



MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 26

WINTERSSET IA 50273-0026

First Quarter Newsletter 2022

MEETING: Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, except January and February, in the Winterset Public Library meeting room. Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

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.

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

EMAIL: madisoncountyiagenealogy@gmail.com

WEBSITE: madisoncountyiagenealogy.com

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

Message from Our President

Greetings fellow Family History Nuts!

Yes, I am one and proud of it. I hope that you have had an enjoyable Summer so far and were able to find at least one interesting tidbit on your family history quest.

I have had a very interesting summer to say the least. It started out as we did a couple of cemetery walks, which is quite enjoyable and interesting. Once the Society notes any new burials or new grave inscriptions, volunteers update the documentation in the Genealogical section of the Winterset Library and add updated gravestone photos online. Join us on one of these field trips; there is a place for people of all abilities. Let us know if you'd like to join in..

Another interesting event happened since I am the Elder of the Iowa Society of Mayflower Descendants. It is customary for us to recognize members who have passed on in the last year, in a ceremony called the Necrology. The Elder is charged with presenting the names along with a short message about the person's life and service within the group. There were three members who were to be remembered this year but only basic birth, death, and membership information was available on two of them.. Well, if you know me that was not satisfactory, so I got to digging. After many hours of research I could only find one tidbit on one woman - no obituary, no service, no burial - only that her body was donated to Des Moines University. For a second woman, her friend and a sister were quite disappointed that there had been no funeral, no burial, and no obituary. Between the friend and the sister I found out that she loved quilting and genealogy. She had even opened a quilt shop and helped other people with their family history. Thankfully, the third member had an extensive two-page obituary which I was able to present. The moral to this story is make sure that your story and the story of your family are known so that future family members can find those treasures. Makes me wonder what wonderful stories of our own ancestors have we *not* discovered because they were not recorded?

Here is one other interesting event. Linda Griffith Smith and I have been corresponding with one of our out-of-state members for quite some time. Eric B. Jontz and his father were in town from Florida for site-seeing and family research, trying to prove his line of descent from a passenger on the Mayflower in 1620 A.D. He has been having difficulty connecting the 9th generation from the Mayflower and the answer is likely right here in Madison County. Eric has secondary proof but is looking for primary proof that his #8 Minerva Hayden married Benjamin Shreves and had #9 Martha Jane Shreves who married Jackson Nelson. Linda and I caught up with these two delightful gentlemen at Montross's to swap stories and share an enjoyable hour or so.

Feel free to come out to our meetings and join us on one of our cemetery walks to add to your own interesting experiences.

God bless!

Kenneth R. Callison

Madison County Cemetery News

Cemetery Walks

Summertime, puts an “itch” on Madison County genealogists to go outside and walk cemeteries in order to update the documentation kept in the Winterset Public Library. New gravestones and new inscriptions are listed and past mistakes are corrected. Well, right up until it gets too hot to do so. Here is what has been accomplished.-

Welty Cemetery– A second visit to this cemetery resulted in location of more burials without headstones in the oldest portion and trustees agreeing to declare that area full and not available for burials. Alpha listing and row-by-row documentation has been updated and placed in the Winterset Library. In August, two MCGS members will meet with the township trustees, who are responsible for this and other cemeteries in Webster Township, to share their evaluation and documentation.

Farris Cemetery – Now has a plat of where gravestones appear, a row-by-row document, and an updated alpha listing. A new stone has been carved for Nellie Farris by Ben Mayer. This was paid for by the Madison County Historic Preservation Commission who, under the direction of Commissioner Molly Clause, has been restoring this cemetery in honor of James and Elizabeth Farris who were Underground Railroad station agents in their nearby home.



Other cemeteries that received updates to their documentation and online gravestone photos are: Ebenezer and Moon, with Pleasant View planned soon.

Winterset Cemetery, April Storm Damage Update

On April 23, 2022, straight-line winds rushed across the south side of Winterset and damaged 33 gravestones in the 30-acre Winterset Cemetery. The broken and toppled stones were in the oldest part of the cemetery, dating from 1850. Two-thirds of the stones fell, intact, from their base, but the bases are in need of leveling. The remaining one-third are broken in one or more pieces. Several “tablet” style stones snapped just above their cement pad.

Local news media covered the damage. Here are clips where you can see the damage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5hFvGklbjQ>

<https://www.kcci.com/article/winterset-madison-county-iowa-cemetery-sustains-damage-after-saturdays-storms/39807349#>

Here are updates on the three steps needed to restore the damaged stones:

1. Remove downed trees – This was accomplished in May which allowed the next step to take place..
2. Inventory damaged gravestones - After the tree removal, members of the Madison County Genealogical Society, assisted by staff from Madison County Historical Complex, used the Society’s row-by-row gravestone document (housed in the Winterset Public Library) to identify the name on each damaged stone. Thankfully, this documentation has been recorded and updated for over 40 years, so some stones that are now nearly un readable had been recorded years ago. This list of the names on the 30+ stones was made public since, many, from across the nation, were very eager to know the names on the damaged gravestones.
3. Restore gravestones - With the dangerous trees removed and a photo of each damaged stone, repair specialists were contacted to look over the work and provide an estimate. Of three bids, Cemetery Restoration Services from Cherokee, Iowa was selected by the Winterset Cemetery Improvement Association board. Principal, Russ Gardner, will work with the assistance of cemetery sexton, Tony Hall, in mid-August to address each stone and its needs.

A WINTERSET CEMETERY RESTORATION FUND was quickly set up through the City of Winterset and promoted through the local newspaper, on Facebook, and on Des Moines television stations. Donations have continued to come in each week. 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.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a letter confirming this.

Here are the known names on the damaged stones by surname with (year died, age at death).

ABRAHAM, Stephen (1877, 62) and Sarah (1884, 78)

BAKER, Margaret (1874, 75) and George W. (1863, 66)

BISHIR, John (1898, 69) and Elanor (1867, 33)

CHERRY, Belle (1860, 10 days)

CHILDRES, Franklin (1865, age 26)

DABNEY, William F. (1868, 18 months)

DAVIS (5) Jane (1866, 41) wife of Otho Otho (1899, 82)
Rodney S. (1853, 24) brother of Otho
Nancy Henderson (1881, 72)
James R. (1921, 89, Civil War Vet)
& Margaret (1899, 66)

DEBUSK, Elihew (1861, 16, Civil War Vet)

DUNKLE, Lina (1888, 49)

FIELD, Orpha (1894, 59)

GETCHELL, Mary (1872, 32)

GOULD, Charles (unknown, infant., lamb carved on top of stone)

HALLGARTH, Columbus (1876, 19)

LEECH, Ann (1880, 71) and Josiah L. (1897, 85)

LORIMOR, original "Mother" stone for Martha (1911, 74)

MCCONNELEE, William M. (1880, 74)

MITCHELL, George W. (1875, unreadable)

MUSGRAVE, Elizabeth (1875, 52)

OGDEN, Maria (1903, 87)

ROLAND (3) Charles W. (1871, 54)
and Eliza A (1915, 81)

C.W. - Charles W.'s original stone (1871, 54)
Minnie Bell (1903, 87)

SEEVERS, Alfred (1886, 75) and Maria (1886, 74)

TITCOMB, Otis (1864, 18, Civil War Vet)

WHITE (2) Francis (1863, 11 months)
Sidney (1907, 83)

Madison County Civil War Headstone Project Update

The project continues with Civil War gravestones in hand to be put in place soon. These are provided at no charge by the Veterans Administration after review of detailed research verifying their service and honorable discharge. Plans are to place the gravestones in these Madison County cemeteries yet in 2022.

Earlham – Jennings Osborn, with assistance from the Earlham American Legion and Boy Scouts

North Branch – Henry Garret and Elihu Powell, with assistance from the Earlham American Legion and Boy Scouts

Hooten – Caleb Darnall

Pitzer Cemetery – Walter Bell

St. Charles – John Avey

Trester Cemetery – Thomas Kephart

Union Chapel South – John Lewis and John Hamner, with descendants present

Winterset Cemetery – Three are in place: Pleasant Haltom, John W. Williams and John Clear (see photo)



Documentation on the remaining names, who are more difficult to research, will continue over the winter and hopefully more gravestones can be obtained and placed in the summer of 2023.

Who are these people? A Photo Identification Case Study

Provided by Linda Griffith Smith, MCGS member

The Madison County Historical Museum has a special exhibit during the 2022 season called “Portraits in Time.” (See page 8 for details on making a visit.) Jared McDonald, Director of the Madison County Historical Complex, and Assistant Director Angela Stanford chose from the many 19th century portraits in the Historical Society’s collection. The displayed portraits were primarily chosen to depict a variety of singles, couples, and families with various frame styles and shapes. Each portraits needed a paragraph to be mounted beside it so that visitors could get a glimpse into the lives represented and I volunteered for this task.

Most of the subjects in the portraits were easy to describe using their Madison County obituaries found at the IAGenWeb.org/madison website, which contains over 32,000 obits entered by MCGS volunteers. If an individual’s obit could not be found, sometimes the obits of their family members – spouse(s), parents, or children – assisted in forming their life story. The digitized and searchable Winterset newspapers, at winterset.advantage-preservation.com, also helped round out the details of their lives.

But one photo labeled ROBERT H. CAMPBELL FAMILY, DONOR UNKNOWN was problematic. The style of men’s suits and ladies’ dresses placed it in the 1890s. After looking at Robert H. Campbell’s obit (1906-1974), he didn’t fit in that timeframe at all.

The next step was to look back one generation into the family of Charlie Curtis Campbell, Robert’s father. Charles’ obit listed quite a few brothers and sisters that lived in Madison County, plus some in other places. I found Madison County obituaries for five of the brothers and two of the sisters, under their married names. It was starting to look hopeful.



I built a family tree on scratch paper, gathering tidbits across all the obituaries. For example, several obits named the brothers with only initials, such as “T.J.” Other obits listed nicknames, such as “Jack.” Once the pieces were all reviewed on paper, it became evident that these tidbits all referred to the full name of Thomas Jackson Campbell. I was able to piece together that Charles Campbell’s parents, Silas and Mary Catherine (Richey) Campbell, moved to Madison County in 1878. The various obituaries told that there were 8 brothers and 3 sisters, all born in Virginia. Two brothers, David and George, remained in eastern states and sister, Angeline, died in Virginia. That left 6 brothers and 2 sisters that came to Madison County – just the right number in the portrait!

The local obituaries accounted for the 2 remaining sisters, but only 5 of the 6 brothers. Which brother was the sixth one pictured? Brother, Clem Campbell, was listed in obituaries as living in Wallace, Idaho. Did Clem or one of the two brothers living in the East happen to be visiting when the portrait was taken?

Using the digitized Madison County newspapers at winterset.advantage-preservation.com, I searched for Clem, or Clement, Campbell. I found an August 25, 1910 *Winterset Madisonian* article about forest fires in Northern Idaho where over 100 lives were lost. It stated, “There are many Iowa people residing in the burned district and until the particulars are known, there will be a great anxiety. Clem Campbell, a brother of the Campbell boys of this place, resides near Wallace.” So Clem was in Idaho in 1910 but was he in Madison County 10-20 years before when this photo was taken? The newspapers didn’t hold that answer as I found no mention of him leaving, as was often the case, because several Madison County families headed to the far Northwest in that 1880-1890 timeframe. Did Clem go with them?

I turned to censuses for the possibility that Clem had lived in Madison County. And hopefully in a year that a census was taken! Since the portrait appeared to be from the 1890’s, that was the census era I was

interested in. Unfortunately, over 99% of the 1890 Federal census records, including Iowa's, were destroyed by fire and water in the 1921 Commerce Department fire in Washington, D.C. Thankfully, the State of Iowa took several of their own censuses, also at 10 year intervals, but on years ending with 5. The Iowa State Census in 1895 put the final pieces together.

The IAGenWeb.org/madison CENSUS RECORDS link on the home page took me to the Composite Index, built by Kent Transier. It serves as the key to finding individuals – location, page, and line number - in the Madison County transcriptions across various censuses that are individually transcribed on the website. I was able to find ALL 8 siblings in the 1895 census, including Clem! They were all living in Madison County in 1895, just about the time that the picture would have been taken, based on their clothing. By the 1900 Federal Census, Clem was no longer listed in Madison County, so had likely moved away.

I also checked the birth and death dates using the gravestone photos of the 7 siblings who remained in Madison County, found at Iowagravestone.org. The birth and death dates there, plus dates calculated in the censuses, helped verify the birth dates found in the obituaries (mistakes do happen, and did). Birthdates indicated that all 8 siblings in Madison County were in their 30s and 40s in the 1890s, which seems to fit the faces seen in the picture.

With this information, those in the portrait can be identified as:

- Rachel Jane (Campbell) Crow (1848-1911), older of the two women
- Ida Elizabeth (Campbell) Breeding (1863-1926)
- Clement Harrison “Clem” Campbell (b.1856) moved to Wallace, Idaho after 1895
- James William Campbell (1857-1926)
- Benjamin Newton Campbell (1859-1940)
- Thomas Jackson “Jack” or “T.J.” Campbell (1861-1946)
- Robert E. Lee “Bob” Campbell (1866-1945)
- Charles Curtis Campbell (1867-1934)

A bit of mystery still remains as to which brother is which, but I'll leave that for a Campbell descendant to puzzle through. In the end, this was the family of Robert Campbell, but his ancestors rather than his descendants.

So, with a “little digital elbow grease,” what was formerly a story-less portrait has much to tell. I hope this gives you some ideas on available resources and how they can be used to solve a mystery.

To further bring the photo “to life,” I used MyHeritage.com to colorize it.

Let me introduce you to the Campbell siblings...



DNA testing: Is it time to take the plunge?

Provided by Glenn York, MCGS member from Colorado

DNA testing is hot. We see the advertisements on TV shows all the time. Genealogical societies have speakers talking about DNA testing. TV shows like “Who Do You Think You Are?”, “Finding Your Roots”, and “Long Lost Family” use DNA testing with traditional genealogy methods to find ancestors.

The numbers of people testing are growing fast, but the companies don’t publish their numbers often. In 2015, Ancestry and 23andMe each completed their one millionth test. Today there are over 34 million people have taken DNA tests. Those of us with European or Colonial American ancestry are likely find many close relatives that have tested.

How do you decide if it’s time to join the trend? DNA testing can confirm or refute information found through traditional research.



- If you have doubts about your research or want some confirmation you are on the right track DNA may be the answer.
- If you have unknown parentage, (adoption, uncertain father, foundling) and want to find out about your birth parents, you need to do DNA testing.
- If you want to find a child that was given up for adoption, you need to do DNA testing.
- If you have a brick wall in your research and need some more clues to help break through the wall, DNA testing may be the next step that will help you advance your research.
- If you are looking for an immigrant ancestor, DNA testing may provide some clues to ethnicity or contact with other researchers that may help you help you identify where your ancestor came from.
- If you want to find living distant cousins, DNA testing may be helpful.
- If you have a specific question that DNA testing can help solve, it may be time to test. For example, you think two people are closely related, but you have not found the documentation testing both people may help provide evidence.
- If you are writing a genealogical proof for an ancestor’s family where DNA could confirm or refute your assumptions, your proof is not complete unless you include a discussion about DNA testing.
- If you just want to jump on the latest trend, now may be the time to do a DNA test.

If you are thinking about doing DNA testing but are not sure where to start join a DNA study group and talk to others that have tested. Each company has advantages and disadvantages. Your goals and research questions should drive the decision on what test to take.

What is the Difference between the Various DNA Tests?

To explain the three types of genealogical DNA tests, we reference an article found at https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Y-DNA-mtDNA-and-Autosomal-DNA-Tests?language=en_US

Y-DNA tests

Because Y-chromosomes are passed from father to son virtually unchanged, males can trace their patrilineal (male-line) ancestry by testing their Y-chromosome. Since women don't have Y-chromosomes, they can't take Y-DNA tests (though their brother, father, paternal uncle, or paternal grandfather could). Y-chromosome testing uncovers a male's Y-chromosome haplogroup, the ancient group of people from whom one's patrilineage descends.

mtDNA tests

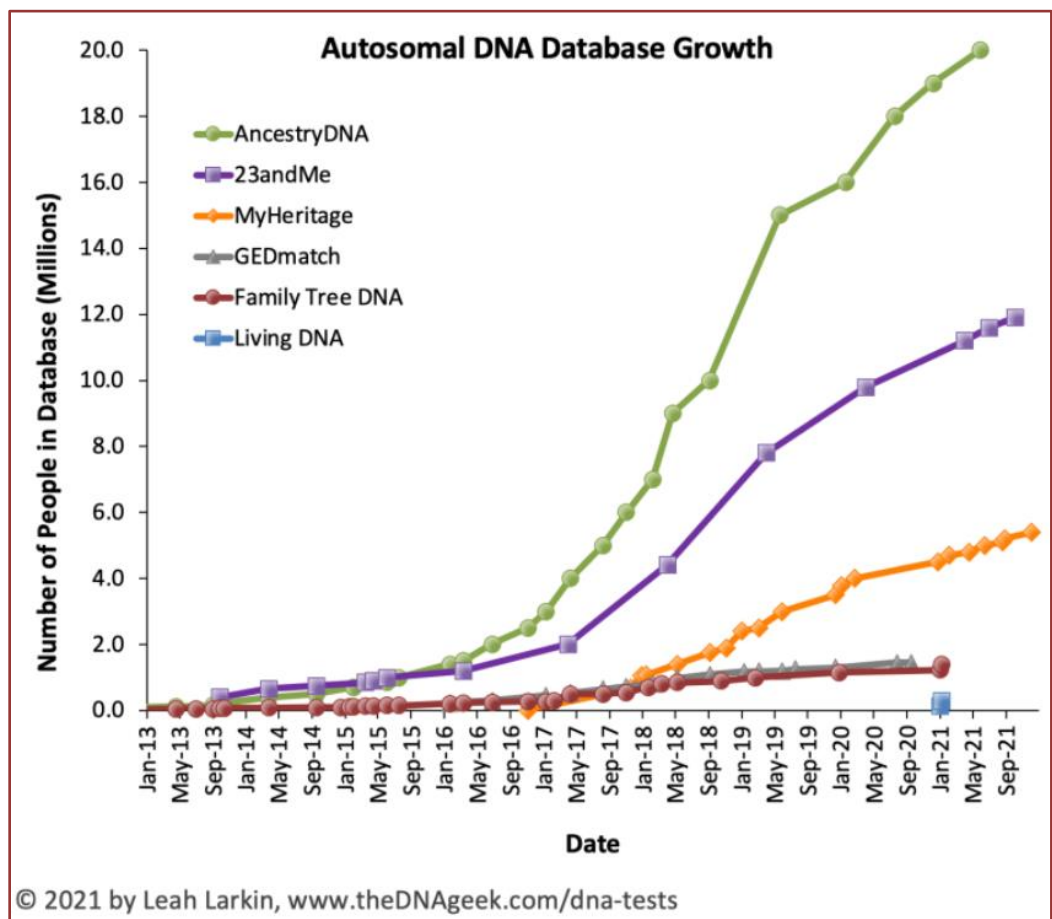
Mitochondrial DNA tests trace people's matrilineal (mother-line) ancestry through their mitochondria, which are passed from mothers to their children. Since everyone has mitochondria, people of all genders can take mtDNA tests. This testing uncovers a one's mtDNA haplogroup, the ancient group of people from whom one's matrilineage descends.

Autosomal DNA tests

Autosomal DNA tests trace a person's autosomal chromosomes, which contain the segments of DNA the person shares with everyone to whom they're related (maternally and paternally, both directly and indirectly). Because everyone has autosomal chromosomes, people of all genders can take autosomal DNA tests, and the test is equally effective for people of any gender. Autosomal DNA tests can confirm ethnicity percentages and close relationships with a high level of accuracy. Ancestry.com

Which DNA Test is Most Popular?

If you are wondering the popularity of the various testing companies, Glenn provided this chart from Leah Larkin, who is known as "The DNA Geek". Her website states "Feel free to use the following graph in presentations to genealogy societies and DNA interest groups. The chart only includes databases that offer relative matching and for which information is available."



Bits and Pieces

Future MCGS Meeting

Here is the list of meeting dates for the remainder of 2022, always on the first Tuesday of the month. All take place at the Winterset Public Library at 6:30 pm.

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6 – Christmas party and election of 2023 officers

There will be no meetings in January or February, 2023 due to weather we will likely want to avoid. Our first 2023 meeting will be March 7.

2022 Exhibits at the Historical Complex

Each year, the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) provides a special themed display in the Historical Complex Museum at 815 S, 2nd Avenue in Winterset. In 2022 there are two and here is a description of both.



PORTRAITS OF MADISON COUNTY

contains photos from the MCHS collection of some of the first non-Native families in the area. The poses and frames represent the periods from which these photographs were born, and give you a glimpse of the progression of photography. A short bio accompanies each portrait. A shelved display in the same room shows equipment throughout the generations.

Are any of your ancestors here? What other family items or information does the Historical Museum have in its collection?

STITCH-WORKS

is an exhibit full of unique selections from the MCHS textile collection including colorful quilts which represent 13 different patterns and several generations, as well as clothing, doilies, and other textile-related pieces like baskets and hand tools used in the creation of some of the most visually appealing objects at the museum!



Visit these and the entire museum, plus a guided tour of the Bevington Mansion for a \$5 fee. The Complex is open until October 15 and will reopen, with new special exhibits, on May 1, 2023. The Complex's 14 outbuildings can always be explored during open hours at no charge.

IGS Fall Conference – Des Moines

The Iowa Genealogical Society is holding their annual fall conference on October 7-8, 2022 by Zoom. Friday's speaker, Amber Oldenburg will explain land and homestead records, finding female ancestors, and Midwest archives. On Saturday, Diana Elder will discuss finding ancestor's locations, source citation, and use of a timeline to separate those pesky relatives with the same name. For details, check iowagenealogy.org. Register at <https://igs.regfox.com/2022-fall-conference>

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

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