



MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Winterset, Iowa

Newsletter: Second Quarter, 2021

MEETINGS: Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in the Winterset Public Library meeting room. We meet at 6:30 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 inquiries to PO Box 26, Winterset IA 50072 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 |
| MADISON COUNTY IAGenWeb COORDS: | Kent Transier Linda Smith |
| NEWSLETTER: | JoAnne Walker Linda Smith |

EMAIL: madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com

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MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY INFO:

www.iagenweb.org/madison

No Exhibit at the Madison County Fair

The MCGS had decided NOT to host their Genealogy and History Exhibit at the 2021 Madison County Fair.

To all who have worked, contributed, or enjoyed the display in the past, we sincerely thank you.

Message from Our President

Greetings Fellow Members,

The last year with this Covid-19 mess seemed like a long slow decade. It looks like it is slowing down now so we are starting to make preparations to begin to get back to normal. (Who knows what normal will ever be from here on out?) Hope this finds you and your family well. Several of the Madison County genealogical physical research locations are opening up, so it will be time for you to get fired up for doing actual on-site research.

We all have a favorite research story. I have mine and am taking a gamble that you will enjoy it. (See page 6.) You are all invited to submit stories for printing in future newsletters. I look forward to seeing yours!

Here's hoping that you are able to get going and are able to find a great treasure. God bless!

Until later,
Ken Callison
MCGS President

This Issue Connecting with Family

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Local Research Locations

In-person visits are once again welcomed at the following locations in Madison County. Some hours are still changing, so it would be wise to check the website or make a phone call before you visit.

Winterset Public Library

Mon-Thurs: 9am-6pm, Fri: 9am-5pm, Sat: 9am-1pm
wintersetlibrary.org; 515-462-1731

Earlham Public Library

Mon-Thurs: 10am-7pm, Fri: 10am-5pm, Sat: 9am-noon
515-758-2121; www.earlham.lib.ia.us/

St. Charles Public Library

Mon: 10am-6pm, Tues & Thurs: noon-8pm, Sat: 9am-noon, Sun: 1-5pm 515-396-2945
stcharlesiowa.org/town-departments/library/

Madison County Historical Complex Resource Center

Mon-Sat: 11am-4pm, Sun: noon-5pm
515-462-2134; historyonthehill.com

County Clerk of Court (Courthouse)

Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm; 515-462-4451

County Recorder (Courthouse Annex)

Location: NW corner of Court and Second Avenue
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm; 515-462-3771

Connecting with Family Using DNA Matching – A True Story of Success

By Kent Transier, Madison County Coordinator, IAGenWeb Project

If you've been searching for a long lost relative without much luck and have wondered about the use of DNA testing to break the proverbial brick wall, the truth is that you may well break it. DNA testing really does have the possibility of making a connection with relatives behind that brick wall.

A few years ago, I was asked to submit a family tree to this newsletter for my wife, Julee (Wissler) Transier whose relatives (Wissler, Roseman, and Schnellbacher) came to Madison County as early as the 1850s. Unfortunately, I could only submit half a family tree because Julee's mother was adopted and we had little knowledge of that side of the tree.

Our story starts in 1910 when Julee's mother, Helen Veronica Ellis, was born in Des Moines at the Salvation Army Home for unwed mothers. No birth certificate was ever found but we had adoption papers from the home stating that Helen started life as "Mary Watkins" and her mother's name was Bertha Watkins, no father named. Family lore was that Bertha was a secretary and the father was a student at Drake University. Mary was adopted 3 weeks after birth by Rev. Lloyd & Blanch (McCoy) Ellis who renamed her "Olive". In the 1915 Iowa Census she appeared as "Helen" and that became her legal name in 1918. Helen grew up in various small towns around southern Iowa as her adoptive father was assigned to preach. Helen had a good childhood and was married to James Donald Wissler in Appanoose County in 1936.

Throughout her life, Helen declined to investigate her biological ancestors, stating that her adoptive parents were the ones who loved her and raised her and that was all that mattered. Her husband did a little poking around in vital records out of curiosity and found nothing. When I started working on a family history for Julee in 1978, whose Wissler relatives came from Ohio to settle in Webster Township, Madison County, I also kept an eye open for any Bertha Watkins whom I thought could be a match. My criteria was a young single woman, age 18 to 30 who lived in Des Moines in 1910. I found two ladies named Bertha Watkins who met the criteria but I was never able to tie either of them to the birth of Helen.

Fast forward to 2017. Both Julee and I had submitted DNA samples to "Tribal DNA" in 2014

with interesting but not really useful results with respect to finding long lost relatives. So, in 2017 we decided to submit DNA samples to Ancestry. Julee started getting matches immediately, as much of her family had settled in America in the 1700s. Most of the hits were 3rd, 4th, 5th and beyond cousins. The closer hits were all relatives we knew of and could place in the already developed Wissler family tree. And then in October, 2018 she got a match identified as a 1st or 2nd cousin (sharing the same grandparents or great-grandparents) whom we did not know.

Fortunately, the matching person had a family tree on Ancestry and in perusing it, we found a person named "Bertha Watkins Franzenberg". Was this Julee's long lost biological grandmother?

We contacted the matching cousin, explaining what we knew and asking for more details. Since nobody in that family had any inkling of Helen's existence, we were first met with much skepticism. We forwarded copies of the adoption papers and then



a good friend who was following the situation found two articles in a 1910 Des Moines Register detailing the disappearance of Bertha Watkins from her place of work and then her family finding her at the Salvation Army Home. The story was in the newspaper because Bertha's father was a prominent Des Moines physician. And, our newly found match turned out to be a first cousin whose grandmother was Bertha (Beck) Watkins but was from a different grandfather, thus giving a 1/8 DNA match rather than what would normally be a 1/4 DNA match.

As it turned out, Bertha Watkins was born Bertha Beck, daughter of Dr. James W. & Alice (Ludwig) Beck. She married Mac Watkins in Des Moines in 1902, had three children by him but then he died in an electrical accident in Portland Oregon in 1905. Bertha moved back to Des Moines and lived with her parents until she remarried to a Franzenberg in 1915 and thence had five more children. Helen thus had 8 half-siblings and those eight had 30 children so Julee gained 30 new first cousins through this DNA match.



The cousin who was the initial match had seven siblings. Of the 8 siblings, one lived in St. Louis, five in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee and two in Ashville, North Carolina. We were invited to

Tennessee in May of 2019 to meet some of the new family. Six of the first cousins were able to be there and they were six of the nicest, warmest, loving people you could possibly ever hope to meet.

And what of the two Bertha Watkins we found in the 1910 Iowa census? Neither one was our Bertha Watkins. Our Bertha was counted in the census but living with her parents and using her maiden name, Bertha Beck.

So if you are thinking of submitting your DNA to find some long lost relative, give it a try; it can have some really positive and interesting results. As for which DNA service you should use, either Ancestry or 23&Me will give you lists of matching relatives. My brother used 23&Me and I used Ancestry and there were no surprises between the two results.

Connecting with Family at Family Reunions

Whether you are planning a family reunion or just planning to attend, you can gain and provide genealogical information to your family by trying out the suggestions below. If some technology is involved that you are not familiar with, be sure to reach out to younger family members to engage their services. You just might hook them on searching for their family history and plant a budding genealogist.

Bring your photos as conversation starters

We are naturally drawn to photos – Am I in them? Is my family in them? Do I look like my ancestors? For your photos, be sure to list details on the back (a #2 pencil seems to be the favored method). Include who is in the photo, where they are and the estimated date and your name as owner. If others would like a copy, their phone can be a quick method to take an image of both the photo and the information on the back. Encourage family member to bring along their photos and you may discover some new family information, too.

Capture Family Stories

A reunion is the ideal time to capture family stories on audio or video. Nothing compares to hearing the story straight from your uncles about the time their grain truck, pressed into use hauling a bull, hit a covered bridge, threw the driver on the switch to dump the grain, and resulted in a confused bull sliding down to the tailgate.

If wondering where to start, you can easily find family interview questions online. Or why not ask attendees to submit their questions for a Q&A with Grandpa later in the day. Most smartphones have a built-in app to record audio or a free app can be downloaded. Videos are also easy to record but take up lots of space, so you may want to enlist someone with cloud backup. Once captured, there are various ways to archive and share with others.

Create a Visual Timeline

Group-source the creation of a family timeline. Roll out a long length of craft paper or use the back of a large roll of Christmas wrapping. Draw a horizontal line through the middle lengthwise. Mark the far left with the earliest significant family date you know, such as the birth of a great-great-grandparent. Divide the timeline into decades, using your best guess for which decades may need more space for entries. Have everyone write in special dates – births, marriages, graduations, return from war, deaths.

Imagine the conversations this will generate! (Be sure to capture those!) Assign someone to be the keeper of the timeline and bring it to future reunions. Perhaps they will recreate it in a neater format on another roll. At the next reunion, add paper and continue filling in dates as the family grows and changes.

Connecting Your Family to Early Madison County Events

As can be imagined, many of the customs and organizations that the settlers left behind when they moved to Madison County needed to be re-established in their new home. This list appeared in early newspapers and the 1879 *History of Madison County* and has been updated here to include more information. Which of these can you connect to your Madison County ancestors?

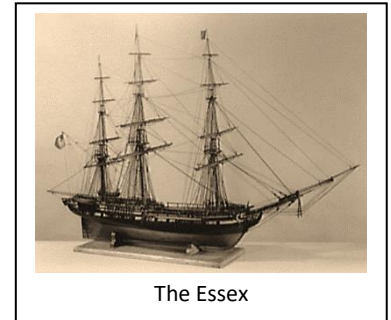
| | |
|----------------|---|
| January, 1846 | County laid out by Iowa Legislature |
| April, 1846 | First settler Hiram Hurst arrives |
| January, 1847 | First child of settlers born, Mary, daughter of Caleb and Ruth Clark |
| 1847 | Primitive Baptist Church organized north of Winterset |
| 1848-1849 | Emigrants with “gold fever” passed through on their way west |
| January, 1849 | Madison County officially organized by State Legislature |
| January, 1849 | First political contest for county positions |
| April, 1849 | First marriage of David S. Smith and Jane Cason |
| May, 1849 | First court was held in a store/saloon |
| Summer, 1849 | Methodist Episcopal Church organized |
| June, 1849 | The Great Snake Hunt, eliminating 3750 snakes in one day |
| July, 1849 | Winterset located in the center of Madison County |
| August, 1849 | The first lots in Winterset were sold for \$3 to \$28 |
| February, 1850 | The first land entered, selected in Douglas and Madison townships |
| 1850 | First courthouse, built as a log cabin in what is now Monumental Park |
| 1850 | First frame house constructed; previous homes had been made of logs |
| November, 1852 | First Presidential Election held; favoring Franklin Pierce |
| 1852 | Disciple church organized in Winterset |
| July, 1853 | Christian Church organized in Winterset |
| August, 1853 | Evening Star Lodge A. F. and A. Masons organized |
| October, 1854 | Presbyterian church organized in Winterset |
| January, 1856 | Baptist church organized in Winterset |
| Summer, 1856 | First newspaper, the <i>Iowa Pilot</i> , published in Winterset |
| 1856 | County Agricultural Society organized and annual county fairs begin |
| 1858 | First Teachers’ Institute held for teachers across the county |
| October, 1867 | Dedication of the Soldiers Monument placed in Monumental Park |
| 1868-69 | First limestone courthouse is built in Winterset’s town square |
| 1872 | The first railroad train arrived in Winterset |
| October, 1875 | Stone courthouse, framed entirely with wood, burns in four hours |
| 1876 | Second limestone courthouse built in same spot, with brick framing |

Connecting with Family Through Movies, Books, and Boston

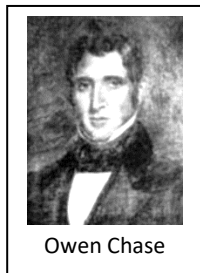
By Linda Griffith Smith, Madison County Genealogical Society Member

I have a second cousin, Bill Chace, who lives in North Pole, Alaska. (Really, there is one; its zip code is 99705.) Our Madison County Chase grandparents were siblings who grew up on the farm across the road from the McDonald-Chase Cemetery in Douglas Township.

In 2013, Bill and his wife, Joyce, were back here making a visit to family sites and he challenged me to find out if we were related to Owen Chase, a whaler/seaman born in 1797 in Massachusetts. He wrote a book in 1821 called *Narrative of the Most Extraordinary and Distressing Shipwreck of the Whale-Ship Essex* on which he was first mate. That true story of a sailing ship destroyed by a whale and Owen's harrowing experience of being adrift in a small boat for 96 days was one of the influences for Herman Melville's classic book *Moby Dick*. So, at that time, I took a cursory look for any family connection to Owen Chase but there are innumerable Chases in early New England, and I couldn't tell just which dangling threads of the various Owen Chases to pursue.



In 2019, the 1956 Gregory Peck movie "Moby Dick" happened to be on TV during supper which inspired me to take another look. I searched online for OWEN CHASE with MOBY DICK. That led me to articles about the 2015 movie "In the Heart of the Sea" which mentioned a 1981 book called *Stove by a Whale* that contained Owen Chase's *Narrative*. I searched online for STOVE BY A WHALE, I found a preview at goodreads.com in which I could read a few paragraphs about Owen's lineage, but what the book termed as an "indispensable" family diagram was in Appendix H and unavailable to me in the preview. So I purchased the book and found more details about the given names in Owen's family line.



A trip to Boston was ahead where I had already planned a day at the New England Historical Genealogical Society to look at another family line. Instead, once I was in their 7th floor library, I tapped into the online version of the *New England Genealogical Record*, where in 1933 the Chase family was well documented, going all the way back to their arrival in America. I was able to trace both Owen in Massachusetts as well as Augustus Chase, our great-great-grandfather who arrive at his Madison County, Douglas Township farm in 1852. Now I had the relationship to the Madison County Chase line. Owen is a 5th cousin to William Asa Chase, Augustus' son and our great-grandfather. That makes Bill and I related to Owen as "5th cousins, 3 times removed."

But I found even more in-depth information about the Chase family. The first Chase in our line, William, arrived in America in 1630 with Governor John Winthrop to settle the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The *Record* included page after page on William's descendants. I now have the name of each couple from William Chase born in the 17th century to Bill and I, born in the 20th century. The Chase name followed the generations in our line all those years to Bill. (Though, he spells it Chace, due to a Madison County land dispute between Chase brothers in the 1800's. But that's another story.)



And I still need to check out the movie "In the Heart of the Sea." Chris Hemsley plays Owen Chase. Oh, my!

Kind Words for the MCGS Newsletter

Ken Callison received an email in October, 2020 from MCGS member, J. Rod Rood. He is historian for the families: Beverly, Emerson, Clark, Robinson, Powell, and Delong (plus a connection to Macumber, as does Ken).

I am always impressed with each MCGS newsletter that you folks publish each quarter. Your messages to each member are always so uplifting. As a lifetime member, I look forward to reading each issue. I am anxious to follow the many links and hope to find some family treasures. I also really enjoyed the first color edition!

I was particularly impressed with the efforts of the many people who have worked so hard to restore and preserve Madison County's many pioneer cemeteries. This work recalled to mind the following quote. "Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals." Sir William Gladstone

Connecting with Family Through Persistence

By Ken Callison, Madison County Genealogical Society Member

I became fascinated with the study of history at a very young age. All through my school years I would read completely through the history text books, usually during the first week of classes, reading them as most people would a novel. History grades were never difficult; often I received 100% for the semester.

Because of this love of history, genealogy was a natural hobby for me. I first became exposed to genealogy when my only sibling, a sister, Kaye, had an eighth grade social studies project to research her family history and complete a pedigree chart. I became so fascinated that I actually began working on it also. Lo and behold five years later, I had the same instructor, Mr. Robert Cable, with the same assignment and I was able to turn in paperwork that was more complete than Kaye's, thus when I tell you that I have worked on my genealogy since I was nine years old, believe me!

My favorite genealogical story starts with just a casual discovery while I was working on a separate project and evolved, like so many of our genealogical pursuits, into a whole separate quest.

I would like to set the stage with a little background on my family. My great-great -great grandparents were Anthony CALLISON (ca. 1765-1844) and Abigail McCLUNG CALLISON (ca. 1775-1834) of Virginia.

One of their sons was Isaac CALLISON (1804-1880), my great-great-grandfather. Isaac had ten siblings: Abraham (1797-1853), Margaret (1801-1871), Joseph (ca. 1800- ca. 1893), James (ca. 1800-1872), Anthony Jr. (1809-1844), Elisabeth (1811-1838), Elisha (b.1812), Israel (1814-1870), Abigail (1818-1877), and Julia Ann (ca. 1820-1880).

Isaac married Huldah HICKMAN CALLISON (1806-1888) and their son, Woods Bradshaw CALLISON (1838-1925), is my great grandfather. Woods was born in Knox Co., Illinois and married Delilah Ann BABBITT CALLISON (1840-1911). Delilah was born in Fulton Co., Illinois, to James (1813-1885) and Mary Ann RANDALL BABBITT (1818-1893).

I was re-examining material that I had researched on my great grandfather's (Woods Bradshaw CALLISON) family as I was trying to trace his brothers and sisters. In the process I was reviewing his wife's obituary (Delilah Ann BABBITT CALLISON), when I noticed a notation in an accompanying newspaper story in the *Winterset Madisonian*, about people attending the funeral from out of town and saw where a cousin Susan C. GALBRAITH from Emerson, Iowa attended. In a passing thought I did not recognize the GALBRAITH name as any that I was familiar with in the CALLISON family.

Several months later while doing research on Isaac's brother Israel's family, I was reading the 1918 obituary of Israel's son in law, John Wesley KNIGHT (1835-1918), married to Israel's daughter Margaret Abigail CALLISON (1842- 1927), which appeared in the Red Oak, Iowa newspaper. There it was again, Susan C. GALBRAITH from Emerson, Iowa a cousin. In another article in the *Winterset Madisonian* about a family gathering of the CALLISONs, Susan C. GALBRAITH was again mentioned as a cousin from Emerson, Iowa. That was the spark that caused the curiosity of a genealogy nut to take over. **Who was this woman?**

I had no record of any GALBRAITHs in the family. How was she a cousin? I assumed at that time cousin meant a 1st cousin. To be a true 1st cousin she had to be a child of a sibling of Isaac CALLISON and I had no record of any Susan C. to any of the brothers and sisters of Isaac. Who was this woman?

Visiting Mills County, where Emerson is located, I found a grave for a John GALBRAITH, died 13 Sep 1920, who was buried alone (a possible clue). Using this possibility I went to the Glenwood (also in Mills County) newspaper microfilm for September 1920 and found the obituary for John GALBRAITH. In it was mentioned that he was still in mourning for his wife, the former Susan Catherine BABBITT, who had passed just months prior.

Another big clue was, as mentioned earlier, Woods CALLISON (my great grandfather) was married to a BABBITT. But wait a minute, was Susan a cousin on the Callison side or not? Was there a BABBITT connection on the Israel CALLISON or KNIGHT side, where she attended a wedding? **Who was this woman?**

I began searching the Glenwood newspapers again and found the obituary for Susan C. GALBRAITH (07 Jan 1854 – 29 Apr 1920). In the obituary it stated she was born near Covington, Fountain County, Indiana (clue) and moved to Illinois where she married James BABBITT (1851-1895) on 10 February 1875. The BABBITTs and the CALLISONs were both from Knox and Fulton Co., Illinois. The obituary further stated that her maiden name was Susan Catherine HARDISTY. Hold it, there is no record of any HARDISTYs in my CALLISON files! Don't you just love second marriages?

I returned to each of Anthony and Abigail's children and traced where they went after they left their native Virginia.

- Abraham was missing.
- Margaret married William BURNSIDE and went to Fountain Co., Indiana and then to Knox County,

Illinois. I had no record of any HARDISTYs in their family down to the 20th century.

- Joseph CALLISON married Elizabeth BRIGHT and they and their family moved out West, with no HARDISTYs there before the 20th Century.
- The same history was found for James and Caty BEARD CALLISON whose family stayed in the Virginia and West Virginia area.
- Anthony Jr. married Martha McNeel HILL and moved to Fulton Township, Fountain County, Indiana.
- Elizabeth CALLISON married Jonathan JORDAN, had two sons and died in 1838 in Virginia.
- Elisha CALLISON married Caroline and had a daughter born 1848.
- Israel married Mary Galen BRIGHT and wound up in Knox County, Illinois.
- Abigail married James GAY and wound up in Fountain County, Indiana with four children.
- Julia CALLISON married William Woods POAGE (Colonel C.S.A.) and remained in the Virginia area.

I still had no HARDISTYs in the family tree.

Who was this woman?

Margaret, Anthony Jr., Israel, Abigail, and Isaac all had connections to Fountain Co., Indiana and Knox County, Illinois. I really felt that the connection had to come on one of Isaac's sisters because of the age of Susan C. HARDISTY BABBITT GALBRAITH. I eliminated Margaret, Elizabeth, and Julia because they were still with husbands or deceased by the time of Susan's birth. I was close to assuming the connection was through either Abigail or Anthony Jr.

Anthony died 27 March, 1844, so did Martha remarry? Could Martha have remarried and her children still call the Callisons cousins? On the other hand, there was no record of Abigail's husband James GAY after James Jr. was born in 1849, could he have died or taken off as a 49er? Both Abigail and Anthony Jr. were connected to Fountain Co., Indiana so guess where I went with my research?

Looking for Fountain County, Indiana records, I found a record of Anthony Jr.'s widow's death and she was buried as a CALLISON with her obituary not mentioning any HARDISTYs. That eliminated Anthony's Jr. and his widow, so I turned back to Abigail.

After Anthony, Jr.'s death in 1844, I found a marriage record for Abigail CALLISON married June 28, 1850 to John HARDISTY. **VOILA!** I had solved my genealogical itch. Not only did I find the identity of a new cousin, I found that her children are double cousins because Susan's first husband and the father of her children is a cousin on the BABBITT side, and are CALLISON cousins on Susan's side. Don't you just love second marriages?

As a continuing sub story to this tale, some months later, at the Iowa State Historical Library in Des Moines, I was doing some further research on the CALLISONs and going page by page through unindexed county histories for Knox and Fulton Counties, Illinois. For some unknown reason my eyes stopped on a biography of William Tell MOORE in the 1885 Knox County history. William Tell MOORE (1845-1925) was married to Elizabeth Jane HARDISTY (1852-1919), sister to Susan Catherine GALBRAITH. The article also mentioned that her she and her parents were natives of Fountain County, Indiana.

After rechecking Susan's obituary, I found that W.T. (William Tell) MOORE and son Lon (Len) from Dexter, Iowa had attended her funeral. A review of Elizabeth's obituary revealed that she and her family had moved to Penn Township, Madison Co., Iowa in 1892.

While tracing Elizabeth HARDISTY MOORE's descendants I discovered I knew many of them having played with them when young, taught swimming lessons to several, and transacted business with a few. Some played on sports team with my son, and I was friends with them. The MOOREs are buried in the Dexter, Dallas County, cemetery which is just across the county line from Madison County. There are still descendants living in Madison County, thus the Madison County connection continues.

Sixteen Plat Maps Now Available at Winterset.advantage-preservation.com



Selected Madison County plat maps have been digitized in color and are now searchable. The entire plat book, including any history, listing of farmers, advertisers, etc. can be viewed and printed. Successful searching will depend on the typeset or if handwritten. Browsing page-by-page is enjoyable, too. Much family history can be gleaned from these valuable resources.

The fully-digitized plat maps are for the years 1875, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1912, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1933, 1943, 1951, 1956, 1960, 1966, 1972, 1975.

We're Baaaack!

The MCGS will resume monthly meetings beginning June 1, 2021. As before, meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month at the Winterset Public Library meeting room. **The start time has been changed to 6:30 pm.** The Library recommends face-masks and there is plenty of room for social distancing.

We plan to have occasional programs but our first meeting will be a chance to catch up on what genealogical adventures we've all had over the last 13-months since we last met.

Please mark your calendar with our future dates:
July 6 -- August 3 -- September 7

Wanna Walk a Cemetery?

One of the long-time passions of the Madison County Genealogical Society is to record the information on and take a photo of each gravestone within our nearly 60 cemeteries. The information is shared at iowagravestones.org where over 30,000 Madison County photos and gravestone inscription are shown.

In addition, the Winterset Library contains notebooks, by cemetery, with an alphabetical listing of burials and, for some, a row-by-row listing to help find a specific grave. Inscriptions are generally included.

The MCGS has scheduled a cemetery walk on Saturday, May 21, 9:00 am at the McGinnis Cemetery, 7 miles east of Winterset, just south off Turkey Ranch Hill. We will be taking new photos of each gravestone. Current phones and cameras record the GPS coordinates, which is transferred to the iowagravestones.org website when the photo is uploaded. This will be a big help to those trying to find individual graves. Join us and learn this simple process.

Request for Assistance

MCGS member Kelly Farlow (kefarlo@gmail.com) is looking for information on Absolom Farlow (b.1805, d.12 Feb.1892) and his wife Sarah Martin Farlow (b.1815, d.01 April 1890). If you can assist, please email Kelly.

IAGenWeb.org/madison/ Passes Review

Each spring and fall, the website that contains Madison County vital records, census transcripts, and much more is reviewed by the IAGenWeb organization. The review measures several criteria: broken links, new data sets, ease of use, etc.

The website passed inspection. The reviewer provided these glowing statements: "Madison is a shining star in the sky of genealogy resources!", "The site is pleasing to the eye, easily read and nicely organized." and "I am impressed by the amount of data on this site."

Many of you contribute obituaries, cemetery information, and ideas, so this is a reflection on your work as well. The Co-coordinators, Kent Transier and Linda Smith echo these words from the reviewer, "Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the IAGenWeb Project!"

Release of 1950 Census

There is a comprehensive article explaining what to expect and how to prepare for the 2022 release at: <https://stevemorse.org/census/1950census.htm>

MCGS Membership, By the Numbers

Thank you to all who renewed their annual memberships. We appreciate your interest in and support of Madison County genealogy. Here's the makeup of our members.

Annual memberships number 22,
of which 8 are local and 14 live away.

Lifetime memberships number 23,
of which 12 are local and 11 live away.

We would love to have more local members who are interested in walking cemeteries and taking photos or gathering local data to place online. You can live anywhere and help with researching Madison County residents, entering older obituaries, or creating entries for our IAGenWeb.org/madison website. Just drop us an email with your interest.



If you use Facebook, "Like" **MADISON COUNTY IA FAMILY HISTORY** to join the discussion about Madison County families and tips about genealogy research.