



MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 PO BOX 26
 WINTERSET IA 50273-0026
 First Quarter Newsletter 2021

MEETING: In the future, our meetings will resume on 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 2021

PRESIDENT	Ken Callison
VICE PRESIDENT	Skip Greenwood
SECRETARY:	Linda Smith
TREASURER:	Pat Hochstetler
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	JoAnne Walker Linda Smith
LIBRARY OBITS:	Shirley Keating Pat Hochstetler
DIRECTORS:	2022 Ida Morse 2023 Open 2024 Open
MADISON COUNTY IAGenWeb COORDS:	Kent Transier Linda Smith
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WEBSITE: madisoncountyiagenealogy.com

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

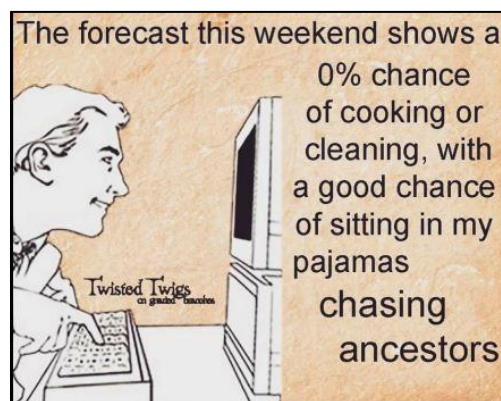
New Year Tips and Techniques

The start of a new year is generally a time to reflect on how the year has gone, and what we are looking forward to in the coming year. It's also a time when we check in with ourselves and see what we can improve on in the future.

For most of us, this was NOT the year for New Year's resolutions. Daily life is currently providing many restrictions, though we look forward to a brighter future. Even if we have changes we want to make, that may not be possible immediately. For example, spending more time in the gym is literally, "easier said than done."

This **Tips and Techniques** issue of the MCGS newsletter will provide you with activities to try while you are in a holding pattern. If motivation is escaping you, there is a **Do One Thing** article to get you started. If you need to get a handle on what research you have done and what is needed by individuals, the **Rounding Our Your Research** and reproducible Research Checklist inside should help. The **Food for Thought** article presents six ideas for new habits you may want to adopt. And who doesn't think saving money is always a good idea? The list of items in **Online Genealogy on a Budget** may help.

And if you haven't renewed your MCGS membership, **please do!** We wish you all the best in 2021!



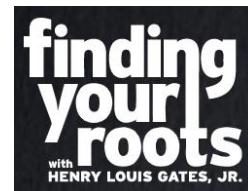
Do One Thing

It's really *NOT* the year to make a lot of resolutions for major undertakings since we are constantly having to make changes (or make no changes, such as staying put) due to the Coronavirus. But we all like to feel we are being productive and making progress. Here's a method that might help you achieve some of your family history goals in 2021.

The "Progress Principle" is a theory that progress in the form of small wins can boost your motivation and result in many more steps being taken. Here are some small wins of "one things" that might put you on the path to invigorating your genealogy work and lead you to new discoveries.

Watch a TV Show.

Check your Public Broadcasting station schedule to find when "Finding Your Roots" with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is shown. Some NBC affiliate stations may have either "A New Leaf" or "Roots Less Traveled" 30-minute shows on Saturday mornings as part of their *The More You Know* programming block. Watching one episode may provide an idea or inspiration for your own search.



Check out a book from your library.

Family histories or obituary notebooks are often not available to check out but there are other possibilities. Look for books that teach you about Irish heritage, how to get organized, online genealogy, DNA basics, etc. Or check out a fiction or non-fiction book that tells the story of a time and place where your ancestors live. Be sure to call ahead for your library's hours and method of obtaining books. If you have online access to your library, many provide a link for you to read magazines online that have a genealogy or history theme.

Dog-ear an (electronic) page.

It's hard to bend the corner down on a computer screen but you CAN add a bookmark to a useful Internet site so you can find it again easily. Once you find that helpful site that you want to visit again, look in the upper right corner of your screen for a settings menu where you can bookmark the screen you are viewing. The icons you see will differ due to the browser you use, but click what's there and you'll find it.

Play with your phone.

Download an app to your smart phone that would assist you in your search. If you aren't sure how, ask the nearest teenager. Here are some examples of searches to use in your iTunes or Google Play Stores:

- *scan to PDF* for an app to turn your phone into a single or multi-page document/photo scanner.
- *genealogy podcasts* shows a variety of audio conversations on a variety of topics you can enjoy anytime.
- *ancestry academy* provides free high-quality videos on a wide-range of family history topics

Check the app's rating and read a few comments to see if it would be useful to you.

Make a copy.

Download your phone photos to your PC for a backup. The cord you use to recharge your phone has a USB connection end that will fit in your computer. Then the phone is just another storage drive of information that can be accessed. The screen will likely display a pop-up menu asking if you'd like to make a copy. Organizing your photo on your computer is often easier than on your phone. And it's always more convenient to work with photos you have, rather than the ones that were lost when you misplaced your phone.



Type in a Madison County surname.

A yellow rectangular box with a green border. At the top, it says "SEARCH THIS SITE" in green capital letters. Below that is a white rectangular input field. At the bottom, there is a grey button with the word "Find!" in white capital letters.

If you have ancestors in Madison County, type just their surname into the yellow search box at IAGenWeb.org/madison. A list of all the places that surname is stored within the site will appear for you to investigate. Maybe you've missed a vital record. Or you may find an obituary for someone unknown to you but your family is listed as a relative. That may lead you on a path to meet family members you weren't aware of.

More Madison County Family History Digitized

In 2020, the Madison County Historical Society continued their commitment to digitize Madison County history to make it available online, free and searchable for anyone with an Internet connection. Let's review what was added over the last 18 months:

- All Winterset High School yearbooks from 1915 to 2020.
- 1984 *History of Madison County Iowa* – nearly 400 pages of family history written by the families plus historic information on churches and organizations.
- *through the seasons, Winterset Iowa* – a compilation of family histories from throughout the county written in 1999 for the 150th anniversary of Winterset and Madison County and Winterset.
- *Images of Our Past* – Also created for 1999, this is a rare pictorial record of Madison County.
- Rev. Cal Ogburn's *Boyhood Days of An Old Hawkeye* and his *Log Cabin Days* tell of life in southeast Madison County during the late 1800s.
- Additional years, 2004-March 2019, of the *Winterset Madisonian* (courtesy of the Winterset Public Library, a generous digitization partner)

In progress are Madison County plat books for 1875, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1912, 1918, 1925, 1933, 1943, 1951, 1956, 1966, 1970, and 1975. The text in the more modern plats will allow surnames to be searched. The 1966 plat map is also filled with photos of family, farms, and churches.

What's next? The Madison County Historical Society plans to digitized centennial books and other history books from towns within Madison County in 2021, plus newer issues of the *Winterset Madisonian*. And Advantage Archives, the parent company promises a new website look this year, too. Start your adventure at winterset.advantage-preservation.com

Rounding Out Your Research

In our 2020 first and second quarter newsletters, we discussed the usefulness of two forms: Family Group Sheet and 5-generation Chart. Both of these are available to download at no cost at many genealogy websites or can be downloaded from the MCGS website MadisonCountyIAGenealogy.com.

We want to point out another form that focuses on a single individual and helps you determine if there is more information you may need to gather.

This form (on the next page) is provided free by the Midwest Genealogical Center in Lee Summit, Missouri. This

Library, dedicated to the genealogy of middle America and beyond, is a lovely place to visit in person. Or you can take advantage of what they offer free on their website, including access to many helpful databases. If you are interested in their resources beyond what is provided for free, you can purchase access to all online capabilities for \$30/six months.

Make copies and use the form however it works best for you. Start by noting what you have on hand and where you have it stored. Mark out areas that are not applicable. Use the blank back for taking notes, listing sources, recording where you want to look next. Then you can easily see what information is missing and determine what is needed to round out your family research. Then decide where to keep the form so it will be a handy reference. Perhaps, keep them in alphabetic order or file with that family's documents.

Research Checklist



MIDWEST
GENEALOGY
CENTER

Name: _____

Vitals:

Birth: _____

Marriage: _____

Death: _____

Location: _____

Location: _____

Location: _____

US Census Records:

1790: _____

1800: _____

1810: _____

1820: _____

1830: _____

1840: _____

1850: _____

1860: _____

1870: _____

1880: _____

1890: _____

1900: _____

1910: _____

1920: _____

1930: _____

1940: _____

State/County Census; Agriculture, Mortality, & Slave Schedules:

Birth Records:

Birth Certificate: _____

Delayed Birth Certificate: _____

Baptism/Christened: _____

Adoption: _____

Death Records:

Death Certificate: _____

Funeral Home: _____

Obituary: _____

Cemetery: _____

Gravestone: _____

Marriage Records:

Marriage Certificate: _____

License: _____

Newspaper: _____

Divorce Decree: _____

Divorce Petition: _____

Military Records:

Branch of Service: _____

Enlistment Card: _____

Wars Fought: _____

Pension Application: _____

Widow's Pension: _____

Probate Records:

Will/Administration: _____

Property Inventory: _____

Guardianship: _____

Estate Sales: _____

Land Records:

Deeds: _____

Abstracts: _____

Plat Map/County Map: _____

Land Patents/Grants: _____

Other Records:

Social Security No.: _____

Church Membership: _____

Family Bible Record: _____

Passenger List: _____

Immigration: _____

Naturalization: _____

City Directories: _____

Voting Records: _____

Tax Lists: _____

Court Records: _____

Children's Vital Records: _____

Food for Thought: New Year, New Habits

Whether you are a beginning genealogist or experienced at digging into your family history, there are certain habits that will help you no matter if you prefer to work with paper or a computer, are searching birth records or death records, research with others in your family or work alone. Practicing them will allow you to know what you've found previously, find it when you need it, and use it to make better discoveries. See if you need to adopt or increase your commitment to any of these.

Pardon the references to food, but it's winter and comfort food predominates all thoughts.

Keep a List of What You Need



If you go to the grocery store without a list, two things happen. You come home with things that caught your eye that you really don't need and you don't come home with what you intended. Whether you are working at home or visiting a library, a research to-do list with what you need will help you "bring it home." Like most grocery lists, it doesn't have to be fancy; just whatever works for you. And checking things off, feels *so* good.

Clean as You Go

Just like when you are making a meal at home, it works best to clean as you go. Then there is no huge mess to dread. Set aside a few minutes at the end of a research session to organize your work. Follow the other habits listed here to clear your workspace. It's bound to jump start your next genealogy working session with working papers you can find and a plan of what you want to "cook up" next.



Label What You Put Away



Have you ever put something in the freezer thinking you'd remember what it was only to thaw it later as "mystery meat?" Your research, without a label of basic information – family surname, date, the source where you found it – can easily later look like a mystery you are not sure what to do with. The treasures buried in unlabeled notes will be lost and your time wasted.

Get Rid of Anything Past its Expiration Date

Like a refrigerator that occasionally needs to be purged, so does your research. If cleaning as you go hasn't been practiced, then you likely have a huge pile of research (in paper or electronic form – they both accumulate) to evaluate. Keep a trash can handy. Consolidate what you can. Put it where it belongs. Next time, you'll be able to find what you need more quickly.



Store Like with Like



You wouldn't put a canister of flour in one kitchen cupboard and a canister of sugar in another. Chances are, since you often use them together, they are sitting side by side in one space. Put all the photos from one family together. Put all your working papers for a family together. Put all the church directories, news clippings, and letters for one family together. It will make your research easier when you can put your hands right on what you need.

Skip the Gadgets

Remember the Salad Shooter? It promised fun every time you made a salad. But the awkwardness of cleaning and storing made it lose its luster. So too with unnecessary organizational supplies. Don't stock up on 3-ring notebooks until after you have gathered what will go inside. A new bookshelf is of little use if all you do is stack more piles of paper on it. Start by using various items you have on hand - file folders, tubs, , a study box - to be sure what method will work best for you. New purchases won't fix old habits.



Online Genealogy on a Budget

We all know that we *spend* a lot of time if family history is your entertainment or passion. But you don't have to *spend* a lot of money to have access to valuable resources. Here are some genealogy money-saving techniques to keep your research on budget.

Find free websites

There is no end to these, which can be overwhelming. But the good news is that whatever topic you may be interested in – church records in Virginia or a county history from where your great-great-grandparents lived – it's probably out there. See what you can find for no cost before you spend any money subscribing to paid websites. Iowa county genealogists seem pretty dedicated to the IAGenWeb free platform to store their records. Other states may, too, so try MNGenWeb for Minnesota, INGenWeb for Indiana, etc. Or google "Indiana genealogy" and explore all the options.



Cast your net a little wider to include state government and national websites for vital records and more. For Iowa, visit <https://iowaculture.gov/history/research/collections>. At the federal level, visit the National Archives and Records Administration at [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov). And don't forget the motherlode of genealogy data – always free – at [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org), which holds much of what is offered by paid subscription site, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

Visit the library

See if your public library has free access to paid genealogy websites. At the Winterset Public Library, you can access [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)'s library edition (It's missing family trees and photos) at their computers.

Don't pay for information that is free. With your library card number, you can access [HeritageQuest.com](https://www.heritagequest.com) at the library or from your tablet or computer at home. For example, [HeritageQuest.com](https://www.heritagequest.com) has US federal census data, so a paid subscription isn't necessary to look for relatives in Iowa or other states.



Don't forget state libraries and state museums for online collections of vital records and more. Plus, the federal government's websites, which you pay for through your taxes, are full of information. The Library of Congress ([loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov)) and their newspaper collection [Chronicling America](https://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov) ([ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov](https://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)) are both free to access and contain thousands of historical documents, photos, and newspaper pages.

Access paid subscription sites for free

Sound too good to be true? Well, there are several ways you can use their records for free, if you watch for limited-time offers.

- The paid sites always offer some content for free, such as their catalog of books and online training classes. For example, [MyHeritage.com](https://www.myheritage.com) allows you to enhance and colorize a handful of photos before membership is required.
- Sign up for a free trial period. Then dedicate some time to use the subscription since it will only last one to four weeks, depending on the site. This allows you to glean what you need or to test drive their collections to see if a full subscription would be worthwhile. Be diligent in cancelling, because they often ask for your credit card when you sign up.
- Look for times when paid websites open up collections for free for a limited time. [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com), a site known for its US military records, often does this around Memorial Day or Veterans Day.

Findmypast.com occasionally makes such offers. To know when these freebies are offered, check their websites occasionally or follow them on Facebook.

Wait for DNA discounts.

If you are interested in DNA testing, and you may want several since they differ, wait for a sale. The most popular services usually have deep discounts around holidays: Thanksgiving, Mother's Day, etc. where they are nearly 50% off.



Store your research in genealogy software instead of online family trees.

Paid genealogy websites tout their online family trees and there certainly are advantages. They do the work of finding relatives who may be part of your tree then send you hints so you can decide to attach the information. How nice to have elves working behind the scenes! But if you are more interested in just your *branches* (direct ascendants) rather than your *bush* (every cousin-in-law for generations), their hints can be overwhelming. Or maybe you have security questions about an online tree.

An alternative for paying a genealogy site to serve as custodian for your family tree is to install genealogy software on your home computer. Then rather than an annual subscription fee, you will pay a much smaller one-time payment. Software fixes are almost always free and occasional new versions are offered for a reasonable fee. Rootsmagic, Family Tree Maker, and Legacy are all examples used by many researchers.



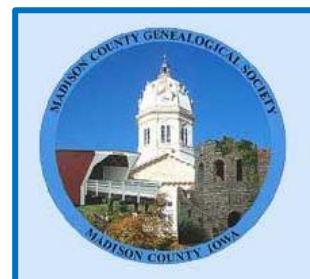
Genealogy software program are always adding new features such as creating a website to easily format, display and selectively share your family tree. Software likely has better print options than online trees, too.



Membership Information

The Madison County Genealogical Society "year" runs from January 1 through December 31. Please cut and mail in this form with your dues or bring them to the January meeting.

- **Annual Dues are \$10.00 per year, per person or \$15.00 for a family membership.**
- **Perhaps it is time to consider a Lifetime Membership at \$115.00.**



Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: _____

Membership Rates: (check one)

Address: _____

_____ \$10.00, single – 1 year

City: _____

_____ \$15.00, family – 1 year

State: _____

_____ \$115.00 Lifetime Membership

Phone: _____

Is this a

E-Mail: _____

_____ Renewal or

_____ New membership?

Please make checks payable to MCGS and mail to: Pat Hochstetler, 1475 Cottonwood Ave, Dexter IA 50070

See You Later in 2021



The MCGS has cancelled 2021 meetings until further notice. At some later date, we hope to go back to our usual schedule

of monthly meetings held at 7:00 pm at the Winterset Public Library on the first Tuesday of each month. As before, they are free and open to the public. Come join us and bring a friend.

Need Help Researching Your Roots?

Member of MCGS are still doing limited research from their computers and occasional visits to our County offices. 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 any copying or mailing expenses.

Meanwhile, We Can Still Connect

- Email: madisoncountygenealogy@gmail.com
- Website: madisoncountygenealogy.com. The Contact Us form will also send us an email.
- Facebook: Madison County IA Family History holds general genealogy tips and queries from others.
- Mail your requests to Madison County Genealogical Society at PO Box 26, Winterset Iowa 50273-0026.



IAGenWeb/madison News

Did you notice the two 2020 **milestones** listed?

- Over 35,000 obituaries are now on line
- It's had 500,000+ visitors from 57 countries

Censuses are now being displayed in a new format with more finding aids to help you discover more about your family. The site where they were previously displayed seemed to have no one maintaining it any longer so no updates could be made. Now the data is held by our IAGenWeb County Coordinators. Many thanks to Kent Transier who has spent countless hours reformatting the data and building new alphabetical indexes. He has corrected errors then move hundreds and hundreds of files to the Internet to assure all visitors easy access and accurate data.

1860 Madison County Census

Find your ancestor using the [1860 Census Main Index](#) link and then go to the table below, find the Town/Township, then the page number, and then click on the Town/Township name in the cell directly to the left of the page number

Town/Township	Pages	Town/Township	Pages
Center Twp S1	25, 26, 27, 28	Madison Twp S1	13, 14, 15, 16
Center Twp S2	29, 30, 31, 32	Madison Twp S2	17, 18, 19, 20
Center Twp S3	33, 34, 35, 36	Madison Twp S3	21, 22, 23, 24
Center Twp S4	37, 38, 39, 40	Ohio Twp S1	85, 86, 87, 88
Center Twp S5	41, 42, 43, 44	Ohio Twp S2	89, 90, 91, 92
Center Twp S6	45, 46, 47, 48	Ohio Twp S3	93, 94, 95, 96
Center Twp S7	49, 50, 51, 52	South Twp S1	57, 58, 60, 62, 62
Center Twp S8	53, 54, 55, 57	South Twp S2	63, 73, 74, 75
Center Twp S9	58, 59, 64, 65	South Twp S3	76, 77, 78, 79

Iowa Genealogical Society Spring Conference

Saturday May 1, you can see well-known national speaker and professional genealogist, Thomas MacEntee. He will be presenting four sessions of spot-on genealogy techniques to move your family search forward. Registration is \$75 for non-member and \$55 for members. Read all about it at www.iowagenealogy.org.

In our May newsletter, look for
Connecting with Family Members