



## MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 26

WINTERSET IA 50273-0026

Third Quarter Newsletter 2021

**MEETING:** 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. NOTE NEW TIME.

**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 Open 2023 Open 2024 Open
MADISON COUNTY IAGenWeb COORDS:	Kent Transier Linda Smith
NEWSLETTER:	JoAnne Walker Linda Smith

EMAIL: [madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: [madisoncountyiagenealogy.com](http://madisoncountyiagenealogy.com)

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY INFO:

[www.iagenweb.org/madison](http://www.iagenweb.org/madison)

## Message from Our President

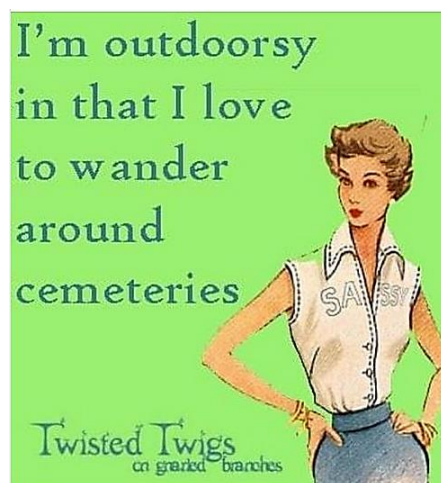
Greetings Fellow Members,

I am thrilled that the Madison County Genealogical Society resumed meeting in June after 15 months with little contact. In our meeting, we got reacquainted and shared our genealogy finds and flounders while the group was on hiatus. We also decided to change our meeting time to 6:30 pm from 7:00, for convenience, and to have occasional programs as we become aware of topics of interest.

One activity has already been undertaken. Five members met in the mist on Saturday, May 22, and “walked” McGinnis Cemetery in Crawford Township, Section 30. In mid-June, another group of five met at the Peru Cemetery to do the same. Peru is a large cemetery so we only got a start, but by the time of this newsletter, all 1600 graves will be checked.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to Pat Hochstetler who is leading this work and training the rest of us to assist. She is also updating the associated documentation for each cemetery and helping others learn to upload photos to [iowagravestones.org](http://iowagravestones.org).

Until later,  
Ken Callison  
MCGS President



This Issue  
**Cemetery Walks of all Kinds**

## What's It All About, Genie?

Hopefully, some of you recognize this nod to the movie title “What’s it All About, Alfie?” Perhaps you were wondering what the Madison County Genealogical Society is all about. Our bylaws, written in 1978 defines our membership as those:

... interested in genealogical, biographical and historical research.

1. To create and foster an interest in genealogy.
2. To gather and preserve genealogical and historical data particularly with respect to ancestors and early settlers of our county.
3. To aid individuals in their genealogical research and in compiling their family histories.
4. To establish and maintain a genealogical library through contributions, donations and exchange.

All four of these interests are represented in this newsletter, which concentrates on Madison County cemeteries , from walking them to gather information to accessing the online records created from those walks.. MCGS has been fortunate to engage new volunteers for our walks, which have a goal of gathering and preserving the genealogical and historical data on our gravestones. The work accomplished will certainly aid individuals with their own research and compiling of their family’s history. The Winterset Public Library holds information on each cemetery with constantly maintained documents of an alphabetical listing of gravestones and burials. In addition, there is a printed row-by-row list of gravestones for most cemeteries, which can be very handy to consult before heading out to any cemetery. MCGS also maintains complete online lists of burials at [IAGenWeb.org/madison/](http://IAGenWeb.org/madison/) (See CEMETERIES in the menu to the left and gravestone photos and transcriptions at [iowagravestones.org](http://iowagravestones.org)).

The Madison County Genealogical Society membership is certainly living up to its stated interests.

## Headed to the Cemetery? Pack your bag

This handy list was provided by MCGS member and long-time-cemetery-walker, Ida Morse. We can all benefit from her vast experience. First rule: DON’T GO ALONE and carry your cell phone.

Take the following items when walking and reading gravestones.

- Sun protection – hat and sunscreen, maybe even an umbrella
- Gloves - cloth or rubber kitchen gloves
- Bug spray
- Drinking water
- clipboard and paper, or a notebook, and pencils or pen. You may want to use a string to tie them together.
- Knee pad to kneel on for a better view the gravestone engraving
- Waterproof shoes for wet ground due to rain or morning dew
- A digital camera for photos
- A hand whisk to brush away grass clippings
- Loping /pruning shears or hand snips to remove unwanted plant growth.



Also, if you want the best photos, timing is important. Cemetery gravestones usually have the engraving on the west side of the stone (the bodies generally lie to the east). So photos of the stones are often best when taken in the afternoon with the sun at your back. Although, you have to watch for that your shadow doesn’t cover the stone. If you go early, you will be facing the sun. Cloudy day are ideal.



## A Summer of Cemetery Walks – Feet on the Ground

If you would like to know when the MCGS is walking their next cemetery visit our website or Facebook group MADISON COUNTY IA FAMILY HISTORY. If the day comes and you are not sure if the weather will permit a walk, email the MCGS at [madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com).



Peru Crew: Sherry Miner, Darlene Miller,  
Linda Smith, and Pat Hochstetler



Jared McDonald, Director of the Madison  
County Historical Complex assisting a family  
member with a gravestone rubbing.



Skip Greenwood and  
Helen Sellers were in  
the crew at McGinnis



We were pleased to see that the chemical known as D2 worked as well on gravestones as we had heard. This one changed from grimy to glistening in under one week and with very little effort.

## Using iowagravestones.org – Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

In keeping with our theme of Cemetery Walks, you might want to let your fingers “do the walking” to find your own ancestors in Madison County at iowagravestones.org. This site is updated with information from local volunteers who have contributed 30,000 Madison County photos, gathered over many years. The IAGenWeb Coordinators review each new entry for consistent data and add a link to the person’s obituary, if available, for even more helpful information.

So, you can search and visit your Madison County ancestors’ gravesites from your desk or armchair with your computer or smart phone. If you are visiting a cemetery on foot, having a photo of what you are looking for can be very helpful. For example, when staring at a cemetery full of gravestones, it’s nice to know that what you are looking for is large and made of red granite. Newer entries have GPS coordinates attached so your smart phone can lead you to nearly the exact spot. Here’s how to use iowagravestones.org.

### Search:

- In the Find records within field, click the dropdown arrow and select **Madison County**.
- For the two fields to the right, you can choose one or both to search a surname, given name, or a cemetery name.
- You only need to enter the first portion of a name in these field, such as **johns** for Johnson and Johnston or **stins** for Stinson.

**Select:** All names that match your search field will appear alphabetically by first name. There can be multiple pages. Find yours and click on the name field to see the gravestone photo and transcription.

Total Matches: 2		
Name	Location	County
<a href="#">STINSON, John</a>	<a href="#">Primitive Baptist Cemetery</a>	Madison
<a href="#">STINSON, Margaret</a>	<a href="#">Primitive Baptist Cemetery</a>	Madison

**Results:** The gravestone photo and a transcription of the gravestone and a photo will appear. There may also be a link to their obituary, which is a project in progress.

- To print: Click **Printer Friendly View** (below photo) if you would like to print just the gravestone photo and information, without all the iowagravestones.org background.
- To locate the gravestone using GPS: Click on the **red pinpoint**. Google Maps will appear and show you a nearly exact location. Note, only new photos have this feature. Of our 30,000 online gravestones, 99.5 percent were gathered before this GPS capability was added. Updating all of them will be a multi-year (multi-decade?) project.
- If you see errors, click the **Add a Post-em Note** tab and enter your explanation. An IAGenWeb coordinator will follow-up with you.




## LARRY Q BREMAN

**McGinnis Cemetery**  
**Madison County, Iowa**  
 Uploaded 6/18/2021

b. Jan 08, 1934  
 d. Nov 09, 2015

[See Obituary](#)

Map Location:  
 [41.35246, -93.89349](#)


### More Genealogy Info

- [Iowa Genealogy](#)
- [Madison County Genealogy](#)

### Locate Iowa Ancestors...

If you are doing Iowa research, you should visit [IAGenWeb](#) -- a prime source for Iowa genealogy records, family history, ancestor obituaries, other Iowa

Gravestone Photo   [Add a Post-em Note](#)   [About This Site](#)




[Printer Friendly View](#)



## An iowagravestones.org Bonus – WPA Cemetery Records

In 194x, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in place to employ Americans with all types of skill , but no jobs. One of their projects in Madison County was to walk each cemetery and create an inventory of each burial. This resource may be helpful in the cases when a gravestone may have existed when our cemeteries were inventoried by the WPA, but then disintegrated prior to the MCGS walking and recording information for each cemetery after 1978.

It is also accessed from the iowagravestones.org front page or directly at iowawpagraves.org. The search fields work similarly as described above. Click the Submit button and a list of information will appear.



## WPA - Work Projects Administration 1930's Graves Registration Survey

[Search](#)   [Post-em Notes](#)   [WPA History](#)   [FAQ](#)   [Volunteers](#)   [Contact Us](#)      34


Search 656,621 Genealogy, Family History and Ancestry Records within 82 Iowa Counties.

### WPA Record Search... ( Enter What You Know )

Last Name:

First Name:

County:

 A Note About WPA Accuracy

Surname	Given Name	Born	Died	Cemetery	Location	County	Comments
<a href="#">STINSON</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1845	1929	Primitive Baptist	Union twp	Madison	Co. F 7th Ia. Cav. Civil War
<a href="#">STINSON</a>	<a href="#">Margaret</a>	1820	1908	Primitive Baptist	Union twp	Madison	

Clicking the name provides a printable page. Read the note about WPA (in)Accuracy, too.

# Madison County Ghost Cemeteries

Keeping up with our existing cemeteries is vital, but it is also important to note where our “lost” cemeteries are located. MCGS member JoAnne Walker supplied this by Lewis Morris for a 2014 newsletter and we are reprinting it here so that the information isn’t “lost” as well.

At the last genealogy meeting we were discussing stories told about burials in Madison County cemeteries that are no longer here, or single burials around the county. I had some information put together by Lewis Morris which I am submitting here. If any of you have any information we would appreciate it if you will send it to us and we will put a file together for the Winterset Public Library.

**CRAWFORD TOWNSHIP:** Brush Cemetery in Crawford Township is said to be, according to some folks, the first cemetery to be plotted. First burial said to be in 1853.

**DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP:** In 1976, the John Alles family found in Cedar Creek running through their farm in Sec. 23, S½ of SE¼, a stone with the following inscription. “Mary Eddy, Wife of F. Irwin, b. Nov 2, 1865, d. Aug 24, 1920” It was later determined that a former owner of the property had worked at the Winterset Monument Company of Winterset and had on occasion hauled home refuse stone from the company. This stone is believed to be a reject. There is nothing further known about the person in the inscription.

Also in Douglas Township, in 1976, a stone was found in a draw southwest of buildings on ridge in a fence line being bulldozed on the Dean Mapes farm located in the S½ of SE¼ of Section 13 and the N½ of SE¼ of Section 24. The stone was approximately 24” x 18” x 4” with the inscription “Baby boy b. 1867 - Henry, son of D. & A. Hal (Halling?).

In February of 1975, Leonard Abrahams, a lifelong resident of Douglas Township living in Sec. 23, spoke of people who were residents of the County Poor Farm located in Sec. 24, being buried on the County Farm property, west line adjacent of the draw that goes through the property. No records of who may be buried in these potter graves there seem to be available.

Also in Douglas Township, tradition says there is a burial site located on or very near the Section line running east and west between Sections 14 and 23 on the approximate north and south center line of these sections, on what is in 1976 known as the Thomas Kirvin farm and believed to be relatives of the Kirvins. The grave site is at the point where the north and South road turns west and goes down the hill toward the river bottom. It is also said the stones were laid down and covered over by the road grading crew.

In Section 11 of Douglas Township there is said to be an abandoned cemetery, name not known or remembered, located in the SW¼ of this section on the bluff overlooking North River valley to the west - south and east with a county road at the foot of the bluff on the west. The exact spot has not been found as a search was made for markers and foot stones and none found.

**LEE TOWNSHIP:** The WPA cemetery records state

that there was an abandoned cemetery in Section 18, but apparently no stones were found or read. This cemetery was very close to the road and tradition says that when the road was widened (year not known), the existing stones were thrown upon the bank and left lay. There were said to be 18 or 20 gravestones. In March, 1978, Walter Eichner, on whose farm the cemetery was located, pointed out the site. It is on the south side of the road on a knoll near his east property line. It is described as on the north section line of Section 18 and in the very northeast corner of the NE¼ of the section. Inspection of the site produced a foot marker type stone and part of a gravestone bearing the inscription: George W. Son of L. & S. Knight. D. (Then the rest of stone is broken off.) Lewis wrote in the names George William son of Lester Philatus and Sara Woolhiser Knight. There is also a claim people by the name of Burgett were also buried there.

Leo Jungman, a nearby neighbor reported a burial stone had been found in the ditch south of his buildings. It bore the inscription: Reuben Hale d. Jan 23, 1883, Age 57.

Walter Eichner’s mother who was a Pritchard was born some 160 rods away. She lived to an advanced old age and in the memory of her son Walter, never talked about this cemetery.

Richard Johnson, a former resident of the area, grew up here and now living in Madison Township, Madison County, remembers an 8” to 10” square stone carrying a description of the death of an older woman. He describes the stone as being in Section 12, Jefferson Township. This stone was in a draw below a pond. The stone was said to be 20 to 30 feet to the west of the section line in the S½ of the NE¼. This stone was not found due to the area being a wild life preserve with tall weathered gravestones. The stone has not been found.

**LINCOLN TOWNSHIP:** Isolated grave site on Lester Rhodes farm in Section 14, near the approximate east-west center line of the section approximately 20 rods west from the north-south line of Section 14 and 13 on the west side of north-south road and 125 feet west from said road on a knob running north toward Middle River. This is presently north of a set of farm buildings. Grave site measures 10’ x 10’ surrounded by a woven wire fence with creosote posts and 2” x 6” nailed top and bottom. A small elm tree in lot. Two graves were found by witching - appear to be facing southwest. Theo Ansley d. May 19, 1865 - Age 71 yrs. 1 mo. 12 days. Esther, wife of T. Ansley d. Sept. 5, 1862, age 69 yrs. 14 days. Tradition says two other persons are buried here but that may be in error.

**MADISON TOWNSHIP:** Fairview Methodist Church was once located at the present site of the Fairview Cemetery in Madison Township, Section 13.

An inquiry came in 1976 from Mr. and Mrs. G. A.



Hinshaw of Colorado regarding a person believed to be her father. From the cemetery and plot records it was determined that a plot was owned by a Hinshaw and a burial proved to have been made, but no head stone is evident in the fall of 1977. Horace M. Hinshaw b. February 3, 1869 and died November 11, 1905.

Wilbur Riser, in 1970, speaks of a burial plot in Madison Township, Section 29, with 4 or 5 graves for people by the name of Clampitt. Frank Clampitt's dad also said there were. Nearby was a set of buildings (now gone) and an old road went on the east side of the buildings. This burial site is said to be in the NW¼ of the SE¼ or SW¼ of the SE¼ part of the section. No stones have been uncovered or found. It was then at the edge of timber to North from Worthington Church and cemetery across Tom Creek, then west up hill about 80 rods.

**MONROE TOWNSHIP:** Local tradition says there was a church located near the Bullock Cemetery in Section 22, Monroe Township. It later became a farm home, still in use.

The location of an abandoned cemetery in Monroe Township said to be in Section 22 has not been resolved. Bullock Cemetery is located in this section. It is believed that the Section 22 should be Section 26. Tradition says that there was a cemetery located in what is known as Boot Jack Corner where a NW-SE road intersects U. S 169 in its south section line. Tradition says a farmer owning the land took the stones and dumped them in the creek. Other folks say the stones were laid down and buried. A stone with the Boling name was later found west of U. S. 169/ No more is known.

There is also tradition that a man by the name Sam Boling from Ohio laid out a town nearby. The town never had more than a few houses. (This abandoned cemetery was remembered to be in existence in the mid 1920's). Boot Jack Corner is located in Section 26, W½ of SW¼. Cemetery now said to be under U. S. 169 roadway.

**SCOTT TOWNSHIP:** Tradition spoke of the burial at the site of the Beem Cemetery in Scott Township of a negro lady who worked as a maid in the community. Her name is not now recalled. Because of local objection, she was reported to have been buried just outside the cemetery fence, on the North fence line, away from the used burial area. A single grave with no markings was found. It had a cement slab covering the area. It is now inside the fenced area. Note: This lady's name was Lindell Brown who was born in Kentucky. In 1870 she was 80 years old. She was a Negro slave for A. D. and Eliza Morgan. Eliza Brown Morgan is also buried in the cemetery. She was born 1809 Kentucky and died 1875, wife of Ambrose Dudley Morgan.

There is a local tradition of a murder - a hanging of

the murderer - and then the quick burial of the hung in a county cemetery - in the dead of the night - outside the cemetery boundaries. Some of the family members still live in the area. People are vague as to individuals and places.

**UNION TOWNSHIP:** The exact site of the small abandoned cemetery is now lost. It is believed to have been located in the SE¼ of the NE¼ of the section. Some folks now living have described it as a knoll or fringe going down toward a creek and a short way off the north-south section line road. It has been described as having about 5 or 7 stones which seemed to be one family - a husband and wife in their 30's and a number of children with death dates fairly close together.

The land was developed for limestone quarry purposes in the late 1940's and eventually the stones were bulldozed out and covered up with refuse. No record of the names on the stones is known at this time.

This cemetery was apparently not recorded in the WPA 1938 survey. Though an abandoned cemetery is indicated for Section 12 of this township, no one now seems to recall one in Section 12. The cemetery in that section is the Neal Cemetery which has been recorded.

From my own knowledge, I have seen a photocopy of a stone for John Cram encased in a tree. The Cram property was located in the NW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 27. Midwest Rock Products Inc. owns 472 acres of this section which includes the Cram farm.

**WALNUT TOWNSHIP:** In 1975 an aged sexton of the Peru Cemetery spoke of two transits and a negro who came off the railroad being buried in the Peru Cemetery. Names of persons apparently not available. These burials apparently occurred during the 1930 economic depression and were potters graves.

**WEBSTER TOWNSHIP:** Madison County two-volume history published by Mueller in 1915, on page 441, under Noble Loehr, makes reference to E. L. Richmond being buried in an isolated grave in a field in Lincoln Township. Tradition also said that there was an isolated grave on the Frank Elderkin farm in Webster Township. This grave site is located in Section 25 in the SE corner of NE¼ about two rods from the east section line adjoining Lincoln Township. It is on a ridge running east and west draining to the south. There is no stone. No dates are known except that it is an old grave.

There are several other notes, including: "I know of more Gideon's buried in the Bennett Cemetery. If they are not found in the cemetery, (I mean, if there are no head stones, here is what I know. Mary (Kerrick) wife of Oliver Gideon and three of their five children were drowned during the flood of July 4, 1876. However I do not know the names of the children. Oliver was a brother of Mary Andrew Bennett. This flood was on North River.

# Bits and Pieces

## See You in 2021

The next MCGS meeting will be the day after Labor Day, **Tuesday, September 7, in the Winterset Library, at 6:30 pm**, our starting at our new time. We will assess our progress this summer and plan for meetings and programs for the fall and winter months. Please come and give your input on what would be valuable to Madison County family researchers.

## Free Ancestry.com Available at Home

If you have a Winterset Public Library card, you may access the Library Edition of Ancestry.com from your home computer. Prior to the Covid pandemic, this resource could only be accessed on the Library's computer. But ancestry.com has extended the service at home to those with library cards through December 31, 2021.

You can use your computer from home or smart phone from anywhere to access millions of records. The Library Edition does have some limitations such as access to family trees and contacting other members.

If you live outside Madison County, any public library that offered Ancestry.com Library Edition from their library computers previously should be able to provide you with this same access.

## No County Fair Genealogy Exhibit

It was a hard decision to make, but MCGS decided not to host the Genealogy Exhibit at the 2021 Madison County Fair. The 5 days of set-up and tear-down, taking and displaying entries, judging and awarding prizes, plus scheduling volunteers to be at the display was just too much. We sincerely thank all those who have contributed entries, supervised the room, or enjoyed the display in the past.

## From the Iowa Genealogical Society

The IGS Fall Conference will be held virtually on Friday, October 8 and Saturday October 9, 2021 with two widely known experts:

Diahan Southard has been working in the genetic genealogy industry since its infancy.

Cyndi Engle is the founder and webmaster of Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet, a categorized index to more than 337, 000 on-line resources.

Check their website as the date approach: [iowagenealogy.org](http://iowagenealogy.org).

## Keep in Touch

To stay "in the know" with MCGS activities: Check our website:

[www.MadisonCountyIAGenealogy.com](http://www.MadisonCountyIAGenealogy.com)

Email us:

[madisoncountyiagenealogy@fmail.com](mailto:madisoncountyiagenealogy@fmail.com)

Follow on Facebook:

Madison County IA Family History

## 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/postage costs.

