

## **MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 26  
WINTERSSET IA 50273-0026  
Second Quarter Newsletter 2022

**MEETINGS:** Held the first Tuesday of March through December 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 inquiries to the above address or to our email address below.

### **OFFICERS FOR 2022**

PRESIDENT	Ken Callison
VICE PRESIDENT	Skip Greenwood
SECRETARY:	Linda Smith
TREASURER:	Pat Hochstetler
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	JoAnne Walker
LIBRARY OBITS:	Shirley Keating Pat Hochstetler
DIRECTORS:	Three open positions
IAGenWeb COORD:	Linda Smith
NEWSLETTER:	JoAnne Walker Linda Smith

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

This Issue  
Cemeteries and Censuses

## **Message from Our President**

Hello fellow Genies (a kinder word than NUTS),

Well, a lot has happened since my last letter when I spoke of some of our weather experiences and the bad Blizzard of '73. Weather continues to be the theme.

We topped that with the worst tornadoes to hit Madison County on record on March 5. Some of our members had some damage and a lot of our friends had major damage. Sadly, there were six fatalities. Only God knows why the tornado, which was on a direct path to cross Winterset and Des Moines, instead went south and east of both. Otherwise, the destruction and loss of life could have been much worse. As for my personal experience the tornado missed my farm, going north and west by almost a mile. The tornado also narrowly missed Hooten Cemetery in Lincoln Township southwest of Winterset.

Now we come to the present. We had a cemetery census planned for Saturday, April 30, for Hooten Cemetery in Lincoln Township. A cemetery census, or "walk," is when our members meet at the Cemetery and, using documentation from a previous census, check for new burials/ stones/inscriptions and do a complete inventory of all the known burials. That way, we have an accurate, updated row by row listing of the cemetery. We are trying to keep a complete updated row-by-row listing of all the 58 cemeteries in Madison County.

Plans had to change, due to weather. Saturday, April 23 we had a severe thunderstorm with extremely strong winds (some 80+, maybe 100+ m.p.h.). Hooten Cemetery sustained some major tree damage and our cemetery walk was cancelled. Upon examination I did not see any stone damage.

However the Winterset Cemetery did not fair as well. Several large evergreen trees were toppled some up from the roots. Several of the older stones were toppled also. Most of the damage was to the stones in the area of the gazebo in the area of several civil war graves and the older graves in the cemetery. From what I could tell most of the stones were knocked aside but not broken, and are repairable. Look inside for photos and more information.

One more weather note. Yes, the buildings that we sheltered the cattle in in the Blizzard of 73 in Lincoln Township (known in the area as Hacklebarnery) are now on the ground, having succumbed to the Derecho of '22, after having survived another derecho of the early 2000s. It was like God looked down and said, "Oops, I missed some!"

We are going to be back at the cemetery walking very soon and please come along. You can help preserve the records of ancestors, friends, and neighbors for future generations.

God bless!

Kenneth R. Callison  
President, Madison County Genealogy Society

# Madison County Veterans Headstone Project Update

*Contributed by Colleen Peterson, MCGS member. See the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 newsletter for project details.*

As in all genealogy and historic preservation work, along with the research, there are stories and lots of them. I love the research and the processes and procedures, but even more so, the stories.

During the research phase of this project, I found three veterans in Union Chapel Cemetery in South Township, two with broken headstones, (John Lewis and Baylis Lake) and one in an unmarked grave (John Hamner). Before receiving a free headstone from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one of the requirements with a broken headstone is that a descendant must authorize the removal of the broken stone before a new one can be issued. And that is where the story begins.

## John and Sarah (Rogers) Lewis

John Lewis was born on 11/18/1830 in Indiana and married Sarah Rogers on 2/23/1860 in Madison County. Sarah was also born in Indiana on 12/3/1841. Sarah's parent were Mary Polly Hamner and John A. Rogers, Jr.

John Lewis and Sarah had two children, William, born 12/5/1860 and Eva, born 3/3/1862. John enlisted in the 39th Iowa Infantry on 9/8/1862 as a third Sergeant during the Civil War and died of disease on 4/23/1863 in Corinth, Mississippi leaving Sarah a widow with two small children. His body was brought home for burial in Union Chapel, in South Township, southeast of Patterson.

## Union Chapel Incident

This piece of Union Chapel's history was found at the Madison County Historical Museum and gives a glimpse of what times were like during the Civil War, when the church building still existed. It was written by Fred C. Runkle at an unknown date. "The history of Union Chapel antedates the Civil War. Its early history to me is only traditional facts and impressions gleaned and retained from fireside stories as a boy as the older members of the family talked of earlier days. Exciting stories of Civil War activities, which I have retained through the years, were often recited about our fireside that assures me that the church was built before the war."

"One such story was that the Copperheads [also referred to as Constitutional Secessionist or Peace Democrats] served notice that no funerals could be held in the church for Union soldiers. Father Storrs at Winterset, a Union army lieutenant discharged because of disabilities, was sent for. Father Storrs was a soldier, a minister, a Christian, and a fighter. He came to conduct the funeral of a Union soldier. He mounted the pulpit, opened the Bible, adjusted his glasses, reached under the tail of his long ministerial coat, drew out two huge army pistols, placed them on the open Bible and announced that he would conduct the funeral services of any soldier without any interruption - there was no interruption." Doesn't it make you wonder if this was the funeral of John Lewis?



## Baylis and Sarah (Rogers) Lake

Baylis Lake was born on 8/10/1832 in Fauquier County, Virginia and enlisted on 6/13/1861 as a private in Company D, 1st Iowa Cavalry. He was promoted multiple times during his service and was taken as a prisoner of war on 2/23/1863. He was mustered out as a 4th Sergeant on 2/15/1866 in Austin, Texas.

After Baylis Lake returned home, Sarah Rogers Lewis, widow of John Lewis, married Baylis on 11/5/1867. The widow's pension she received for John was discontinued upon her marriage to Baylis and he accepted guardianship of William and Eva Lewis. The couple were granted a \$2 per month pension for each of the children which was to be paid until they were 16 years old. Together, they had a son, James, on 9/14/1869. When Sarah's sister Mary Ann died in 1871, Baylis once again accepted guardianship, this time of Sarah's niece, Elizabeth. Baylis died 6/10/1874 and Sarah applied for guardianship of Elizabeth and raised all four children on her own.

Sarah buried both John and Baylis in Union Chapel Cemetery side by side. Later, Sarah's children buried her next to Baylis.

During the current gravestone project, the Department of Veteran Affairs suspended the application for a replacement stone for Baylis Lake's broken headstone due to the requirement of having a descendant authorize the removal of his existing headstone. As you can see from the photo, the headstone for Baylis is in extremely good condition with the exception of being broken off at the base. The stone next to his marked only as "Mother" is Sarah's and is also in good condition with the exception of being broken off at the base.

John Lewis's head stone however, had completely deteriorated and is in the background of the first photo and shown in full in the second. I was able to get a new stone approved by the Department of Veteran Affairs for John Lewis without a descendant letter due to the severe deterioration.



Sarah, Baylis Lake, and John Lewis



Closeup of John Lewis stone



Baylis Lake, reset in original base

Once notified of the VA's suspension of a stone for Baylis, it was clear that these two stones - Baylis and Sarah - were going to need some additional consideration. Finding a descendant roughly 150 years after an individual's death is a challenge to say the least and in this case not possible. Therefore, the Madison County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) voted to have local stone carver Ben Mayer repair both stones with funds available from another cemetery project. The MCHPC also plans to raise funds to have Ben carve the following inscription to Sarah's headstone: Sarah Lewis Lake 1841 - 1906.

## John Hamner

John Hamner was born in 1838 in Johnson County, Indiana. His father was George Hamner, the brother of Sarah Roger's mother, Mary Polly Hamner, so John and Sarah Rogers were first cousins.

John enlisted in the Civil War as a Corporal in the Company I of the 28th Illinois Infantry on 8/3/1861 where he had other family. While serving, he contracted measles so severely that he was hospitalized for five months before being discharged on 6/19/1863 as disabled from the scarring of his lungs. His discharge papers state his prospects of recovery were distant and uncertain. John returned to Madison County to live near his parents. He is also buried in Union Chapel Cemetery, several spaces down in the same row as John Lewis, Baylis Lake and Sarah Lewis Lake.

John Hamner has a problematic reputation. John was accused and jailed in May 21, 1883 for the murder of fellow Civil War veteran Billie Newell. Excited and agitated by the newspaper reports of the incident, a mob gathered after midnight and hung him from a tree in the west yard of the Madison County courthouse square two weeks later, denying him the right to a trial.

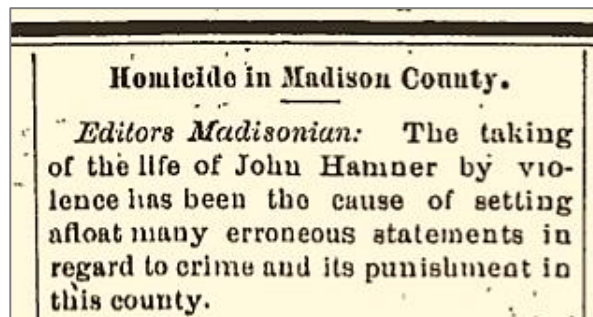
From the time this gravestone project started, the mere mention of John Hamner and his lynching has elicited an emotional response from everyone who knows his story. Many were not sure he should have a headstone, while others were concerned about the effect it would have on the project. As with every project, there are guidelines and requirements that must be met and, with this project, the most



stringent requirement is documentation that the veteran served honorably. John Hamner's service record clearly verifies his service and honorable discharge therefore qualifying him for a headstone.

In addition to researching his qualifications, I also researched his lynching which was discussed in the newspapers for many years afterward. The results show:

1. John Hamner was accused of murder and lynched on 6/3/1883 in the west yard of the Madison County Courthouse.
2. The lynching denied him of his right to a trial by his peers.
3. The "facts" as reported by the newspapers are wildly inconsistent.



Part of the process of obtaining a headstone from the Department of Veteran Affairs is determining eligibility without emotion or bias. The requirements do not include a set of standards to be applied to the conduct of a veteran after his discharge from duty. In final consideration, such a requirement is not applied to any other veteran, and therefore certainly should not be applied to Mr. Hamner simply because we do not like or understand the circumstances of his life.

## Closing Thoughts

One of the fascinating parts of this project has been finding the stories and the opportunity to preserve them. In this case it has been finding three veterans all married into or related in the same family, all buried in the same cemetery, and all in the same row next to one another.

Their gravestones had different repair issues that required varying degrees of care to preserve their history.

And it is a history well worth preserving.

## Headstone Project – By the Numbers

Of the 35 Civil War veterans originally identified for this project, there are now:



- 10 - VA approved and gravestone received, waiting to be set
- 2 - Submitted and waiting for VA approval
- 1 - VA has on hold, pending receiving National Archives service records
- 10 - Pending Trustee signatures, location of the lot, photos of the grave site
- 1 - Found and only need a metal flag marker
- 1 - Found and repaired by Ben Mayer
- 2 - Continue to research – difficult to document due to lack of information and common name
- 8 - No plan to submit, due to incomplete records, buried outside of Madison County, has a headstone under another names, or unable to verify required information.

# Madison County Cemetery News

## Winterset Cemetery Damage

On April 23, high winds visited Madison County and one of the areas most affected is the original section of the Winterset Cemetery. It is a handful of acres of the entire 30-acre cemetery expanse. In the late 1800s when the cemetery was much smaller and Winterset was closely associated with limestone, this section WAS the cemetery and known as the "Rock City Cemetery," due to the concentration of limestone around Winterset.

At this moment, a week after high winds toppled trees and gravestone, the damage is being assessed. It will take some time to untangle this mess with the care that must be taken to clean up in a way that does not affect even more. Here is an outline of the steps being taken.

1. Remove Trees

Downed trees will need to be cut away from the stones they cover. Even more difficult will be taking down trees that were left standing by the winds, but are obviously damaged or have a weakened root system. These will need to come down in pieces to avoid damage to the unharmed stones surrounding them. Tree removal services are already busy due to the March 5th tornado clean-up.

2. Inventory Damaged Gravestones

Once the trees are removed, an inventory will be done by the sexton and MCGS members to gather the names on damaged stones and what type of repair is needed. We don't yet know the number, but possibly 40 gravestones will need attention. As best we can see with the trees in the way, the majority of stones just need to be reset. Others are broken and will need professional restoration. The names on the affected gravestones will be made public through Facebook, and other media sources.

3. Restore Gravestones

This may be a lengthy process to contract various experts, coordinate with the sexton, etc. We'll keep you posted.

If you would like to help with the expenses, a **WINTERSET CEMETERY RESTORATION FUND** has been set up. To contribute any amount:

- Write a check to the City of Winterset.
- Note "Winterset Cemetery" in the check's memo line.
- Mail or walk your tax-deductible donation to City Hall, 124 W Court Ave, Winterset, IA 50273.

## Other Cemetery Walks

The MCGS is ready to get outdoors and survey several of Madison County cemeteries. Hooten is on the radar when weather permits. More are being planned.



Two MCGS members made two visits to Welty Cemetery in Webster Township to walk, watch, and assist a township trustee understand more than what can be seen with the eye. As a result, the older portion of the cemetery, that had no visible stones, will likely be designated as "full" with no modern burials allowed. To the left is one of two buried stones of children found. Both an alphabetical list of the gravestones, plus a row-by-row list, will be updated and placed in the Winterset Public Library. Read more about the cemetery resources available at the Library on Page 8.



1920s postcard



Many trees to remove



Most gravestone missed...



...but some were broken



Evidence of high winds

# IAGenWeb./madison/ - What's New

## 1921 Births Added

The complete set of Madison County births for calendar year 1921, comprised of 360 records, has been posted to the BIRTH RECORDS pages. This process involves reading the Madison County 1921 birth register, State-provided online lists, and Ancestry.com/Familysearch.org delayed births. Incomplete given, maiden, and surnames of fathers and mothers are researched so that full names can be entered.

## List of FREE Online Searchable Newspapers

It's exciting to see that more newspapers in the counties surrounding Madison County are being digitized. Often families in the towns near the edge of the county have just as many or more articles in the newspapers of adjoining counties. Also, over 650 pages of *The St. Charles News* have been added in recent months.

The NEWSPAPERS page has been updated to reflect these additions. If you haven't memorized the various addresses (some are city names and some are county names) to type them in your browser's address line, you can access them all from this convenient location. Once you select a newspaper, searching is similar to using Google. Full pages or clips from pages can be printed or downloaded.

Madison County Newspapers	Nearby County Newspapers
<a href="#">Winterset,</a> <a href="#">Macksburg, Peru,</a> <a href="#">St. Charles, and Truro</a> plus Madison County plat maps and Winterset high school yearbooks  <a href="#">Earlham Echo</a>	<a href="#">Warren County</a> <a href="#">Dallas County</a> <a href="#">Dallas County - Perry</a> <a href="#">Clarke County</a> <a href="#">Adair County - Casey</a> <a href="#">Adair/Guthrie Counties - Stuart</a>
Iowa Newspapers	United States Newspapers
<a href="#">Iowa Newspapers</a> <a href="#">Iowa Historical Newspaper Summary</a> <a href="#">Iowa Old Press</a> <a href="#">LDS Genealogy Newspapers</a>	<a href="#">Online Historical Newspapers by State</a> <a href="#">Library of Congress-Chronicling America</a> <a href="#">Online Historical Newspapers</a> <a href="#">A - Z List of States</a>
If you do not find what you are looking for, search for digitized newspapers for a specific town or county. Local library websites often contain a link to local online newspapers.	

## Spring Review

Each fall and spring, the IAGenWeb Madison County website is meticulously reviewed by another Iowa county coordinator. This ensures the workability (Ex. Do the links go where they should?) and integrity of the IAGenWeb organization. The spring review was completed in March and here are some of the comments, which reflect well on all the MCGS volunteers who contribute to the website. Thank you!

- Great website!!! It is very obvious that Madison County has been in very capable hands for a long time.
- Very professional-looking website. Easy to navigate and search. Easy on the eye with selection of colors. Lots of excellent genealogical and historical sources and links. Grammar and spelling were fantastic!! Links worked! Enjoyed my visit.
- The Madison County Family Tree is tremendous. Very impressive let alone extremely helpful to researchers. Great job!

## 1950 Census Aid – Madison County Enumeration Maps

To take advantage of the April 1, 2022 release of the unindexed 1950 census, we have added National Archive maps of the enumeration districts for the county and Winterset, our county seat. Until searchable indexes have been created, these maps will help narrow your browsing. Start at the CENSUS RECORDS page. Turn to the next page for more 1950 census assistance from *FamilyTree Magazine*.



# Accessing Madison County's 1950 Census

Once you browse to the federal census page that has your ancestors, and maybe even YOU, many columns use codes to give details to each person's life. Use this hand chart to help you decipher what's there.



## Q9: Race

- *Chi*: Chinese
- *Fil*: Filipino
- *Ind*: American Indian
- *Jap*: Japanese
- *Neg*: Black
- *W*: White

## Q10: Sex

- *F*: Female
- *M*: Male

## Q12: Marital Status

- *D*: Divorced
- *Mar*: Married
- *Nev*: Never married (and/or under age 14)
- *Sep*: Separated (but not divorced)
- *Wd*: Widowed

## Q14: Naturalization Status

*AP*: Child of American parents born abroad or at sea

## Q15: Work Status in Past Week

- *H*: Keeping house (i.e., housework in one's own home)
- *Ot*: "Other," including school attendance, temporary illness, or job vacation
- *U*: Unable to work because of long-term illness or disability
- *Wk*: Work for which you are paid or that supports a family business

## Q20c: Class of Worker

- *G*: Works for any branch of government, including civilian parts of the military
- *O*: Works for own business, shop, etc.
- *NP*: Works for no pay on a farm or business operated by another family member
- *P*: Works for private employer

## Q26: Highest School Level

- *C#*: Year(s) of college/professional school completed (*C1* for one year, *C2* for two years, and so on)
- *S#*: Grades of elementary/middle/high school completed (*S1* for first grade, *S2* for second, and so on through *S12* for senior year of high school)

Read the full 1950 enumerator instructions at [www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census\\_instructions/1950\\_instructions.html](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/1950_instructions.html)

### Upcoming Meetings

Please mark your calendar for these planned meetings in 2022. They are held the first Tuesday of the month in the Winterset Public Library meeting room, starting at 6:30 pm.

May 1	September 6
June 7	October 4
July 5	November 1
August 2	December 6



Follow MadCo genealogy at  
**MADISON COUNTY IA FAMILY HISTORY.**  
Feel free to post your finds  
and questions.

### Need Help Researching Your Roots?

If you would like assistance with researching your Madison County family history, you can either:

- Use the Contact Us tab on our website  
**MadisonCountyIaGenealogy.com**
- Email your request to:  
**MadisonCountyIaGenealogy@gmail.com**
- Mail your requests to the  
**Madison County Genealogical Society**  
**PO Box 26, Winterset Iowa 50273-0026.**

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



### Cemetery Census Documentation in Winterset Public Library

The President's Letter mentioned that the MCGS maintains documentation on each cemetery. Those notebooks, stored alphabetical by cemetery, are kept in the Winterset Public Library's genealogy section. Our goal is that each cemetery have two listings – one is an alphabetical listing of visible gravestones and the other is a row-by-row list. The alpha list can help you identify ancestors possibly buried in a cemetery and, if you would like to visit the gravestone, the row-by-row helps you pinpoint the portion of the cemetery where you will find the stone.

The notebooks cannot be checked out, but the library has a copier with a 10-cent/page charge. Or take a photo with your phone.

To the MCGS,

I cannot thank the Madison County Genealogical Society enough for ALL that they have done for Madison County. All of the obituaries, birth records, marriage records, and MORE that is curated on the phenomenal [iagenweb.org/madison](https://iagenweb.org/madison) are great resources. I use the website DAILY as I field research questions at the Madison County Historical Society. Also to have images for ALL of the gravestones in Madison County at my fingertips is such a lifesaver. I work with several different classes in the Winterset Community School District and the students are always blown away by all of the information available. We look at other county websites and see their lack of information and the kids are really impressed. We are so blessed to have such a hard working group of people in our community. THANK YOU.



With Deepest Appreciation,  
Jared McDonald/Museum Director MCHS