

## WELCOME TO JULY MEETING

Every meeting of the Cass County Genealogical Society is unique. Everyone gets to visit with other “detectives” and maybe get questions answered.

Plan to meet at Atlantic Public Library at 1 pm on Thursday, July 25. Mary has done research about abolitionists who are buried in the cemetery near Lewis. She will get you acquainted with them. Our local history is amazing.

## AGENDA ITEMS

In addition to the usual items new business includes:

- >Donation to Iowa Genealogical Society
- >Donation to ARISE
- >Program for August

## COME AND GET IT

Open a door located inside the Genealogy room and you will find a storage space. Sorting has been done so it contains duplicate unused books and references from many places outside of Cass County. There is a tote containing Shelby county references.

It will be time to move for remodeling in a couple of months so we are beginning to get ready. Everything in the store room needs to be gone by moving time. Whatever remains will be thrown away.

You are invited to take any books you would like out of the room. There’s also a heavy duty 3-hole punch, a couple of empty notebooks and picture frames. Come and get what you want!

## QUESTIONS FOR YOU ABOUT COOKBOOKS

How many cookbooks do you own?

Where did you get them?

Why do you have them?

Do you use the recipes?

## COOKBOOKS COMMUNICATE

Long before social networking, community cookbooks not only provided recipes, but sent messages.

The community cookbook is a familiar item in many homes. Usually compiled by women and sold to raise funds for a charitable cause. Scholars from a variety of disciplines examine cookbooks as complex texts deserving serious study. They contend that such cookbooks have stories to tell about the lives and values of the women who wrote them.

In America, the first of these charity cookbooks was *A Poetical Cookbook* sold in 1864 to subsidize medical costs for Union soldiers injured in the Civil War.

At first many of the cookbooks were created by religious groups. If a church needed repairs, women were asked to raise money. Other groups soon acknowledged the power of messages and money through cookbooks. In 1886, a group of politically progressive women in Massachusetts compiled *The Woman Suffrage Cookbook* to be sold at the Boston Festival and Bazaar. It was created to raise funds for the suffrage campaign and also to spread the group’s agenda.

Scholars are now studying the use of recipes and food to sway voters to a particular candidate. The idea likely started with Margaret Chase Smith who served in both the House and Senate, 1940 to 1973. She handed out a recipe for blueberry muffins at campaign gatherings.

A more personal reason to own a particular cookbook may relate to family heritage. *My Czech Heritage Cookbook* is my most recent addition as a nod to my father’s beginnings. I have a book giving Swedish recipes because both of my maternal *grandparents* came from Sweden. My favorite church cookbook is titled *Favorite Recipes of Folks You Know* from the Meriden Evangelical Free Church printed in 1961. The names on the recipes are the same names that I see when I walk through the Meriden Cemetery where my parents are buried. It’s a walk down memory lane.

By LaVon Eblen

## Note from Mary

Did your mother or grandmother make "pressed chicken" and served for an open face sandwich? I recently purchased a few slices at a local meat locker which brought back memories of an old friend who used to make it. Soon after, I came across a 1902 Buck Creek Cook Book compiled by the Ladies Aid Society of the M. E. Church. Page 17 has a recipe for Pressed Chicken submitted by Edna Stevenson. Following is her recipe. Stew chicken in just enough water to cover, when nearly cooked season properly, let boil down until water is nearly all boiled out and meat drops easily from bones, remove the bones and gristle, chop meat rather coarsely, then turn back in stew kettle where the broth was left, after skimming off all fat, let heat through again turn into a square bread pan placing a platter on top and a heavy weight on platter. This if properly prepared will turn out like a mold of jelly and may be sliced in smooth even pieces. The success of this depends on not having too much water; it will not jelly if too weak or if the water is allowed to boil away entirely while cooking. Edna Bell Stevenson was the daughter of John F. Stevenson and Mary Naomi Dixon. On December 25, 1906 she married Dent Ramsey. Edna passed away January 15, 1935 and is buried in the Atlantic Cemetery. She was survived by her husband and four daughters, Mrs. Vernice Young, Mrs. Boyd Cambridge, Miss Reeva Ramsey and Mrs. Mahlon Green.

Some of the other members who contributed recipes were Mrs. Geo. Pellett, Sarah Egy, Mrs. U. Joyce, Mrs. Maria Herbert, Mrs. N. W. Eldridge, Mrs. H. V. McGregor and Mrs. Mary Pellett.

Ladies couldn't bake without flour. The Atlantic Mill and Elevator was close at hand. G. W. Norton established a flour mill at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Oak in 1875. In 1889 J. A. Campbell & Son Clyde became owners.



Atlantic Flour Mill, circa 1900-1910. Sign on the smaller building reads, "Office J. A. Campbell & Son Grain & Flour." According to the "History of Atlantic, 1868-1968" published by the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce for the Atlantic Centennial (pg. 51), "Challenge Feeds traces its ancestry back to 1889 when J. A. Campbell and Son established the Atlantic Mill and Elevator. Its chief product was flour sold under the brand names, Snow Ball, Defender and Challenge. The Beadle family acquired the plant in 1921 and Howard Beadle was later joined by Wilbur Blake in its operation. By this time the chief products were feeds for livestock. With the departure of Howard Beadle, Bert Laufer came into the firm and when Blake retired, Laufer and his son Robert took over . . . In October of 1957 the plant was hit by a disastrous fire and Challenge Feeds Inc. rose from the ashes."

Divided back postcard, postmarked May, 1909. The handwriting is difficult to read, but it appears to be addressed to Miss Jennie Tonby in Kokomo, Indiana. The greeting is "My dear cousin" and it is signed Jennie I. B.