



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 712-243-546, or email us at casscgs@yahoo.com with your request.

Officers:

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

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Upcoming Events:

Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM.

Spring

Cass County Genealogy Society

casscgs@yahoo.com

2016



Letter from the President

This is the second month of my second year as president of the Cass County Genealogical Society. Time does fly! We have accomplished much during 2015 and hope to continue with many projects that are in progress at this time.

Volunteer hours worked in January were 366.5. This includes 157 hours for Carolyn DeLay (mapping and photographing at the Evergreen Cemetery in Anita and working on the newsletter), and 39 hours for Carolyn Key who has been working on the inventory indexing and the birthday and anniversary books.

Things have been slow in the genealogy room due to "too much weather" and also slow with requests and visitors. This will surely pick up as the weather becomes more pleasant.

On January 27th we hosted, along with the assistance of Jodi Alumbaugh of the library staff, an

evening open to the public called "Find Your Hidden Past". The guests were pre-registered and genealogy society members were on hand to help them learn about searching for their family history. Handouts on resources available on line and at the library were given to the attendees. The time allotted went very fast and everyone present seemed to learn something new during the evening. There were nine CCGS members and six guests at the program.

Carolyn Key has made a new brochure as the old one had become outdated. She will have them at our February meeting.

Linda Herman and Mary Hoegh have started indexing the obituary files. Carolyn Key has set up an Excel sheet that includes name, date of birth, date of death, burial place if given and associated names. It is a very slow process as the obituaries have to be read through to gather all the information.

Natalie, the library director, has ordered the new microfilm reader and Bob will let her know when it will be arriving so we can set up a day for training for those who will be using it.

On a personal note, in November I enjoyed a tour to Italy. I have no Italian ancestry, perhaps luckily, because at the pace we maintained all week there would not have been time to look for family records. We arrived in Milan and toured Lake Garda/Riva, Venice, Florence, Tuscany and Rome with a very special day at the Vatican on All Saints Day. We were privileged to be in St. Peter's square for the blessing by Pope Francis. Even for a non-Catholic, it was a very moving event.

I hope you are having success with your family searches. It is an exciting and addicting hobby and full of surprises as you learn more about your own family tree.

Linda Marek, President

CCGS Explores New Technology



On Thursday, January 28, Bob Czechowski pictured above presented a microfilm reader/scanner to members of the CCGS. The CCGS had been without a microfilm reader for several which has hindered research. The present one would have had to been fixed and updated. Other options were explored including the one presented by Bob and RMC

Imagining. It has the latest technologies including ORC and the ability to scan present microfilms and save them. It also provides for easier cropping and printing of small articles within a single page. A question and answering period followed the presentation. The CCGS meet again a week later in a special meeting to consider the merits of the reader/scanner.

After much discussion and establishment of a quorum the those present voted to purchase the new microfilm reader. It now joins two new and much needed computers and a printer in the genealogy room. Stop by and try them out!!!!

Genealogy 101

A crash course in Genealogy 101 was presented by the CCGS and sponsored by the Atlantic Public Library. All those attending had brought laptops and were assisted by members of the CCGS with research into their own pasts. A short presentation with helpful hints preceded the research on the internet. Below is shown Kim Page seated front left in the foreground while Glenn Fleming takes off his hat to Linda Hermann seated right.



Who do You Think I am?



Have you ever found an old picture and wondered who it was? You turn it over and no name. You try to find out who it is because it is driving you crazy. This is especially difficult when it is a very old picture and you know it is not your family. We have recently been in possession of some of these very photographs.

them this time. If you have any of these photographs, think about submitting them to the Cass County Genealogical Society. We will put them into our new column of the newsletter with the hopes that someone will recognize and identify them.

are. The cemetery walk has been laid out to correspond with the map and the cemetery records. The cemetery is in a book of its own and the shelf with the rest of the cemetery books. The Anita Library, as well as the courthouse, also has a hard copy. Check it out!

No one identified the band photo last month. This month's photo is of an unknown group of people believed to have been taken at Anita, or at least include individuals from Anita. The photo was contributed by Dawn Wheat to the IAGenWeb site, April, 2010, from the collection of her great grandmother, Ida Mae Petty Dilts McCord. Good luck this time identifying

Evergreen Cemetery, Anita. Update

Hurrah! The new cemetery walk for the Evergreen Cemetery in Anita has been COMPLETED! The cemetery has been walked, all remaining stones photographed, and all the people put in their proper place in rows, and printed out. There is a map of the cemetery in the book showing where the blocks



From: *Industrial Edition, published by Atlantic News Telegraph, Atlantic, Iowa, 1913, pg. 16.*

Happenings 100 years ago in History, 1916

Short Stories About Town

Miss Tiedje sick – Miss Tiedje, one of the nurses at the hospital, is sick with mastoiditis, but is improving at present.

Jim McCourt is better – The condition of Jim McCourt, who has been sick for some time, is considerably improved at present.

Moving into new home – E. J. Pringy and family is moving into a new home at 1103 Locust Street, where they will make their future home.

To have Birthday – The employees at the court house are to celebrate the birthday of Ed Worthing tomorrow, and it is understood that he will hand out cigars to his friends.

Will hold short session – Judge J. B. Rockafellow will hold a short session of the court tomorrow at the courthouse to take up various matters, and incidentally make assignments for the April cases.

Have baby boy – Word was received here yesterday of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. John Budd of Anita. Mrs. Budd is a daughter of Mrs. J. E. Glass of this city.

Many sweepers sold – The Oransky store disposed of a goodly number of the carpet sweepers which were placed on sale at that store yesterday. Over eighty housewives will be made happy by the purchase of the sweepers.

Will celebrate the day – The congregation of the Catholic church will celebrate St. Patrick's Day tomorrow evening at the K. C. Hall in this city. An excellent program

has been arranged and a large crowd is expected.

Death in home – L. C., J. F., and M. R. Robison of the Anita vicinity have received word of the death of their brother James Alexander Robison, at the home of a daughter in Okiowa, Neb., on March 3. He was well known in the county.

Indianola editor here – Seth F. Shenton, son of Mrs. D. Shenton of this city, and editor of the Indianola Herald, was in town today a pleasant caller at this office. He was looking after business here.

Entertain at reception – Mrs., D. M. Lewis, and Mrs. Frank Nichols were hostesses at a reception yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Nichols to one hundred guests.

ANT, March 16, 1916.



In Days Gone By



The old Phillips 88 service station in Massena, Iowa, is shown above.

The town of Massena was incorporated about 1886, the first store in the town being built in the winter of 1883-4 by Chas. BAKER. The railroad came during the summer of 1884. The first mayor of the town was VAN McCURDY. The first church to be built in the town was of the M. E.

denomination, and the first money received for the church was raised by a dance held in SNELSON's drug store, as a result of which \$7.50 was raised. The town had a bad fire on January 2, 1901, when a block of business houses burned at a loss of about \$15,000. Subsequently the block was rebuilt with brick. The town has had a steady growth and the present population is about 500. The city officials are : Mayor, L.R. TEMPLE ; Clerk, Chas. McBRIDE; Treasurer, D.P. HOGAN; Councilmen, Geo.

ARNOLD, T.M. SCOTT, L.C. MITCHELL, Wm. SNELSON, C.L. SHIELDS and E.W. HOLMES. The town has good schools and good churches, the Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, Christian and German Lutheran being represented there. Massena is among the good towns of Cass County, and her citizens are progressive, thrifty and ever alive to anything which will be of public benefit.

From: *Exposition Souvenir Album, published by Democrat Publishing Company, Atlantic, Iowa, 1904.*



Atlantic Carnegie Library was built in 1908. Construction was funded by a \$12,000 donation from steel millionaire Andrew Carnegie. Local donations provided funds for equipping the library and purchase of books. J.S. McWaid served as president of the first board of trustees. Other trustees on the first board were W. A. Follett, J. S. Gross, C. M. Cole, James Stier, R. H. Bailey, R. D. Wilken, J. H. Marshall and J. B. Rockafellow.

"Photo post card contributed by Cheryl Siebrass, November 2010.

<http://iagenweb.org/cass/school/atlantic/eastsideschool.htm>

Upcoming Programs.....

As Vice President of CCGS, I am in charge of finding programs for our meetings. Last year, we developed a list of programs we thought would both educate our members and create interest in both genealogy and CCGS. The January 27th meeting **Find Your Hidden Past**, in cooperation with the library, was a big success with many new faces and lots of excitement about genealogy research. There is potential for future programs of this type.

The February meeting featured Carolyn DeLay's presentation on DAR. Carolyn is a DAR member with extensive research and DAR knowledge. Her programs are always successful.

March brings us Sandra Leininger from the French Icarian Village site in Corning. Linda Marek and

LaVon Eblen attended their fundraising tea last year and several members have expressed interest in attending the May 7th event this year.

April is a busy month. On April 16th, we will visit the Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters in Omaha for Carolyn DeLay's program on Jeremiah Hatch, who is the only Revolutionary War soldier buried in Pottawattamie County. His wife is buried at Winter Quarters. Following the program, we will tour the center.

A unique Bus-uem Exhibit is another April event. CCGS is sponsoring the traveling bus exhibit called **At Home in the Heartland: Forgotten Stories of How Iowans Got to Be 'Us'** from 9:00 to 12:00 on April 29th at the library. It is open to the public and the library

promises publicity for this event.

May also provides two interesting events. In addition to the French Icarian Village tea, May brings our annual outing to a Cass County cemetery to place flags on the graves of Civil War veterans prior to Memorial Day.

Programs in the planning stage include Colleen Wilbur's Lewis and Clark presentation and visits to Harlan's Shelby County Historical Museum, Red Oak's Montgomery County History Center, and the Iowa Genealogical Society Library in Des Moines. Out-of-town trips always include finding a good place for lunch!

The programs for 2016 are varied and should be enjoyable for anyone attending.

Submitted by Carolyn Key, Vice President in charge of Programming.

Tips

The United States government does not breathe without a piece of paper and the issuance of the tombstone for a veteran was no exception. If you've found a military stone for your ancestor, there may be a record of the issuance of that stone.

There are two databases on *FamilySearch* created from National Archives microfilm that may be helpful:

[United States Records of Headstones of Deceased Union Veterans, 1879-1903](#) (not just Civil War veterans as some claim)

[United States Headstone Applications for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1949](#). The later set is more detailed.

Digitized Records Progress

The Records, Collections, and Reference Materials Committee is in charge of compiling and maintaining the records in our genealogy room. Maintaining the records has become difficult because we have more records than shelf space and some of the records are deteriorating because of age. In addition, many issues of our county newspapers are available only on microfilm, which is not searchable. Searching for information frequently requires viewing the entire roll of microfilm. It is a time-consuming process.

A recent acquisition will provide help. In cooperation with Atlantic Public Library, CCGS recently ordered a ST VIEWSCAN III Digital Reader/Printer. A big thank you to Library Director Natalie Struecker

for her help! The new equipment not only reads microfilm efficiently but also scans it and creates a digital document that is searchable. Searching for documents should become far more efficient.

An ongoing project in the genealogy room is our card file system. Mary Hoegh, Linda Herman, Cindy Sievers, Norma Miller, and Janet Aunan recently sorted all of those files and separated the obituary cards from the wedding, anniversary, birthday cards. Mary, Linda, and Cindy are now entering data from the obituary cards into Excel indexes, which will be available on the IAGenWeb site. I am working on the wedding, anniversary, and birthday cards. This project is going to take a long time.

Carolyn Key

DAR

Daughters of the American Revolution

Genealogy Tips:

Start With What You Know

Speak With Relatives

Start Looking Online

Minority Research - look for databases on ancestry.com and familysearch.org

Visit Libraries, Archives and Courthouses

Work With a DAR Chapter

Genealogical Research (GRS) for Patriot lookup

Suggested Reading

Known as the largest women's patriotic organization in the world, DAR has over 180,000 members with approximately 3,000

Chapters in all 50 states and 13 foreign countries. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible to join. The DAR has long promoted patriotism through commemorative celebrations, memorials, scholarships and activities for children, and programs for new immigrants.

The simple mission of the DAR is promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. For more information about DAR and its programs visit www.dar.org.



Latest News from Cass County IAGenweb

Cass County IAGenWeb continues to grow! Recent additions to Cass County IAGenweb include a complete transcription of burials in Noble Center Cemetery, courtesy of Carolyn DeLay and the Cass County Genealogical Society. The Cass County Genealogical Society's Index of News Clipping Scrapbooks of Birthdays, Family Reunions, Weddings and Anniversaries have also been updated with entries for all the 2015 news clipping scrapbook additions

All biographies from the 1884 History of Cass County have been transcribed and are now available on the Cass County IAGenweb. Many thanks to Lisa Varnes-Rex for her assistance with this project! Lisa plans to now begin work on transcribing additional 1930 census records for Cass County, which should be online in the near future.

A few additional vintage photos have been added recently, and more will be online in coming weeks. Also coming soon, a

complete transcription of Evergreen Cemetery, courtesy of Carolyn DeLay and the Cass County Genealogical Society! .Keep checking back!

IAGenweb is made possible through the efforts of volunteers from all around the country: contributors, transcribers, committee members, technical team members, and coordinators. There are opportunities to help for anyone who would like to contribute.

Check the IAGenweb Volunteer Primer for further info (<http://iagenweb.org/state/primer.htm>). Contributions are always welcome!

Cheryl Siebrass maintains the Cass Co. web pages, and also serves as IAGenweb County Coordinator for the neighboring counties of Audubon. She can be contacted at: casscocoordinator@comcast.net



Vital Statistic Records



Wonder why you are unable to find that missing link to your ancestor, a birth or death record? Many British and European countries began keeping birth and death records nationally in the nineteenth century. Before then, churches maintained registers of christenings and burials, and colonial settlers in America brought British laws and customs with them. Thus, churches were initially the sole keepers of vital records; ministers in many colonies were required by law to report christenings and burials to civil authorities. In some areas, consequently, these events are recorded in both civil and church records. Eventually, some colonies, primarily those in New England, passed laws requiring local town or county clerks to maintain records of births and deaths. Massachusetts had the most comprehensive laws pertaining to birth and death registration, and many of its early records have been published.

During the nineteenth century, England and other European countries instituted national registration systems, primarily to compile medical statistics as information on epidemic diseases. The United States did not implement the practice until much later. The majority of the states did not require registration until the first quarter of the twentieth century, and

then the responsibility for registering births and deaths was left to the individual states rather than the federal government, accounting for different starting dates and differences in the data called for. The earliest cities to require civil registration were New Orleans (1790), Boston (1848), Philadelphia (1860), Pittsburgh (1870), and Baltimore (1875). Fourteen states also initiated registration before 1880: Delaware, 1860, Florida, 1865, Hawaii, 1850, Iowa, 1880, Massachusetts, 1841, Michigan, 1867, New Hampshire, 1850, New Jersey, 1878, New York, 1880, Rhode Island, 1863, Vermont, 1770, Virginia, 1853, Wisconsin, 1876, Washington D. C. 1871.

Laws were instituted that all states were to record birth and death certificates in 1880. However, many states did not comply until much later. In Iowa, official registration of births, deaths and marriages began July 1, 1880. Even then many counties have no records earlier than the 1900's. An article in the **Anita Tribune, January 3, 1918**, reported that a new law provides that attending physicians or others must report all births promptly, which was a radical change in the vital statistics law. Beginning with Jan. 1 all births must be reported to the clerk of the court who, under law, becomes county registrar. This is a

somewhat radical departure from the law now in force, which requires that the assessor shall take a census once a year of all births in the county. In addition to the changes made in the law relative to birth certificates, the modifications made by the last general assembly provide that deaths shall be reported together with the cause of death, to the to the state registrar and to the person in charge of the cemetery where the burial is made.. Additional points were also given to be done. The certificates were to be made out on standard forms adopted by the United States Census Bureau. Failure to comply with the law by persons charged with duties thereunder shall constitute a misdemeanor and be punished on conviction by a fine of \$5 to \$100 or jail sentence and not to exceed thirty days, or both fines and imprisonment. Even in areas with early registration laws, enforcement was haphazard, particularly in rural and frontier areas. West Virginia is a good example of the incompleteness of early vital records. The initial law requiring registration was passed by the Virginia legislature to become effective in 1853, when West Virginia was still part of Virginia. The exact extent of citizen compliance is difficult to estimate, but professional genealogists know that many births and deaths were not registered.

Property owners were more likely to register the birth of a slave than the birth of their own children because registering a slave was a protection of personal property rights. Sometimes a couple registered one or more children but not all. Undoubtedly the difficulty of traveling long distances over rough terrain contributed to the lack of compliance. During the period when civil authorities did not require vital records, births and deaths were regularly recorded in the family Bible among literate, religious families. These entries often supply the only complete birth and death dates for individuals who were born or died before the twentieth century, although other forms of family records sometimes contain mention of births and deaths as they occurred. Even when early vital records are incomplete, you should examine them. Of course, you are not limited to vital records alone for birth and death information. A natural beginning for research is a survey of available family records. Family Bibles, family record books, journals, diaries, and letters often note births and deaths of family members.

....To Be Continued....

Learn more next time,
Carolyn DeLay

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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, or mark it on the form below.

Membership Dues: Jan.1-Dec. 31. Renewal due January 1
Membership dues are \$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 _____