority.htm)
- Spreadsheets and printable templates of census headings at [iagenweb.org/census/ictempla.htm](http://iagenweb.org/census/ictempla.htm)

**Ancestry.com Library Edition** - Free within the Winterset Public Library; but only when using the Library's free PCs. The 1905 and 1915 Iowa Census images are not available.

**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 Madison County transcriptions of the years above marked with an \*. A transcription is created when someone reads the hand-written original census and types the information to make them more readable. Click on CENSUS RECORDS in the left column.

## **An Opportunity to Assist our Veterans on Memorial Day Weekend**

As you remember your family's deceased members and veterans this Memorial weekend, here are ways that you can become involved in honoring Madison County veterans:

- Friday morning, May 24, 9:30 am - Assist the American Legion as they place small flags on each veteran's grave in the Winterset Cemetery.
- Sunday morning, May 26, 6:00 am - The VFW will be putting large American flags along the roadways in the Winterset Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to breakfast afterward at the VFW hall.
- Monday morning, May 27, 10:00 am – Experience the annual parade of VFW and American Legion veterans, the VFW's Women Auxiliary, local Boy Scouts, and the Winterset High School marching band. The parade begins at the American Legion Hall then they pause at Monumental Park, where they will place a wreath on the Civil War Soldier's Monument and hold a brief ceremony. The parade continues on to the Winterset Cemetery section that holds Civil War veterans, where the VFW Women's Auxiliary will present a brief service. Continuing on to the upper portion of the cemetery, two wreaths will be placed at the WWI Soldier's Monument and a memorial service will be held.
- Monday mid-to-late afternoon, May 27 - The VFW would like your help with taking down the large American flags in the Winterset Cemetery. This work will begin earlier if rain threatens.
- Tuesday morning, May 28, 9:30 am - The American Legion would appreciate assistance in picking up the small flags at each veteran's grave in the Winterset Cemetery.



# Handy Abbreviations and Terms

When reading old letters, wills and probates, or historic newspapers, you may run across these commonly used abbreviations and terms. If any genealogical or abbreviations have you stumped, visit this free page provided by ancestry.com at [support.ancestry.com/s/article/Glossary-of-genealogical-terms](http://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Glossary-of-genealogical-terms)

## Time

**Inst.** – abbreviation for the English word *instant*, a term used to refer to the current month. For example, a newspaper article published in May that prints “12th inst.” means May 12th.

**Prox.** – abbreviation for the Latin word *proximo*, meaning “next.” This is used in newspapers to indicate the coming month. So “5th prox.” in a May newspaper would mean June 5th.

**Ult.** – abbreviation for the Latin word *ultimo*, referring to the previous month. A May newspaper that prints “28th ult.” is referring to April 28th.

**c.** - or **ca.** – abbreviation for the Latin word *circa*, meaning “about” or “around.” Generally used in conjunction with years. For example, ca. 1900 means “sometime around 1900.”

## Surnames

**Née** – Means “born” from a French term. It is used to indicate a woman’s maiden name. The phrase “Jane Johnson nee Doe” means that she was Jane Doe before she married.

**a.k.a.** - An abbreviation that means “Also Known As” and describes an alias or nickname for a given name. For example, it could be written as “John Doe Jr. aka Junior.”

## Relationships, Wills and Probates

**testator** - name for the person whose wishes are outlined in a will.

**exec or exor** - abbreviation for executor, a male appointed by a testator to carry out the directions and requests in his or her will, and to dispose of the property according to his or her wishes after death.

**exox.** – abbreviation for executrix or female executor.

**Et al** or **etal** – Means “and others” from the Latin phrase *et alia*. It is often seen when land is involved, such as this real estate transfer, “Elson Robertson etal to M.A. Gifford, 80 acres section 13 Douglas, \$4000.”

*The reader might like to know that was a 1917 price.*

**Et ux** or **etux** - abbreviation for the Latin words *et uxor* meaning "and wife." It is usually found in deeds, tax assessment rolls and other documents in the form "John Alden **et ux**," to show that the wife as well as the husband are represented.

**Relict** – abbreviation for the Latin words *relictus* meaning “relinquished” or “left behind.” It is used to refer to a surviving spouse, often a widow.

## And for extra fun

Ahnentafel, as in an “ahnentafel chart” or “ahnentafel list”, is German for "ancestor table" and is a genealogical numbering system for listing a person's direct ancestors in a fixed sequence of ascent. The subject (or proband) of the ahnentafel is listed as No. 1, the subject's father as No. 2 and the mother as No. 3, the paternal grandparents as No. 4 and No. 5 and the maternal grandparents as No. 6 and No. 7, and so on, back through the generations. Apart from No. 1, who can be male or female, all even-numbered persons are male, and all odd-numbered persons are female. (*borrowed from Wikipedia*)


**Wanna know how to pronounce it?** Go to Google, type in “pronounce Ahnentafel” and an audio file will play someone saying it.

# What's New at IAGenWeb.org/madison/

## Divorce Index

In early 2015, a dedicated group of MCGS members went through Madison County court records stored in small dusty metal drawers in the Madison County Courthouse and pulled out all 868 divorce records. They then carefully unfolded the pages, sneezed a bit, and put them in file folders within archival quality file boxes. The records now reside in the Clerk of Court office along with guardianships and wills/probates that received the same tender treatment years ago. They also created an index of what they found and it is now available to you.

Under DIVORCES on the left side of the home page, you will find a list that shows which files are available in the span of years from 1852 through 1939. If you would like to have a copy of the papers within the actual file, see page 8 of this newsletter on how to contact the Society and our researching fees.



DIVORCES

A - B

C - D

E - G

H - J

K - Mc

Me - Q

R - S

T - Z

C - D

Plaintiff	Defendant	Date	Case No.
Cain, Zayda	Cain, Carrell	1936	16414
Call, Christina	Call, Walter E.	1906	9401
Campbell, Gladys	Campbell, Carl	1927	14033

## Try out the New Madison County Family Tree

New obituaries are processed each week by MCGS volunteers and County Coordinators. Birth, marriage, death, and burial information from those are added to the Madison County Family Tree at [iagenweb.org/madison](http://iagenweb.org/madison). As a result, an immense family tree of over 93,000 individuals has been created. Have you used this resource? To do so, click on the tree icon on the left side as you scroll down the homepage.



The MCFT has long been displayed by Rootsweb platform for free, but in late 2017, Ancestry.com purchased Rootsweb and the Madison County Family Tree disappeared. After several months, ancestry.com released it so the MCFT could once again be searched and viewed. However, it no longer displayed the ongoing weekly updates being made. It was beginning to look like they never would. Then another snafu took place, the software used to build the MCFT, Family Tree Maker, would no longer accept new information. So, what to do?

Your County Coordinators decided that it was time for both new software to build the tree and a new platform to display it. RootsMagic ([rootsmagic.com](http://rootsmagic.com)) was chosen since it can perform both functions. Rootsmagic has the software features needed AND has a free online platform so that all information and updates can be seen via the Internet.

It looks quite different so we encourage you to view the Help page to assist you in tapping into all the valuable information within the Madison County Family. There is a Name Index with a search by surname or first and last name. Once you choose a person, you have three different views: 1) an Individual view, 2) a Pedigree view, and 3) one or more Family views. Look to the browser that you choose to use (Bing, Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc.) for the print and save capabilities.

When the tree was started, over 20 years ago, sources were not included. In the past few years, sources have been added as there was a reason to visit any particular branch of the tree. The goal is not to source every fact but to source at least one as a clue to assist you in your search for more information about your ancestor.

*(from the Fold3.com March e-newsletter)*

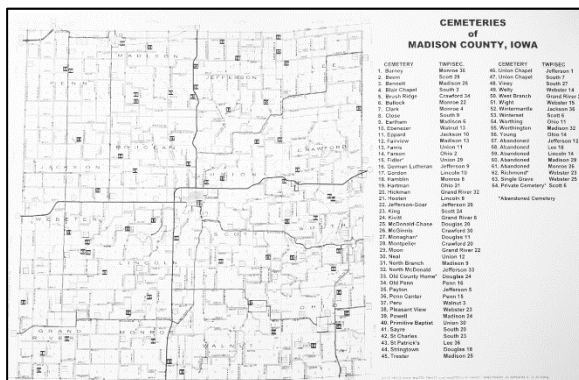
For example, if you are searching for a WWII veteran, you might search for records like Unit Histories, Missing Air Crew Reports, Draft Registration Cards, WWII Diaries or Air Force photos. Keep in mind that until 1947, the US Air Force was part of the US Army (United States Army Air Force – USAAF).

Here are a couple restrictions to keep in mind:

- Due to the Privacy Act of 1974, military records for service after 1957 are only available to the veteran or next-of-kin from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), a division of the National Archives. More information on the NPRC can be found at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>.
- On July 12, 1973, a massive fire broke out at the NPRC in St. Louis, Missouri. It burned for 22 hours and destroyed 16-18 million military files. Records affected included 80% of Army files for Personnel discharged between November 1912 – January 1960; and 75% of Air Force files for Personnel discharged September 1947 – January 1964. No duplicate copies of these records were ever maintained. These lost records certainly present a roadblock, but other available record sets can help you construct a military history.

Do you need a Madison County cemetery map? Through our generous County Engineer office, we have reprints of our map that will help you find the way to each cemetery plus provide details on each one.

Any amount you would like to donate above the \$2.55 per map would be appreciated and will be used to further the work of the Madison County Genealogy Society. Thank you!





## Bits and Pieces

### Save These Dates

May 7 - "It All Started with a Pathetic Obit". Linda Greethurst, Iowa Genealogical Society instructor, will again delight us with a story about finding your family. Using a newspaper, she will dissect the information to pick up those tidbits that "fill in the gaps" of an individual's story.

June 4 – This program has not yet been determined.

Do you have a family find, story, or experience you'd like to share? If so, we'd love to have you speak to the group. Just drop us an email.

July 2 – Our annual "Show and Tell" meeting for assistance with County Fair entries. You can get a head start on the narratives, tags, and paperwork needed to accompany your entries.

July 17-21 – Madison County Fair, including our Genealogy Exhibit. Entries will be taken Tuesday evening, July 16, and Wednesday morning.

### KUDOS to MCGS

The hard work of our members brought these encouraging comments our way:

*"I cannot thank you enough for your hard work! This is lovely and exactly what I am looking for. I have been on other IAGenWeb sites but have to say none as nice as yours. In fact, I had given up on them as they frequently did not have the information I required to back up my research. Kudos to those who have given their time and energy for Madison County. Thanks again!!"*  
D.M.

*"I congratulate you on a really good newsletter. [First Quarter 2019] I printed off a lot of the information for further reference. Thank you for your effort."* H.S.

### From Iowa Genealogical Society

FamilySearch has just updated their 1940 US Federal Census at familysearch.org. You may have viewed the census as soon as it was released a few years ago, but new features have been added. Now you can search by residence in 1935. Or you can search by any household member.

Familysearch.org is a free website, although it does ask that you set up an account, using your email address. *[Editors have not experienced any annoying follow-up emails.]*

### More Earlham Echos to go Online

An additional 1500 pages of the Earlham Echo should be online in May, 2019. The extra pages include some or all of the years 1910, 1916, 1940, 1943- 1948, and 1950, along with scattered dates from 1958-1961.

You will find these plus issues from 1899 to 1987 at [earlham.advantage-preservation.com](http://earlham.advantage-preservation.com).

### New Family History in Winterset Library

"The Wachter Family: Switzerland to America, ca. 1775 – 2004" was donated by Sandy Day of Ohio. The work was done by her husband's cousin Bill Holder who descended from the Wachter or Weachter family. They were early settlers of Madison County, arriving in 1857.

Sandy also donated 5 charcoal drawings of the family to the Madison County Historical Society. She said, "Thank you so much for your interest in my husband's family history. Please accept this gift as a token of the extended Waechter family that once lived in your county."

### 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](mailto:madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com)**

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

### 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".