



# In Times Past



## Library Hours:

Mon-Fri.: 9:30 a.m-6 p.m.

Wed.: 9:30 a.m-8 p.m.

Sat.: 9:30 a.m-2:30 p.m.

Sun.: Closed

507 Poplar Street

Atlantic, IA 50022

:

The Genealogical Society Room is open by volunteers. Library policy requires a Genealogical Society volunteer be present when the room is open. Arrangements may be made to assure a volunteer is present by calling the Library at 712-243-5466.

### Officers:

President: Linda Merek  
Vice-president: Carolyn Key  
Treasurer: Doris Comes  
Secretary: Linda Herman  
Newsletter: Carolyn DeLay

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### Upcoming Events:

Jan.: Cass County

Courthouse Records Tour

Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday of each month at

1:00 PM.

Fall

Cass County Genealogy Society

[casscgs@yahoo.com](mailto:casscgs@yahoo.com)

2014



## Letter from the President

The end of 2014 is almost here. It is time to look at the year in recap. The immigration /naturalization record data base has been indexed. Carolyn Key has taken over Marietta's open position of entering the obits in the computer and indexing the books with birthdays and anniversaries. Kathy Morris, Norma Miller and Janet Aunan continue working on the obit process, saving newspaper clippings and pasting them on the cards for Carolyn Key. Carolyn DeLay and Glenn Fleming continue working on updating the cemeteries and adding memorials and photos to findagrave.com. Cindy Sievers, Janet Aunan, Linda Herman and Mary Hoegh continue to do research in the genealogy room while others are working on research at home. The research was complicated for

one person by trying to find a biological mother for a 80+ year old woman born in 1921.

Ninety visitors signed into the library 29 being out of state. Those states included: CA, CO, IL, IN, KS, MN, MD, MO, NE, OK, OR, SD, TX, WA, WI, There were also phone calls and emails from people living in CA, FL, IN, MN, MO, ND, OH, TX, WI and Canada.

The CCGS visited the Highland Cemetery in May and placed flags on the veteran's graves. Other visits were made to the Cass County Museum in Griswold, the Anita Public Library and genealogy room, the Danish Heritage Center in Elkhorn, and the Heritage Library in Lewis. A number of people attended the Walnut Genealogy society meeting

in Walnut. Colleen Wilbur presented 2 programs: one on Pioneer Women and Quilts and the other on Family Civil War letters. Additional time was spent watching DVD's on Ellis Island and the Battle of Vicksburg. We have had a very productive year thanks to all.

Mary



**Remember those who have passed away this year:**

Marietta Peterson -

## Cass County ladies learn to become Danes

In September the CCGS met at the Danish Genealogy and Heritage Center on Main Street in Elkhorn. A very informative presentation was given by Michele McNabb, Librarian-Manager, giving the history, purpose and resources of the Center. Time was allotted for questions before personal research was done by all.



Left to right-Michele McNabb, Linda Herman and Carolyn Key at the Danish Genealogy and Heritage Center in Elkhorn.

**A new slate of officers has been elected for the 2015-2017 term:**

**President:** Linda Merek  
**Vice President:** Carolyn Key  
**Secretary:** Linda Herman  
**Treasurer:** Doris Comes

Congrats to all!

*Congratulations*



## In Days Gone By

Griswold has a population of 1000 souls and is second only in commercial importance to Atlantic, the judicial seat of the county. The town is located on the lines of the Rock Island and the C.B. & Q. Railways, in the southwestern part of Cass County, and is the natural supply point for large portions of Cass, Pottawattamie and Montgomery counties, as well as the most convenient shipping point for the vast amount of grain and livestock produced in this section. The country in all directions for many miles around Griswold is the most fertile and productive in the state. There has not been a failure in crops in this part of Iowa within the recollection of its oldest inhabitants. Lands have naturally advanced rapidly during the past few years, but are not unreasonably high when their character, quality of soil, and productiveness are considered.

Griswold was laid out as a

Since the establishment of Cass County in 1852, there have been 28 post offices. Many were located in homes or places of business of the postmaster. Thus the location might change and the name remains the same when a new postmaster was assigned. **Anita** - 22 Dec 1868 with Isaac N. Gardner postmaster. It is currently open. **Atlantic** - 2 Feb 1869 with Samuel T. McFadden postmaster. It was discontinued 10 Nov 1873. It was discontinued again 11 Apr 1878. **Cold Springs** - 24 Dec 1849 with John Pettingill postmaster. At that time it was located in Wright Township, Pottawattamie County, but this area became part of Cass County in 1852. It was moved 12 Aug 1854 to Lewis, the newly established county seat. **Cumberland** - 19 Jan 1885 with M.S. Durham postmaster. It is currently open. **Dewey** - 24 June 1898 with Adolph Bernhardt

village in 1880, and has steadily grown since in financial and commercial importance until it is without exception the most prosperous and hearty business town of its size in the great state of Iowa. During the past four years there have been built seven new brick buildings, and there are now four large brick buildings in course of construction. Most of these new bricks have taken the places of smaller frame buildings. IN the past year all of the sidewalks in Central Block have been removed and replaced by twelve-foot cement or brick walks, as has also a large portion of Odd Fellows Block, on both sides of the street. All lines of business are well represented by broad-minded and public spirited men, while the professions of law, medicine, pedagogy and the ministry have their able exponents in men of fine talent. Heretofore the town had really been too busy to make needed

improvements in its streets and business houses, but a new era is dawning for Griswold, and these essential improvements have been steadily advancing since the completion, about three years ago, of the handsome new brick business and office block of R.J. KEWIN, as well as others completed and those now in way of construction.

The town has a fine graded school, twelve grades, seven instructors, and is classed as among the best in the state. The churches here represented are five in number, as follows: Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Christian, Central and Catholic, all of which are well attended. Most all the leading fraternal and beneficiary orders are well represented, and the social status of its citizens compares favorably with that of the best of law and order respecting communities to be found anywhere.

From: *Exposition Souvenir Album, published by Democrat Publishing Company, Atlantic, Iowa, 1904. Transcribed by Brenda Magee, March, 2010.*



The photo above postcard is labelled "Central Block, Griswold, Iowa." It was postmarked Aug. 1, 1911 and addressed to Miss Nellie Bookout in Dexter, Iowa. It was signed "May Barnes".

This information was taken from the Cass County History photo section of the Iowa GenWeb project.

## The mail must go on

postmaster. It was discontinued 31 Oct 1903. It was located in the center of Victoria Township. **Edna** - 14 Mar 1854 with William S. Townsend postmaster. It was moved to Newlon's Grove 10 Oct 1872. The original location was in Noble Township, later moving to Edna and Bear Grove Townships. These were all within one mile of each other. **Galion** - 6 October 1880 with Samuel B. Kegarice postmaster. It was established again 25 April 1898 after being closed for a month. It was discontinued 13 June 1903. This was located in Bear Grove Township. **Griswold** - 26 Jan 1880 with John Pipher postmaster. It is currently open. **Grove City** - 16 May 1864 the name of Turkey Grove postoffice was changed to Grove City. with Robert D. McGeehon postmaster. It was discontinued in Sept 1870 and re-established in February 1871. It was again discontinued 4 April 1871. **Gurley** - 24 Feb 1864 with Barnia A. Harris postmaster. It was discontinued 10 May 1869. It was located in Section 5 of Pymosa Township. **Hedges Grove** - 24 Feb

1858 with Peter Hedges postmaster. It was located in his home in Section 10 of Union Township. It was closed 31 Dec 1859 when it was moved to Whitneyville. **Iranistan** - 25 April 1854 with Nelson T. Spoor postmaster. It was discontinued 30 April 1857. For a short time, this was called Cold Springs. **Lewis** - 12 Aug 1854 with William A. Dickerson postmaster. This was moved from Cold Springs. **Lorah** - 21 Jan 1880 with Isaac Jansen postmaster. It was located in Pymosa Township. It was discontinued 24 Jan 1936. **Lura** - 8 May 1855 with Peter W. Nisley postmaster. It was discontinued 6 Feb 1865. It is believed that this was located about two miles south of present Anita in Grant Township. **Lyman** - 19 Dec 1884 with Lewis H. Conrad postmaster. It was re-established twice and finally discontinued 30 Nov 1916. **Marne** - 26 July 1875 with Julius Langefeldt postmaster. It is currently open. **Massena** - name changed from Smith. with John W. Loudon postmaster. **McDill** - 20 Feb 1877 with Enos Sayers

postmaster. It was first located in Section 21 of Victoria Township, but in 1879 was relocated to Section 15. It was discontinued 2 May 1881. **Newlon's Grove** - 10 Oct 1872 with H.S. Liston postmaster. This was moved from Edna post office. **Pymosa** - 17 Jan 1855 with James Brinkerhoff postmaster. It was located in Section 11. It was discontinued 8 Dec 1857. **Reno** - 8 May 1878 with Jacob Steen postmaster. It was discontinued 20 May 1898. **Smith** - with John W. Loudon postmaster. The name changed to Massena. **Turkey Grove** - 6 Jan 1857 with Mrs. D.A. Barnett postmistress. The name was changed to Grove City on 16 May 1864. **Wax** - 29 July 1891 with William Kritzberg postmaster. It was located in Noble Township. It was discontinued 30 Marcy 1899. **Whitneyville** - 31 Dec 1859 with Frank H. Whitney postmaster. This post office was moved from Hedges Grove. It was discontinued in 1864 and re-established 15 Jan 1866. It was again discontinued 5 Feb 1886. **Wiota** - 25 April 1872 with Oliver Coomes postmaster. It is currently open.



## Atlantic's Graduates --- 1891

Taken from the Cass County Iowa GenWeb Project

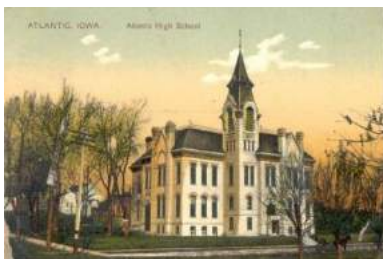
1891

( BROWN ) KIRK, Blanch  
..... Niles, California.HARLAN, Edgar ....  
Atlantic, Iowa .... Bank.

Pasadena, California.

EYLLER, August ....  
Chicago, Illinois.HAWKS, Ralph ..... Exira,  
Iowa .... Farmer.( EGBERT ) HIGHLEY,  
Rhoda .... Tama City, Iowa.( HERBERT ) BIXBY,  
Mabel ..... Walnut, Iowa.ELDRIDGE, Walter .....  
Alton, Iowa ....  
Stenographer.( LA RUE ) CARSON, Eva  
..... Colorado Springs,  
Colorado.FERRIER, Hattie .....  
Council Bluffs, Iowa ....  
Teacher.LAMSON, Merle ..... Lamar,  
Colorado .... Teacher.GLASS, Maude ..... Lewis,  
Iowa .... Teacher.( MURRAY ) NEEDLES,  
Estella ..... Atlantic, Iowa.( GILLISPIE ) GRUBB,  
Lulu ..... Atlantic, Iowa.( MCADAM ) WILSON,  
Nellie ..... Newton, Iowa.

PRESSNALL, J. F. ....

*"Still trying to decorate my family tree."*

## Massena – a Brief History

The city of Massena was platted by the [Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad](#) on land purchased from A. Vredenburgh in 1883 and 1884 that included most of Section 33 of Cass County. The incorporated city was platted in 1886. The first meeting of the city council was on March 21, 1887 and a special election was held on December 10, 1887 to enlarge the corporate limits to include all of section 33. The city was platted with the name of "Smith", but the post office authorities refused the name because of another city with a similar spelling.

Lume A. Stone, an [American](#)

[Civil War soldier](#) from [Massena, New York](#), suggested Massena after his hometown, and thus the name of the township and town. Massena, New York was named after a [French](#) Marshal under [Napoleon](#), [Andre Massena](#).

The Massena [Historical Society](#) restored, maintains and gives tours of a country school house, a [barber shop](#) and a [gas station](#). The country school house, Victoria No. 8, was brought in to town from Victoria Township. Every 3 July the local [volunteer fire department](#) sponsors a street dance on [Main Street](#) to raise money for the [fire department funds](#). The annual

Fontanelle & Massena [Independence Day parade](#) is alternated between Massena and the community of [Fontanelle, Iowa](#). Baseball has a strong tradition in Massena. Massena's local team is the Massena Red Sox, formally the Cumberland Red Sox, which has been in existence since the 1920s.

**Thanks go to everyone for submitting articles for the newsletter. All your help is greatly appreciated. Carolyn DeLay.**



## Genealogy Society No Longer Exists

As I was pursuing some personal genealogy things, I came across one dead end literally. A notice was posted on the genealogy web site for the county from which I was seeking information. Here is a copy of that notice. It makes one think. What are your thoughts? Will we ever reach that stage?

### *Welcome to the Former Leavenworth County Genealogy Society Website*

**Our Society no longer exists as of December 30, 2001. We could not find enough people willing to**

**serve as officers and to do the necessary work needed for an effective organization. Properties of the Society were donated to 6 agencies in the area that are oriented toward history and genealogy.**

How devastated was I to find I could not get someone to help me and could not get there to do the legwork myself. I finally talked to the County Recorder by phone for Leavenworth County. She was kind enough to look up the information on the spot, only to find out that my relative did not have a death certificate on file with the county from 1911. I never did find it.



December 3 the Cass County Genealogical Society met for a Christmas luncheon at the historic S. F. Martin House. Established in 1991, The S. F. Martin House Bed & Breakfast is an 1873 "Second Empire" Victorian home built in Atlantic, IA, by S. F. Martin -- and is located adjacent to downtown Atlantic. A truly Victorian atmosphere is created by interesting features: 5 marble and onyx fireplaces, grand staircase, period chandeliers, old time player piano, and grand piano in the parlor. B&B guests may reminisce and imagine a "trip back in time" as they sit in front of the fireplace in the parlor "from yesterday," truly

magnificent The S.F. Martin House, Atlantic, IA, is listed on the National Historic Registry.

Bed and Breakfast guests are treated to a gourmet breakfast, prepared by innkeeper/Chef Roger Steffens. Known throughout Southwest Iowa for his mouth-watering meals, served in the Victorian splendor of this beautifully restored Victorian bed and breakfast (interior only -- exterior is still under construction) Steffens offers a variety of house specials daily. Guests may also enjoy lunch or dinner in the restaurant, located on the first floor of the B&B.



From left to right--Carolyn Key, Linda Merek, Janet Aunam, Roger Steffens, Linda Herman, Mary Hoegh, Doris Comes and Cindy Sievers.

## Latest News from Cass County IAGenweb

The Directory of the City of Atlantic 1880-1881 is now fully transcribed and available online at Cass County IAGenweb. Work continues on transcription of the remaining sections of the 1880-81 General Directory.

Four pages of the 1856 State Census for Cass Township are now fully transcribed and available online. We hope to add more pages in the very near future.

Several hundred gravestone photos from Evergreen Cemetery at Anita have been added to Iowa gravestones this fall, with more gravestones

photos being uploaded weekly. A transcription of Judd Cemetery was also recently added to Cass IAGenweb.

A short history of Cass County Post Offices was transcribed recently from "Post Offices 1833-1986" by Patera and Gallagher.

Cass IAGenweb is always looking for additional volunteers to transcribe vintage books and records! Volunteers set their own schedule and only work as they have time.

A variety of projects are available! Contact the Cass County IAGenweb

Coordinator at [casscoordinator@comcast.net](mailto:casscoordinator@comcast.net) to volunteer.

Friends of IAGenweb is the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit which provides funding and server space for IAGenweb. Please contact Cheryl Siebrass, the Cass County IAGenweb Coordinator, with any questions, or to volunteer or contribute items to the Cass Co. IAGenweb site.

Cheryl Siebrass maintains the Cass Co. web pages, and also serves as IAGenweb County Coordinator for the neighboring counties of Audubon and Shelby. Cheryl can be contacted at: [casscoordinator@comcast.net](mailto:casscoordinator@comcast.net)



On the site of the old Pottawattamie Indian village of Indiantown (Miside-au-mise for a favorite Indian chief), a mile west of the town of Lewis, a marker was erected in 1923 by the Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, along with the Atlantic Deborah Franklin Chapter and the Iowa State Historical Society, to mark the old Mormon Trail which went through there. Through a treaty in the spring of 1846 with government, the Indians were removed to lands to the southwest that were given them. In the fall of that same year the Mormans stopped at that area for their winter quarters. They weathered the severe winter that year and the small band of settlers established a post office that next spring with A. G. Pattengill as its postmaster and called it Cold Springs, having weekly mail from Kaneshville (now Council Bluffs). Some of the Mormans moved on, but the town remained until the nearby town of Lewis was established in 1853.

In 1911 the Mormon Trail was authenticated by the Historical Department of Iowa. This site was the junction of the Mormon Trail with a military trail from Raccoon Forks, site of Ft. Des Moines II (1837-1846). It was also here that the handcart

companies from Des Moines intersected the Mormon Trail of 1847. The monument was placed on the south side of the road going west from Lewis about half a mile west of the Nishnabota River at the top of the hill upon the premises of B. M. Painter. Old Indiantown was almost opposite the site upon the north, and the old Fort Des Moines Trail branched off nearby.

The big granite stone contained a bronze plaque relief figure of the state of Iowa with the following inscription: the Mormon Trail. Determined and authenticated by the historical Department of Iowa 1911. This monument was erected in 1917 by the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of the pioneers who followed this trail and its tributaries. "We cross the prairies as of old, the pilgrims crossed the sea, to make the West as they the East, The homestead of the Free." Whittier. At this point was the junction of Indiantown with the trail from Raccoon forks. In 1917 this 1-2 ton granite boulder was gifted to mark the passing of the Mormans in the Lewis area.

In May of 1918, it is written that the marker, a cube from a granite boulder, and weighing about a ton has been shipped to Lewis to be

placed on the site of the old trail across the Nishnabotana near the site of the old Indiantown. It was remarked in the **ANT Nov. 21, 1918**, that it was on a wagon at the depot.

Then in September, 1922, the State Historical Society went to Lewis to see why the marker had not been placed and established where they were to be placed, "the markers have been here for some time and have never been put up will be placed at the places mentioned;" which were the City park and the B. M. Pointer place (Tony Freund) west of Lewis. The marker had been placed on a wagon. It had not been set in place, because they wanted to widen the road. **ANT, Sept. 23, 1922.** After a 6 year delay the marker was set in place on Oct. 23, 1923. It has the date of 1917, the date the State Historical Society announced they were gifting a granite stone to mark the passing of the Mormans in the Lewis area. The dedication ceremony was set for Nov. 2, 1923, with Mr. Harlan, State Historical Society Director and other members of the society, and with the State DAR Regent of Iowa and members of the Deborah Franklin Chapter of Atlantic participating. **ANT, Oct. 1923.**

At some point the red granite bolder with the bronze plaque was moved to the city park in the center of the town of Lewis. Today it stands beside a marker commemorating the Veterans of the Wars a little to the northwest of the picnic shelter. Few remember that it is there and no one remembers when it was transferred to the present site. That mystery still remains.



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Have you come to a roadblock in doing family research? Can't find that side road that will get you back on track? Submit your queries to the newsletter or to one of the genealogy members for additional help. Sometimes a fresh set of eyes or new resources can work wonders in finding that "lost" piece of information. Email your question to "Query" at the CCGS or to the newsletter.

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**Membership Dues: Jan.1- Dec. 31. Renewal is due January 1, 2015, which includes the quarterly newsletter. New memberships received after Oct. 1 will extend into the following year.**

## CCGS Research Request Form

Please fill out the form below with as much information that is known.

(Please print)

SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_ MARRIAGE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/CEMETERY \_\_\_\_\_

Please check below the records that you are requesting.

Birth Record	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Death Record	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Marriage Record	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Naturalization Record (list year if known)	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Obituary copy from newspaper (if available)	_____	\$5.00 each	_____
Other (History, Cemetery, Military, Ancestral records, etc.)	_____	\$5.00 each	_____

Records such as Probates and Wills, Land Records and Certified Copies of Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce may be obtained from the Cass County Recorder's Office <http://www.casscountyiowa.us/offices/recorder>. Information and application forms may be downloaded from this site

Sub-Total of Copy and Court House Records Request: \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE HOUR MINIMUM RESEARCH FEE (include on ALL orders)**

**\$10.00**

TOTAL PAYMENT enclosed for research & all copies requested above: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(We will contact you with questions and/or to notify you that we are sending out your request)

Additional questions or other information:

Cass County Genealogical Society. % Atlantic Carnegie Public Library 507 Poplar Street Atlantic, Iowa 50022-1241. Phone: 712-243-5466

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED LEGAL SIZED ENVELOPE.

(If your request entitles more than 3 pages, please include additional postage.)

Thank you for helping to support the Cass County Genealogical Society. We are a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. Additional donations are thankfully accepted and are tax deductible.



**Cass County Genealogical Society  
% Atlantic Public Library  
507 Poplar Street  
Atlantic, Iowa 50022-1241**

If you would rather receive your newsletter with color photos via e-mail, please contact the CCGS at 712-243-5466 or [cassgs@yahoo.com](mailto:cassgs@yahoo.com), or mark it on the form below.

**Membership Dues: Jan.1-Dec. 31. Renewal due January 1**  
Membership will increase to \$15 Jan. 1, 2014, which includes the quarterly newsletter.

New memberships received after Oct. 1 will extend into the following year.

Membership Application    New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames being researched in Cass County \_\_\_\_\_