

Madison County Digitization Status

May, 2020

Online resources that can be searched, downloaded and printed have been immensely helpful to family researchers and historians in the last decade. Each week, new digitized newspapers, books, and other printed history are becoming available around the world.

Here is the current status of new Madison County resources available over the last six months that may directly affect your family research in and around this area. Digitization of local resources are done by Advantage Archives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Updates

Winterset Newspapers

Over 150,000 pages of historic Winterset newspapers have been digitized and made available online over the last few years. We are familiar with the *Winterset Madisonian*, which has been published since 1856, but through the years, there were other long-running newspapers – *The Reporter*, *The Review*, and *Winterset News* – that give a different perspective on activities and in their obituaries. Plus, various issues of newspapers originating in Truro, Peru, and Macksburg are accessible here. No newspapers prior to 1871 are available.

2004 - March, 2019 *Winterset Madisonian* – All Issues

The *Winterset Madisonian* from 1871 through 2003 have been available for several years, but not having the more recent years was becoming a problem for researchers. Publisher Sue Smith has given her approval to digitize the issues and agreed that in each future year, another year will be added. This was funded by the Friends of the Winterset Public Library, the Madison County Genealogical Society, the Madison County Historical Society, and private donations.

1895-1898 *Winterset Reporter* – All Issues

It was discovered that the 1895-1898 *Winterset Reporter* issues were only available in the original printed copies held at the Madison County Historical Society. The books were microfilmed and digitized, funded by the Madison County Historical Society.

Earlham Newspapers

Available copies of the *Earlham Echo* were digitized a few years ago from existing microfilm with funds from local organizations and private donations. Over 30,000 pages were made available within the years of 1895-1987.

1885-1961 *Earlham Echo* – Various Issues

Other scattered issues, some in poor condition, were available at the Earlham Historical Society and have been digitized. Many of the pages were broken, but Advantage Archives does their best to manually line up the pieces before scanning. The papers covered many years with only an issue or two from some, such as 1885, 1895, and 1905. Other years had many issues available: 1910, 1916, and 1940-1950.

Note: The St. Charles Library is hoping to locate newspapers from that community for digitization. If you have papers to contribute, contact them at (641) 396-2945.

Additions

Winterset High School Yearbooks

All Winterset High School yearbooks from 1915-2018 are available and searchable. When you search for a student, you will find their formal photo plus any other pages where their name was mentioned. You

may want to use the available date fields to narrow your search to the years that person was at the Winterset High School.

History of Madison County, 1984

The Madison County Genealogical Society published a history of families and organizations in 1984. Individuals were invited to contribute what they knew about their families, churches, and organizations. The 400-page book is no longer in print and difficult to find outside of our libraries and the Madison County Historical Museum, so the Genealogical Society decided make it available online. This work is currently underway and expected to be completed in early summer, 2020.

Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion

The Madison County Historical Society has a complete 6-volume set of the rare "*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of Rebellion - Together with Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861–1866.*". It was digitized by Advantage Archives at no cost.

The first five volumes contain lists of Iowa Civil War soldiers and historical sketches of each regiment/volunteer organization. The sixth volume lists Iowans who served as soldiers in the Mexican War, Indian Campaigns, and the Spanish American and Philippine Wars, even if for other states. If you would like to only search the Roster and Record, and not all the other resources available at the Winterset site, narrow your search to the dates of 1865, as there are currently no other online resources during that year.

Access

Earlham Newspapers

- Visit the Earlham Library website Earlham.lib.ia.us. Click on the Use Our Library tab at the top. Once on that page, click on Genealogy Research to the left side menu.
- Directly at website Earlham.advantage-preservation.com
- At IAGenWeb.org/madison/ under NEWSPAPERS down the left side menu. On that page, there are also links to other nearby county newspapers.

Winterset Newspapers and Other Resources

- Visit the Winterset Library website WintersetLibrary.org. Click on the Research & Study tab at the top, then Genealogy Resources in the drop-down menu. Once on that page, scroll to the newspaper link.
- Directly at website Winterset.advantage-preservation.com
- At IAGenWeb.org/madison/ under NEWSPAPERS down the left side menu. On that page, there are also links to other nearby county newspapers.

Search Hints and Tips

Searching at these websites for a phrase or name is much like searching in your Internet browser or Google. If you are new to using this online search, click the Resources tab at the top of the web page and read "Overview & How to Use."