

## In Times Past





Fall

Cass County Genealogy Society casscgs@yahoo.com



### **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.

President: Linda Marek

#### **Individual Features**

President's Letter Library welcomes new Who do you think? In Days Gone By

**Upcoming Events:** 

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

Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM.

## **Letter from the President**

The Cass County Genealogical Society room is a very busy place. Work continues on updating and cleaning up the obituary files and separating out anniversary and birthday news items to be kept in another area. We have had outstate visitors from Salem Oregon, Kansas City, Lincoln NE, Georgetown IN, Fresno CA, New Jersey and Omaha NE. There were also visitors from Oskaloosa, Council Bluffs, Corning, Ames and Winterset IA. Surnames being researched included Aldag, Beech, Butler, Clinton, Dalzell, Dierks, Dreyer, Duff, Hans, Hansen, Hayes, Jennings, Keasey, Marcusen, Pettinger, Robinson, Rossell, Scholl, Scott, Stevenson, Whited, and Waters. We were honored to receive a generous bequest from former long-time member Marietta Petersen. We are planning to use her gift in the best way we can to reflect her passion and dedication to the genealogy Margaret Slepsky of the Nishna

Valley Questers presented a program in June on the importance of preservation of antiques and history in Cass County. The July program was presented by the new Atlantic Library Director, Natalie Struecker. We were introduced to her and wish her well in her new position.

The August meeting was a trip to visit the Pottawattamie County Genealogy Library in Council Bluffs, named the Frontier Heritage Library. We are looking forward to an informative day.

Happy researching, and stop in for a visit with our office volunteers! Linda Marek, President



"Omaha" Bob Anderson

expresses appoint to Linda Herman on the visit to the Pottawattamie Genealogical Society on Thursday, August 27th. The PCGS was formed in the fall of 1992 to preserve, protect and provide information to the general public on any topic related to the history of the county or the heritage of their families. The society owns and operates The Frontier Heritage Library, located at 622 Fourth Street in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The society contains a history of Pottawattamie County, information from the old Frontier Guardian newspaper 1849-52, births and death records, plus all the ORIGINAL Pott. Co. marriage records, plus original wills and probate records. They also have files on obituaries and cemeteries. They have a large facility of several rooms, which includes a banquet style hall for potlucks and speakers. If you ever get to council Bluffs, check them out. They have limited hours, look them up before you go. Be sure we will see them again!!!!!

## **Library Welcomes New Director**

The CCGS, was introduced to Natalie Struecker, the new Director of the Atlantic Public Library.at the July monthly meeting.

Struecker worked at the Rock Island, IL, Public Library, before coming to Atlantic, but she's a native of Des Moines. She attended ISU and later received a Masters Degree from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

She has a background in programming and technology and has worked in libraries

over the course of the past 18-years. Her parents live in Dexter. She has two brothers and is unmarried. Her hobbies include reading, running and crocheting.

We will enjoy getting to know her better.



Natlie Struecker at the July CCGS meeting.

#### **Anita Cemetery**

Many have asked when the updated cemetery walk for the Evergreen Cemetery in Anita will be completed. It is still in the process. It has been completely photographed and those pics are slowly being loading onto findagrave.com, where memorials are made. So far over 400 additional memorials have been added and it is about half way done. Photos need to be edited before they can be entered. When that is completed the actual typing of the walk and the index will be done. When completed, a new map will be drawn to combine the plat map and the 1985 walk, which are laid out differently, causing much confusion for all.

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## 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.

No one identified the country school photo last month. Last May the CCGS placed flags on veteran's graves at the Lorah cemetery. So this month there is a photo of some men standing in front of the old General store and Post Office when Lorah was a town.

Andrew H. and Anna (Jorgensen) Anderson, purchased the grocery store in Lorah in 1902 and operated it until their retirement in 1921. The store was known as "A.H. Anderson and Son" and contained the Lorah Post Office. The family resided in living quarters attached to the store, but at retirement Andrew and Anna moved to the first house west of the store. Andrew and Anna had five children, some of whom might be shown in the photo to the left. The photo is from the collection of Christine (Anderson) Petersen and submitted by Chervl Siebrass. Good luck this time identifying 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.

#### Missing Baby's Headstone Returned and Reset

This was posted in the August 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Omaha World Herald, a heart-warming story that brings it all home.

California artist and filmmaker Alexandra Grant shoots footage for a documentary she is shooting that will tell the story of an 1880 headstone that was stolen from a Nebraska cemetery and missing for decades. Grant found the headstone in a Wyoming antiques store, bought it, and eventually became compelled to reunite the marker with the baby it memorialized.

The story can be found at: http://www.omaha.com/living/b aby-girl-s-missing-headstone-returned-years-later/article\_a8a9b7da-d1ce-51cd-93bd-18219e54216a.html

## Happenings 100 years ago in History, 1915



#### September 29

1st transcontinental radio telephone message is sent

Hurricane claims 275 in Mississippi Delta

#### October 4

Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah is established

#### October 12

Ford Motor Company

manufactures its 1 millionth Model T automobile

Theodore Roosevelt criticizes U.S. citizens who identify themselves, with dual nationalities

#### October 21

1st transatlantic radiotelephone message, Arlington, Virginia to Paris

#### October 23

1st national horseshoe throwing championship (Kellerton, Iowa)

25,000 women march in New York City demanding right to vote. Earlier in the year the House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give women right to vote

News taken from: Brainy history - 1915 Page 3 of 8 In Times Pas

## In Days Gone By

#### Lorah – One of Cass County's Ghost Towns

Nestled among the corn and soybean fields of northern Cass County is a cluster of houses and buildings that mark the site of a once thriving farm village named after one of the most respected men in early Cass County history. The community is Lorah and its namesake was Judge Samuel L. LORAH, who built a house in 1855 in Cass County, hauling the lumber from the Iranistan sawmill west of Lewis. He was not only a judge in the early days of Cass County, but served in the Iowa General Assembly and was a member of the Cass County Board of Supervisors.

His dream, perhaps like many pioneers, was to have a community to serve the rural area. The dream became a reality after the building of the Audubon branch line of the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad north of Atlantic. Unfortunately, he did not live long to see his community grow, dying about five years after the village was platted. It thrived for many years and had its shares of good times and bad times as the farm economy went. The community featured a post office, bank, general store, blacksmith shop, grain elevator and other business and was a station on the railroad. As a child growing up on a farm about a mile southeast of Lorah, it was always a thrill to visit the community and during the summer there were free shows.

With the advent of better rural roads and more families owning automobiles, the service provided by small rural villages declined as stores, one by one closed, or the owners moved the business to a larger community. Lorah was no exception. The post office, opened in 1880, was closed in 1936. A fire destroyed the grocery

store in the 1940s and by the middle 1960s the large grain elevator disappeared from the scene. One elevator had been moved to Exira and the larger one was cut in half so it could easily be transported to Atlantic for grain storage at the VanNostrand Grain Company on the north end of Chestnut Street.

Old newspaper files contain interesting tales of life in the county and Lorah had a regular column appearing in the Atlantic paper for many years. One writer in the I890s gave an interesting account of a heavy snow and how the boys and girls of the community would have a fine time sleigh riding. The stories told of happy times and bad times.

The previous article was titled, "Memories of Lorah" by Trena Chinitz for Vol 27 - No. 9 Atlantic, Iowa, November 28, 1986.

The only thing left in Lorah is the cemetery, standing by itself, once overrun by cows, and now mostly forgotten.



Lorah Main Street looking East.



Lorah Main Street looking west in the opposite direction.



A bird's eye view of Lorah showing the town, railroad and depot.

## Why digitize?

Document digitization is the process of converting paper documents into digital format.

Storing paper files can be costly, particularly when offsite storage is required, and offers no return on investment. Digital document storage is far less expensive and the costs can be dispersed directly to your clients.

Retrieving paper documents is time

consuming and the possibility exists that they can be misplaced. By converting them into digital format they are located quickly and efficiently. Additionally, DVD backups ensure the files will never be lost.

In today's world genealogy documents that can be accessed easily are in great demand. Information can be shared and preservation improved. "We are able to take bits and pieces of our heritage that are scattered among family members and put them together in a collection that can be shared via CD/DVD and Web." Barry J. Ewell.

There are many pros and cons for such a process. This appears to be the direction that is being taken and it also appears to be working and of extreme value.

## Tips

Have you stumbled upon a handwritten transcription of original records that are mistranscribed? These transcriptions are old registers and to the amateur genealogist look like THE original record, but NOT. Unfortunately, these erroneous transcriptions are being submitted to the Ancestry and Family Search databases, sometimes with additional transcription errors as they are typed in. So we are ending up with mis-transcriptions from mistranscriptions, and so on. PLEASE be sure that you double and triple check your sources and get copies of the original record, not just the hand-written transcriptions.

### **Atlantic's Graduates --- 1894**

Taken from the Cass County Iowa GenWeb Project

#### 1894

( AYERS ) BRADBURY, Nettie ..... Atlantic, Iowa.

BAILEY, Cecil .... Atlantic, Ia. .... Grocer.

( BEEBOUT ) HAYNES, Nettie .... Garvin, Iowa.

BOLER, John ..... Iowa City, Iowa .... Student.

BRINK, Frank ..... Iowa City, Iowa .... Teacher.

BROWN, Charles ..... Atlantic, Iowa .... Lawyer.

( CHILDS ) TEMPLE, Grace .... Lewis, Iowa.

CONRAD, Maude .... Atlantic,

CUSHING, Edith ..... Des Moines, Iowa .... Teacher.

DALZELL, R. H. ..... Pine, Nevada.

GILLESPIE, Edith ..... Atlantic, Iowa.

JOHNSON, Nellie ..... Atlantic, Iowa .... Teacher.

LAMB, Della .... Atlantic, Iowa .... Teacher.

MACLEAN, Ralph ..... Creston, Iowa . Postoffice.

( MCADAMS ) ANDERSON, Ida ..... Atlantic, Iowa.

( MCNEAL ) INLER, Clara ..... Waterloo, Iowa. ( OSBORNE ) REINIG, Zeta .... Griswold, Iowa.

PHELPS, William .... Crefeld, Germany, Vice Consul.

SMITH, Leslie ..... Atlantic, Iowa .... Postal Clerk.

THURMAN, Emma ..... Atlantic, lowa.

SANDERS, Vern ..... Texarcana, Texas.

WALLACE, Ross ..... Atlantic, Iowa .... Dept. Co. Clerk.

WALKER, Nellie .... Atlantic, Iowa.

# "I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom."

### **UGRR Network to Freedom**

Floyd Pearce and Mary Hoegh are working with National Park Service Midwest Regional Coordinator Deanda Johnson, on the National **Underground Railroad** Network to Freedom. Research is in progress to nominate the East Oakwood Cemetery at Lewis as a NPS Network to Freedom Site. Only the Underground Railroad workers who are buried at the Oakwood Cemetery will be included in this nomination. Those being researched are James and Euphemia (Richardson) Baxter, Dr. Henry and Margaret (Chapman) Cary, A. A. and Maria (Tuttle) Case, Thomas and Frances

(Arrowsmith) Hopley, Robert and Fannie (Isett) Marshall and Oliver and Sophia (Arnold) Mills. Sophia Mills Brown, daughter of Oliver Mills will also be included. Other cemeteries in Cass County where known Freedom Workers are buried are Atlantic, Wiota, and Anita. Listing in the Network: Provides prestigious national recognition, verifies that there is a documented association with the UGRR, adds to a national database of UGRR history, encourages and supports local preservation efforts, provides opportunities for networking, provides eligibility for NTF Grants,

provides access to technical assistance, helps promote tourism and economic development, and provides eligibility for National Park Service Passport Program. The Hitchcock house in Lewis is on the National UGRR Network to Freedom.

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





## **New Improvements at the Anita evergreen Cemetery**

The Evergreen Cemetery at Anita, Iowa, was formally organized in May, 1879 when four men -Levi Huff, Horace Denton, L. P. Proset and Charles H. Whitmore - came together for the purpose of buying land and selling lots for burial purposes. It is located near the center of the west half of Section 22. The previous plot was on a farm almost due south of this one and a little east of Anita in Section 27. . Most those buried there were moved to the new cemetery once it was established. Holes in the ground still remain. However, the remaining stones are broken and gone. The newly purchased plot was then sold to the Cemetery Association that had been formed. Since then three parcels of land has been added to the original ground..

The well at the cemetery was put down last week, and at a depth of thirty three feet. A vein of water was struck which will supply every demand. It is the intention of the association at some future time to build a tank and erect a windmill in order that water may be piped to different parts of the cemetery. Improvement is the order, and while it will cost money, it is cash well invested. ANITA TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1900.

Well, the windmill never made it, and water has not been piped to the other parts of the cemetery. Besides, who of the inhabitants is going to be thirsty enough to drink the well water anyway? The photo below shows the water access. I guess you bring your own bucket!



There is a great need of many wagon loads of ashes to be used in making improvements In Evergreen cemetery this spring on proposed new driveways throughout the grounds, and it is hoped the people about town will keep this fact in mind and reserve their ashes for those who will call for and haul them away in due course of time.

ANITA TRIBUNE, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1909.

Apparently there was not sufficient amount of ashes or they didn't help, for a year later more help was needed.

The trustees of the Evergreen
Cemetery held a meeting Saturday and decided to purchase several car loads of gravel for use in the driveways in Evergreen Cemetery. For a number of years past the ashes about town have been hauled out to the cemetery and used where needed, but it has been demonstrated that ashes are not a success, and the trustees have decided to use gravel. ANITA TRIBUNE, THURSDAY MARCH 31, 1910.

Since then, concrete drives have replaced the gravel. Now there should be one way signs in place, as the width on modern day cars is much wider than the old horse and carriage of the day.



## **Latest News from Cass County IAGenweb**

There have been many new additions to Cass IAGenweb in recent months, many of them courtesy of the Cass County Genealogical Society! Complete transcriptions for Wiota Franklin Lutheran and Brighton/Marne cemeteries are now online, as well as the Cass Co. District Court Will Index 1878-1931, Cass Co. in WWI 1917-1918-1919 Index, CCGS's WWII Scrapbook Index, Armed Forces/Military Graves Registration Index, CCGS Birthday/Reunions/ Weddings/Anniversaries News Clippings Index, and Ancestral Charts Index.

The Cass Co. Genealogical Society also recently contributed an index to Cass Co. District Court Naturalizations 1870-1930, which should prove quite helpful to many

researchers. Naturalizations from 1906 and later collected very specific information about place of birth and arrival data which may be hard to find elsewhere. If you haven't checked this index for your Cass Co. ancestor(s) yet, it's well worth checking out! A general description of the naturalization process and summary of significant naturalization laws was also added.

When looking for an ancestor's immigration record it is important to remember that immigrants were allowed to file in any court, and were not restricted to filing in the court of their county of residence. Consequently the Cass Co. District Court Naturalizations Index includes filings by residents of neighboring counties (Audubon, Shelby,

Pottawattamie, etc.), as well as Cass Co. residents. And if your Cass County ancestor is NOT found in the Cass Co. District Court Naturalizations Index, then it may be because they chose to find in a neighboring county instead.

Some other recent additions to Cass IAGenweb include all the Cass Co. biographies found in the 1896 volume, "A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa"; all Washington Township entries from the 1917 Farmers Directory; and all Anita Post Office entries from the 1892 Farmers Directory. Additional townships and Post Offices from the 1892 and 1917 directories will be added in the near future.

IAGenweb wishes to thank

the CCGS for all their contributions, which will greatly benefit many researchers in the future. Be sure to check the Cass IAGenweb site regularly. More new additions will be coming! For anyone who would like to contribute, check the IAGenweb Volunteer Primer for further info (http://iagenweb.org/state/prime

r.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.ne





## THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY IN CASS COUNTY.

Although Cass county was somewhat to the westward of the trunk lines of the "Underground Railway" system, by which the Abolitionists -- or, as the Democrats were fond of calling them, the Black Republicans -- transported runaway slaves from the Gulf and southwestern States to Canada, it had its "stations" and its busy and exciting times, for several years before the Civil War. The negroes assisted on their way to freedom by such enthusiasts as Oliver Mills, D. A. Barnett and Rev. George B. Hitchcock, were usually from Missouri, and were passed along toward the Mississippi valley, generally bringing up for a breathing spell in the vicinity of Quincy, Ill., which was one of the most important "railway centers" in the West. The lines that run out into Iowa, and farther west, may be considered spurs from the trunk which followed the upper valley of the Mississippi. In Cass County the chief station was Lewis.

Sometime during the winter of 1857, old John Brown, of Kansas fame, accompanied by two of his sons and one white man, stopped all night with Mr. Barnett at the "Grove City House." Brown and his party had in charge about eighteen runaway negroes -- men, women and children -- whom they were taking from Missouri to Canada. They had three mule teams, and all the male adults were armed with Sharp's rifles and Colt's navy revolvers. After breakfast they took their leave and traveled eastward. No one but Mr. Barnett knew who they were, or were aware that any negroes were of the party. It may be stated that D. A. Barnett was a late arrival from Ohio, which was a hot-bed of Black Republicanism. He was a large land owner and a man of other property, and his son (J. S. Barnett), who came to Cass County as a boy, was afterward sheriff and a substantial and leading citizen. The elder Barnett died in the county about 1867.

While the Republicans and Democrats, in their State conventions and elsewhere, were throwing hot words, back and forth, over the Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott decision and other features of the vital issue, the Underground Railway continued persistently in business, although a glimpse of its operations was only obtained now and then by even its conductors. Ingenuity, faithfulness and bravery were never discounted on the part of those interested, and were such constant qualities that they were accepted as matters of course. Another instance in this connection will bear relating.

In the year 1859 a pair of runaway negro women were traced from Missouri to the vicinity of Lewis. A large reward was offered for their arrest. The sheriff of the county and the man who kept the ferry over the Nishnabotna, at that place, had been posted as to the runaways and were on the lookout for them. It was thought the negroes could not cross the river at any point for many miles north or south, except at Lewis, and passengers on the ferry-boat were

watched with unusual interest for many days. One beautiful Sabbath morning a farmer who resided on the west side of the 'Botna, drove down to the ferry, having with him in the wagon two ladies closely veiled. The farmer was apparently on his way to church with the female members of his family, and was ferried to the east bank, without question or investigation. Thence he drove to Lewis, and still eastward to Adair county, where he placed his "veiled ladies" in charge of another station agent of the Underground. The sheriff and keeper of the ferry did not know by what a narrow margin they had missed their reward until years afterward. (Several interesting stories, in this connection, are elsewhere told by Harriet L. Howard, an early settler of Lewis. Taken from the 1906 COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, CHAPTER V.

If you are interested in learning more about the Underground Railroad and the history of Cass County at that time, consider taking a tour of the Hitchcock house just west of Lewis, or better yet become a tour guide and help others learn.

This house, in Lewis, Iowa, overlooking a bend in the East Nishnabotna River, was a station on the Underground Railroad, The house was built in 1856 by Rev. George B. Hitchcock and is made of brown sandstone quarried from a local quarry. The walls average 21 inches thick. The wood used in the construction is locally grown oak and walnut. The house has a full basement. including a massive fireplace. The house was admitted to the National Historic Landmark in February of 2006. The

National Historic Landmark designation is the highest such recognition accorded by our nation to historic properties. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this distinction. Visitors can also stand in the "secret room" and imagine some of the hardships Blacks endured on their way to freedom in Canada. The basement is accessible both from the kitchen and through an outside entrance. Rev. Hitchcock left the area after the Civil War and the home was used as a farm residence until the late 1960s. Then it was abandoned until the 1980s. At that time, local groups with the help of several state preservation opportunities restored the house to its former look.



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.

Membership Dues: Jan.1-Dec. 31. Renewal is due January 1, 2016, which includes the quarterly newsletter. New memberships received after Oct. 1 will extend into the following year.

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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 re	cords that you are requesting.		
Birth Record Death Record Marriage Record Naturalization Record (list Obituary copy from newsp Other (History, Cemetery,		\$5.00 each	
	ounty Recorder's Office http://www.c	fied Copies of Birth, Death, Marriage casscountyiowa.us/offices/recorder.	
ONE HOUR MINUMUM R	urt House Records Request: ESEARCH FEE (include on ALL orded for research & all copies request		\$10.00
YOUR NAME			
(Please print)			
(Please print) YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS	questions and/or to notify you that w		
Additional questions or oth	ner information:		
Cass County Genealogica		c Library 507 Poplar	

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 in 5466 or cassgs@yahoo.com, or m		ria e-mail, please contact th	e CCGS at 712-243
Membership Dues: Jan.1-Dec. 31 Membership will increase newsletter. New memberships received after	to \$15 Jan. 1, 2014, which incl		
Membership Application New	ı Renewal		
Name			
Address			_
City	State	Zip Code	_
Telephone number	E-mail		_
Surnames being researched in Ca	ss County		