

ALTOONA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2006

Number Nine

Members of the Altoona Area Historical Society are excited about a number of worthwhile projects for 2006. We are continuing to collect as many old photographs of early Altoona residents and the city as possible. Volunteers copy the photos and return the originals. Each photo should be labeled with a description of the location and names of the people in the photo. If you have pictures you would like to donate and need more information, please call Helen Phillips at 967-4641.

Starting in the spring of 2006, members of our group will begin an updated census of the Altoona Cemetery. We will make a computerized listing of headstones and grave locations to be posted on our website. Plans are to have the information linked to the City of Altoona and Altoona Public Library.

The AAHS will participate in the Altoona Public Library Literacy Festival on Saturday, May 6. Plans are underway for a historical display and presentation at the Festival. If you would like to help at our booth during this event, please contact Tim or Diane Burget.

If you know of anyone who is interested in attending one of our meetings or programs, please encourage them to attend. Membership in the Society is open to anyone in the Altoona area interested in preserving local history. The group meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library. Benefits of membership include a quarterly newsletter, a calendar of events and information about historical tours.

REMINDER

Membership fees for 2006 are now due:

Individuals	\$10.00
Family	\$25.00
Business	\$30.00

You may pay your dues at any meeting or by mailing them to the Altoona Area Historical Society, 1060-14th Street SE, Altoona, IA 50009

IOWA OFFICIAL REGISTER

Odd bits of information about Iowa a century ago are contained in a 613-page book published in 1904, the “Iowa Official Register”. The Red Book, as the Register was called, was full of trivial and vital statistics. The book was published annually until it was suspended because of budget reasons early in the 20th century.

The Des Moines Register describes the Red Book as “part annual report, part family album, part almanac”. It contains information such as how many school-age children were in the state and how many schools there were at the time of publication. It tells the occupations of members of the General Assembly and what the Governor’s salary was in a certain year.

The Legislative Services Agency has announced that all past volumes of the Red Book are now available online. The books were scanned in by the efforts of the State Library, the State Historical Society, and the University of Iowa Libraries. To read past editions of the Iowa Official Register, go to: legis.state.ia.us/heritage/index.htm

PLANNING A CLASS REUNION?

The Class Reunion season is fast approaching. If you, or someone you know, are planning a Southeast Polk High School reunion, the school would like to hear from you. The district website has been set up to keep the alumni in touch with the district and other alumni.

If you are planning a reunion, please contact Marti Kline at the District Office with information pertaining to the event. Call Marti at 515-967-4294 or email her at klinem@se-polk.k12.ia.us

THANK YOU

- Thank you to Helen Phillips for her work on the Historical Picture project. Also for helping to create our picture display at the Library in November and December.
- Our appreciation to Georgia Woodward, June Barron, Helen Blaney, and Barb Bolt for their help at Old Town Christmas.

NON-PROFIT STATUS APPROVED

The Altoona Area Historical Society has successfully received 501(c)3 non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. Special thanks to Don Timmins and Geri Huser for their help in completing this process.

AAHS OFFICERS FOR 2006

AAHS Officers for 2006 were elected at the January Annual Meeting. Serving this year are:

Tim Burget	President
Dan Higginbottom	Vice President
Diane Burget	Secretary
Barb Bolt	Treasurer

The following members have agreed to serve as committee chairs:

Barb Bolt	Membership
Dan Higginbottom	Collections
Chris Fisher	Public Relations
Facilities/Historic Sites	Tim Burget

FAVORITE RECIPES THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

“For My Family....With Love” is a collection of over 400 delicious recipes that have been passed down through the generations. It has been compiled by the Iowa Genealogical Society. Each recipe contains information about the cook and what makes the recipe special. The book is published in a three-ring binder that allows for insertion of supplemental recipes the IGS will be offering in the future.

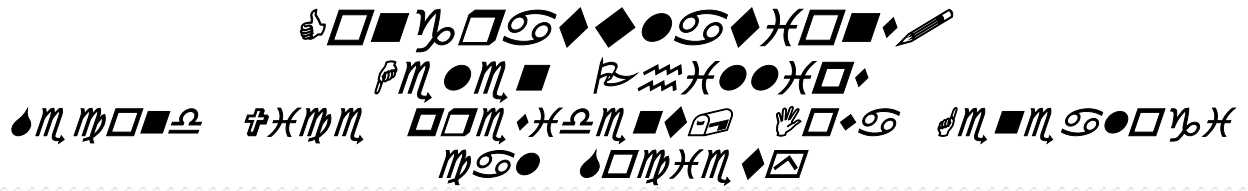
Order a copy of the book by downloading a form online at www.iowagenealogy.org or by contacting the Iowa Genealogical Society, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309-1924. You may also contact customer service at 515-276-0287.

IOWA STATE FAIR PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION “ONE ROOM SCHOOLS”

Iowa has more one-room schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places than any other state. In 1901, there were more than 12,000 one and two-room schools. Today only 3,000 remain.

The Iowa Historical Preservation Alliance has announced that the theme for the Iowa State Fair’s Photography Salon contest this year is “One Room Schools”. The contest is open to anyone. Each photographer may enter up to four entries. There is a limit of one photo per class. Photographs should show creativity and convey emotion.

A list of Iowa’s one-room school houses can be found on the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance website at www.iowapreservation.org/schools/index.html



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 27	Regular Monthly Meeting
March 22	Regular Monthly Meeting
April 24	Regular Monthly Meeting
May 6	Altoona Public Library Literacy Festival

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1060-14th Street SE
Altoona, IA 50009

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