

CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter January 2021

Hello,

One month is almost past in 2021. Many of the to-do activities on my list have not been done...and spring is just around the corner.

There are numerous helps to put family "pieces" together. The first stop could be at the Atlantic Public Library Genealogy room. Reference books and DVDs available for loan.

Other sources come from the Iowa Genealogical Society available to members and nonmembers.

IGS is holding a **FamilySearch series** of classes in 2021. They will be offered monthly as individual standalone paid classes Members \$6.50; Non-members \$16 Each FamilySearch class will follow one of the chapters in the "Unofficial Guide to FamilySearch.org - How to Find Your Family History on the World's Largest Free Genealogy Website 2nd edition" - book by Dana McCullough. Each month will cover a different topic.

FamilySearch Series – The FamilySearch Wiki;

Feb 27 @ 1:30 PM

<https://igs.regfox.com/familysearch-series-the-familysearch-wiki>

LaVon

January Meeting

The January meeting will be an Executive Board meeting. It will be on Zoom. Members are welcome to "attend". Reply by email if you would like to be included. Suggestions for programs are always needed.

The thing that interests me most about family history is the gap between the things we think we know about our families and the realities.

Jeeremy Hardy

History of the name SMITH

It is likely that you know or have guessed the name refers to a smith, originally deriving from *smið* or *smiþ*, the Old English term meaning *one who works in metal* related to the word *smitan*. The use of *Smith* as an occupational surname dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when inherited surnames were still unknown: Ecceard Smith of County Durham, North East England, was recorded in 975.

Although the name is derived from a common occupation, many later Smiths had no connection to that occupation, but adopted or were given the surname precisely because of its commonness.

For example:

It is common for people in English speaking countries to adopt the surname Smith in order to maintain a secret identity, when they wish to avoid being found. Smith is an extremely common name among English Gypsies; see also John Smith

During the colonization of North America, some Native Americans took the name for use in dealing with colonists

During the period of slavery in the United States, many slaves were known by the surname of their masters, or adopted those surnames upon their emancipation.

Many immigrants did choose to begin their American lives with more "American" names.

During the world wars, many German Americans anglicised the common and equivalent German surname *Schmidt* or *Schmitz* to *Smith* to avoid discrimination.

Note from Mary
January 2021

Newspaper Social Notes and Family History.
Contributed by Beth Johnson, CCGS VP

When you start on your family history journey you sometimes hit many dead ends. One of the ways I have found clues about my own family was to read the social columns in newspapers from the area around where my family lived .

In many newspapers that have been digitalized, such as the news papers from Atlantic you have the opportunity to search for specific names. You put the name you are searching for in the search box and everyone with that surname in that issue of the paper will be highlighted. Then you can quickly read each item to see if they match the person you are looking for.

Papers that are on microfilm unfortunately mean that you need to read each and every social item along with court news and advertisements. However you will learn how easy it is to scan the paper when looking for a specific name.

In the ***Rock County Leader*** from Bassett, Nebraska November 1920 was the following social note: "The Rudolf's Swiss Singers' company, which took part in the community service entertainment here last Wednesday and Thursday spent Sunday with the Rudolf Ehram family. Mr. Rudolf and his wife came from the same county in Switzerland as the Ehrams-Zurich. Needless to say, they enjoyed a splendid visit which brought back memories of youthful days the Ehrams spent in their native country which they left over 30 years ago while the visitors were able to enlighten the Ehram's on the many changes there since that time."

The things you learned from this bit of social news, that **both Mr. and Mrs Ehram came from Switzerland and both from Zurich.** They arrived in approximately 1890. They live in Rock County, Nebraska which gives you census records to study. You may be able to find land ownership maps of the area, along with court records. It is also possible

that the social news was under specific community headings, such as Newport, Rose or Duff. This makes it easier to find what area they were living in. **If you continue your search in the local newspaper you are likely to come across both marriage and death write ups. In small communities these items were considered news and were published in the local paper.** A quick look at **Marriages in Rock County gives six Ehram marriages from 1898 to 1921.** This will give you both the Bride and Grooms name, age and the year they were married. One step leads to the next and the next. **From one little social note in a small town paper you will be able to fill in the blanks of your family tree.**
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Are you having trouble accessing the Advantage Preservation Archives on the Library Home Page? Do a Google search for Atlantic IA Public Library home page.

Click "on line tools" and then on the drop down menu click digital research and reference. Now find and click on Advantage Preservation Archives, the funky looking green tree. You should then be able to start your search. You do not need to make an account or have a password like on the Heritage site we are used to using. This link can be a helpful tutorial tool if you need one.

<http://www.advantagearchives.com/preservation/preservation-resources/tutorials/tutorial-newspaper-page-image-handling>

Mystery Murder of Lewis Miser in 1872

Recalled. Son of Eli Coffin Visits Grave of Slain Father at Former Cass Court Seat. *Atlantic News Telegraph*, September 18, 1931 page 3.

Are you interested enough in the mystery to check it out? Eli T. Coffin was born in New York in 1829. His head stone says he died 1 Feb 1873 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery near Lewis, Iowa. He married Mary Rosette Carter September 3, 1852 in Ashtabula, OH. Eli and Mary Rosette had two daughters, Emily Coffin Bishop and Alice Coffin Fisk.

Maybe this article will interest you *Atlantic News Telegraph* October 2, 1963 front page. **Bones Date Back 5,000 years. Possible 5 skeletons unearthed at Lewis.**

Our mail is still going to the Atlantic Library at 507 Poplar Street.

Cass County Membership Form: \$15 Annual Membership fee due January for the calendar year. New members who join in October of a given year will have membership for the next calendar year.

Membership Application Please Indicate

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Surnames Being Researched in Cass County _____
