



June 2023

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1300 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

Inside This Iss

Page 3 Mines
Page 4 Jefferson Hi-Way
Page 8 WCHS

WCHS BOARD

Thursday, June 15
9:30 am

LCF MEETING Follows Board

WCHS BOARD

Thursday, July 21
9:30 am

LCF MEETING Follows Board

WCHS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Saturday, July 22
8:00 to 3:00

WCHS GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday August 22
Guest O. J. Fargo,
Army of the Southwest,
Civil War Enactor from
Creston
He will prepare us for
Log Cabin Festival by
Sharing Civil War Stories
& Answering Your
Questions

WCHS LOG CABIN FESTIVAL Saturday, Sept. 23

Please continue to collect Indianola HYVEE receipts and bring them in to the museum. We have a large glass container near the kitchen where you can place them. We can use gas, pharmacy, grocery or any other HYVEE receipt. It is an easy way to raise funds for WCHS.

When Hy Vee asks if you want to have your receipt, say
YES!



The Warren County Genealogical Society has voted to disband and merge with the Warren County Historical Society. Story inside.

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, JULY 22

8:00 am-3:00 pm

Warren County Historical Society

Notice: This is a date change from the last newsletter.

Hope you will set aside possible donations for us as you finish your spring cleaning. We will be open for donations July 17-July 21 from 9:00 to 4:00 or during regular Thursday and Saturday hours preceding the sale.

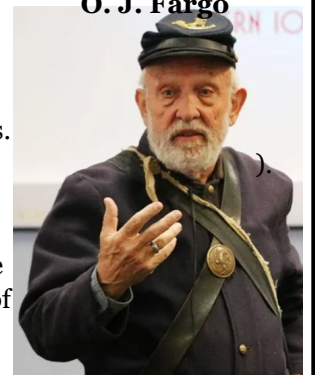
Want to help with the sale? Call Linda Beatty at 1-515-961-3088.

O. J. Fargo will be our guest speaker at the WCHS Tuesday, August 22 General Meeting

O.J. Fargo is a retired Director of Media Services and Social Studies consultant from Creston, Iowa. He is the author of two books on Iowa history on the everyday life of a Civil War soldier and Iowa in the Civil War, as well as 27 booklets on Iowa and Western US history. In addition to researching, writing, lecturing and public appearances, he is also president of an Iowa regiment of Civil War re-enactors.

Come and enjoy his stories and bring your questions. Iowa sent large supplies of food to the armies and the eastern cities. 76,242 Iowa men (out of a total population of 674,913 in 1860) served in the military, many in combat units attached to the western armies. 13,001 died of wounds or disease (two-thirds died of disease). 8,500 Iowa men were wounded. A number died in Confederate prison camps, including Andersonville. 291 men or 26% of the 1,125 soldiers from Warren County lost their lives. No other state had a higher percentage of its male population between the ages of 15 and 40 serve in the military during the course of the war.

O. J. Fargo



PRESIDENT'S CORNER June2023

Hello, Everyone!

Summer is upon us!

Many wonderful volunteers just finished the final session of Indianola 5th Graders' Pioneer School. This signals that the end of the school year is over. Everyone had a great time!

Just a reminder that we continue to be open on Thursday 9:00 am –4:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 to noon. Please stop by for a visit, research or check to see how you might volunteer.

Our annual Garage Sale will be here soon. It will be Saturday, July 22 8:00 to 3:00. Please be sure to come and browse. Remember "someone's junk" is someone else's treasure!!" And on that note– any items you would like to donate for the sale may be dropped off during our business hours. No clothing items, please.

Right around the corner will be our "50th Year" "celebration of our Log Cabin on Saturday, September 23. We will have lots of festivities, including a Civil War re-enactment. We hope to have the restoration of the Log Cabin complete by that time! We have been planning and working toward this day for a long time. What a day for celebration!

Remember we can always use Volunteers. I'm sure we have something that will catch your interest.

Have a great summer and mark the September 23 Log Cabin Festival on your calendar now so you do not miss out!

Warren County Historical Society President

Debbie Larrison



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form New or Renewal

Your Information

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Fee **Single** ○ \$25 **Family** ○ \$30

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WARREN COUNTY, Her Rich Coal Deposits—Account of the Beds now Opened

Warren County Leader, February 23, 1871

From White's Geology of Iowa

All the formations of the coal measures are found in Warren County. The lower measures out crop over perhaps 1/3 of the area of the county, and are confined to the northwestern townships. The middle formation occupies the larger remaining portion of the county, or comprising about eight townships. The upper coal measures cut across the southwestern townships and appears in isolated patches in the uplands at several localities in the interior of the county.

Lower Coal Formation. It is doubtless only the lower portion of the productive or lower coal-measure that appears at the surface; and hence it is we find but one or two coal horizons of any considerable thickness in this formation, where exposed to view in the county. The lower beds in the formation can be reached by boring or by ordinary shafting, though it is exceedingly difficult to direct such practical explorations with the surety of success, when we take into consideration the variability in thickness of the coal throughout. And also the identity of many of the exposures is not well established, for the reason that our knowledge of this formation at the present time is more of a general than detailed character. The formation as it appears in this county, is made up of argillaceous and arenaceous shales, with beds of soft sandstone and coal. Irregular bands of septaria, and occasional layers of brownish, impure limestone occur in various strata of the shales at different localities.

On North River in Greenfield township, there are a few outcroppings exhibiting at least two beds of coal including also a third thin carbonaceous layer. In the vicinity of Hoover's Mill, (section 22, township 77, range 24) a two to three foot coal bed is said to appear in the bed of the river at low water; it is overlaid by bluish and chocolate-colored shales which enclose a six inch layer of coal at an elevation of about twenty feet above the lower bed. A thin layer of rather compact thin bedded sandstone is associated with these strata which has afforded a limited supply of building material. In the shales ferruginous nodules occur, but not in abundance. Above the upper coal seam fragments of brownish earthy limestone are found. However, the exposures were too imperfect to render a detailed study of the locality practicable.

Two miles above Hoover's Mill, in the southwest quarter of section 29 township 77, range 24, a two or three foot bed of coal has been opened on George Dillard's farm. A slight north westerly inclination of the strata carries the coal beneath the bed of the river a few hundred yards distant. The coal is a very good quality and has a large local demand for black smithing purposes. The outcrops of this locality facilitates the easy working of the bed which was being creditably conducted by Mr. Manuel, the lessee. This bed is probably the same as that which has been mined at Bussey's on the North Raccoon, in the southeast corner of Greene County. The identification seems to be warranted by the lithological characters of the associated strata and especially by the presence of the nodular limestone band, whose fossils are quite numerous and of the same species as those formed in a similar stratum at the above mentioned locality.

At Lockridge's mill, in the southeast quarter of section 30, township 77, range 24, a thin seam of rotten coal accompanied by variegated shales, crops out in the right bank of the river, between 25 and 30 feet above the water level. A thin layer of gray calcareous rock occurs in the base of the exposure is probably equivalent to the beds which are seen in the same bank of the river, half a mile below Hoover Mill. A quarter of a mile southeast of the mill, also in section 30, James Lockridge has opened a quarry in a four foot bed of grayish sandstone, which probably overlies the strata that outcrops near the mill. The rock is heavy bedded, with shale micaceous layers, and though it is quite soft, it is much used in the neighborhood for ordinary underpinnings. Large concretionary masses in the bed afford a more durable building stone.

Above Lockridge's no more exposures of Lower coal measure strata were seen, the formation passing beneath the Middle coal measures before reaching the mouth of Badger Creek. Lower down the valley, however, a short distance above the crossing of the Indianola and Des Moines road, a three or four foot bed of coal is reported to have been found at a depth but a few feet below the level of the bottoms. The excavation had been abandoned and was filled with rubbish at the time the locality was visited and nothing definite could be ascertained regarding the character of the exposure.

Some two or three miles to the northeast of Hartford, in the base of the bluffs bordering the right side of the Des Moines River Valley, several openings have been made in a four foot coal bed, on lands belonging to Mr. Taylor. The coal is probably ten to fifteen feet above the level of the river, and with associated strata as well as the physical aspect of the bed itself, it has an unmistakable resemblance to the Des Moines coal horizon. The coal is quite variable in thickness, and is divided in two or three layers by thin seams of clay—the lowermost layer is regarded the best in quality, being free from pyrite. Notwithstanding the distance from any manufacturing town, the mines at this locality are quite extensively wrought.

The first exposure found in Middle River is that at Allen's Mill, three miles northwest of Hartford, where an interesting

section of Lower coal strata appear in the lower bluffs upon the left side of the stream. The coal in this exposure is probably the same as that seen at Taylor's mine. Like the coal at that locality, it is separated by two thin seams of shale, and presents the usual thickness of that bed. The strata have a slightly westerly inclination. The outcrop of the coal is very advantageous for mining operations, but as yet it has been worked only to a limited extent, there being little demand for its product.

At Watt's Mill, two miles above the last mentioned locality, a heavy deposit of coal is said to occur in the river bed five to ten feet below the ordinary stage of water, masses of the coal having been from time to time detached and washed up on the shore by the freshets. In the adjacent river bank, blue shales, containing concretionary masses, overlaid by a thickness of 25 feet of soft sandstone and micaceous shales, present a vertical exposure of 45 feet above the level of the river. The general similarity of the exposure seen at this locality and Allen's Mill, would seem to be sufficient proof of their identity.

Just below the mills at Summerset, in the right bank of Middle River, two thin seams of coal outcrop in connection with layers of shales, sandstone, and lime stone. The equivalence of the strata is not known. However, they probably occupy a lower position than the Des Moines coal horizon and the thin deposits of coal may be referable to certain layers found in the valley of the North Raccoon in the extreme north of Dallas County.

Three miles north of Sandyville, in a ravine upon the right margin of South River, a four foot coal bed is being mined on lands of Mrs. Parsons, and a similar bed is reported to have been opened on David Douglas' farm a mile or two to the east. The coal at the Parsons' mine is separated into two layers of nearly equal thickness by a thin seam of pyrite or pyritiferous shale. It is said to hold its thickness on the south side of the ravine, but in the opposite side it becomes alternated to unworkable thickness and rises in the same direction. All the entries upon this side have been abandoned on account of the thinning out of the coal but that is the south side, which runs parallel with the ravine a distance of above 100 yards, continues to hold out and has produced a large quantity of very good coal a few 100 yards east of the mines just below the mouth of the ravine, in the bluffs on the river, an exposure occurs, presenting the same coalbed which is here but a few inches thick, besides an underlying bed low in the river bank.

Ascending the valley of South River from the last described locality, the Lower coal strata are not again seen until reaching a point between Otter and Squaw creeks, where they apparently rise again, bringing to view a stratum of coal which is referred to the Des Moines coal, the uppermost coalbed in the Lower measures. The first of these exposures is met within a ravine on the south side of South River, 2 1/2 miles south of Indianola, at Helm's coal mine. The coal here is two feet thick and is overlaid and underlaid by soft sandstone and arenaceous shales. About three miles to the west of Helm's mine, a 4 1/2 foot bed of coal has been opened on Mr. Randolph's farm. The coal is separated into three layers by thin partings. The upper clay seam occurs eighteen inches from the top and the lower one five inches from the top and the lower on five inches from the bottom of the bed. The coal has a south westerly direction. Although the bed is well opened, the quality is as good as the average of the coals in the Lower measures. The identity of the coal at this locality has not been settled beyond question but the physical appearance of the bed approached more nearly that of the Des Moines coal than any other coal horizon with which we are familiar. The bed is accessible for mining by the ordinary drift or entry process, as soon as the projected north and south lines of railroads are completed through coal region, this, coal well as the other coals in the Lower coal measures will afford an important revenue to the county.

The southwesterly dip of the strata doubtless carries these beds below the level of the South Raccoon River, again in the western portion of the county, although the infrequency of rock exposures in that section has made it exceedingly difficult to procure data by means of which the limits of the productive or Lower coal measures can be accurately defined in that direction.

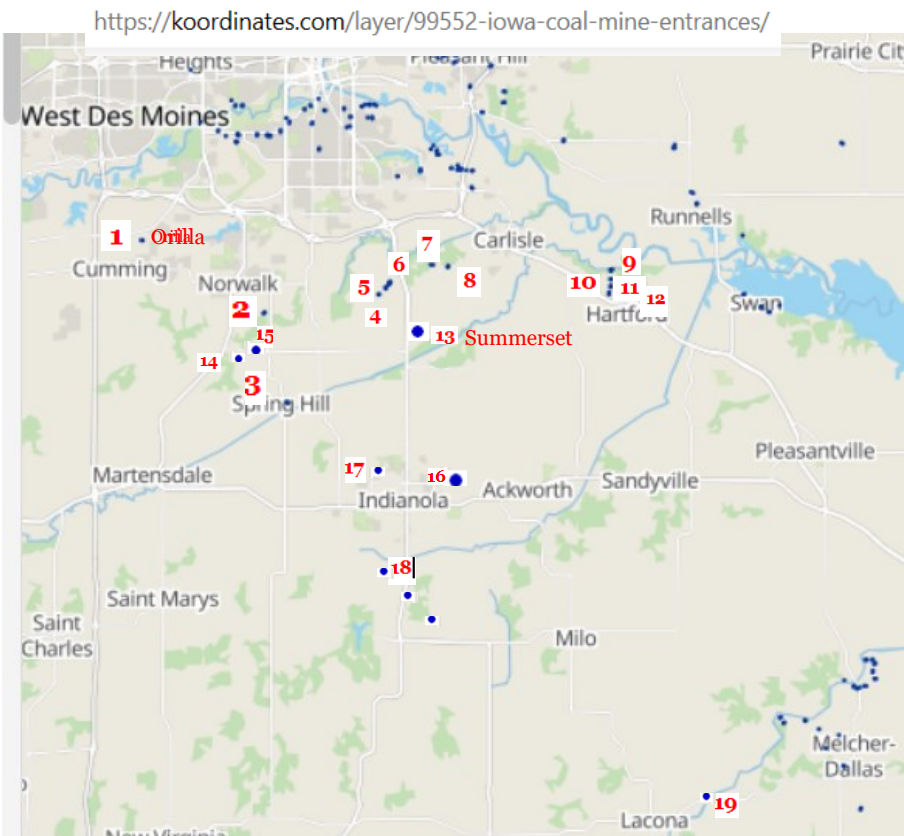
In the extreme southeast portion of the county, on Gideon Jenck's land northeast quarter of section 24, township 74, range 22, a coal bed 3 1/2 feet thick crops out on Winn's Branch, a tributary of White Breast, where a limited exposure may be seen. The coal at the above locality outcrops at several places along the branch in the distance of a half a mile, but no regular mining was in operation at the time the locality was visited. The quality of the coal seems to be good and the bed can be easily worked during the greater portion of the year. The position of this bed in the series has not been determined. Its proximity to exposure of well authenticated Middle coal measure strata on the White Breast, a mile and a half to the westward, might seem to indicate its relation to some of the upper horizons in the Lower coal formation. At the same time, we cannot overlook the lithological resemblance of the associated strata—which are too limited, however, to throw much light on the equivalence of the bed—to the Lacona coal, an irregular development of bituminous material in the lower part of the Middle coal measures, although the bed at this locality is nearly as thick again as the Lacona coal at any of its authentic exposures. A similar bed appears in a ravine about a mile south of Jenck's bank, in the northeast quarter of section 25, where it is said to be twenty to twenty-five inches thick.

Middle Coal Formation. The Middle coal measures, as has been already stated, outcrops over as large an extent of surface as that occupied by both the Upper and Lower coal formation or about equal to half the whole area of the county. The eastern border of the formation forms an irregular line which may be approximately defined as follows: Commencing at the extreme southeast corner of the county the border outcrop passes northward along the eastern border of the county to a point on Coal Creek, a mile or two east of Sandyville, embracing the whole of the fine upland tract to the east of Otter Creek, in which Coal, Wolf and Cotton creeks take their rise' thence the line retreats up the valley of South River to a point a few miles above the confluence of Squaw Creek, when it suddenly trends northeastward as far as Indianola and perhaps even farther eastward in the divide between South and Middle rivers, forming a bay-like area which is occupied by the Lower coal measures; from Indianola is a line passing in a northwesterly direction through Greenbush to a point on North River a little below the confluence of Badger Creek, from which locality the line pursues a northerly course to the northern boundary of the county. The western border of the formation is not as well defined as the eastern border limits, from the fact in that direction this formation, as well as the succeeding Upper coal formation is more deeply buried beneath the superficial deposits so that exposures in that quarter are of rare occurrence.

The first exposures of these strata met within the northwestern part of the county, appear on Badger Creek, a mile above it confluence with North River, where beds equivalent to the lower division of the formation afford a limited vertical section. The uppermost exposure is in the southwest-quarter of section 19, township 77, range 25, on Josiah Smith's farm, showing the horizon of the Panora coal and the overlying shales, capped by an imperfectly exposed arenaceous bed, which separates the lower and middle divisions of the formation' the coal however, is not exposed above the level of the stream. The limestone layers have been quarried to a limited extent, but it is not a safe material even for the most ordinary building purposes where it is exposed to the atmosphere and frosts. Descending the creek to the southwest, the strata dip at a considerably more rapid rate than the fall in the stream in the same direction, and before reaching its mouth the upper beds of the exposure mentioned above are lost to view beneath the level of the creek. Below this point, however, the strata again rise, bringing to view the Lower coal-measure, four or five miles to the east at Lockridge's Mill. Above the mouth of Badger Creek no exposures are met with in the valley of North River within the county.

Below is a map showing locations of some of Warren County's Coal Mines

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Great Western Coal Co., Orilla Mine | 4. Scotch Ridge Coal Co. | 7. Scotch Ridge Coal Co |
| 2. Norwalk Coal Co. | 5. Oak Ridge Coal Co. | 8. Scotch Ridge Coal Co. |
| 3. Spring Hill Coal Co. | 6. Indian Hollow Coal Co. | 9. North River Coal Co. |
| | | 10. Valley Coal Co. |
| | | 11. Indian Valley Coal Co. (Koke or Valley) |
| | | 12. University (S&R) Ave. Coal Co. |
| | | 13. Summerset Coal |
| | | 14. J.M. Dillard Mine |
| | | 15. Lockridge Mine |
| | | 16. Wishman & Cummings Mine |
| | | 17. J.H. & G.M. Basler Mine |
| | | 18. Randolph Mine |
| | | 19. L. Fouch Mine |





4 Days of Pioneer School



Thank our Helpers!



Jefferson Highway Sociability Rally Returns to Indianola After 100-Years

By Elodie Opstad

After the Jefferson Highway opened in 1916, a parade of cars traveled its length from the pines of Winnipeg to the palms of New Orleans. This event was called a “Sociability Rally,” and in mid-July it made a stop in Indianola. The town was prepared for a grand celebration with three bands, free picture shows, free lemonade and an auto polo match between Roy Igo’s Ford dealership and a team from Kansas City.

Indianola will soon experience another Sociability Rally this coming June 5th at 1:45 pm in front of the Hotel Warren on East Salem. The Jefferson Highway Association is making a trek over several days from Lamoni to Mason City, where they will have a weekend summit. Over thirty antique cars are expected. They are stopping here to dedicate three signs purchased from the association by the Warren County Historic Preservation Commission.

The signs commemorate important Warren County landmarks along the Jefferson Highway, providing tidbits of history to those passing by:

Warren Hotel (113 East Salem):

Built in 1896, The Todhunter Hotel became the New Rodger Hotel in 1911. Renamed the Indianola Hotel in 1917, the building was veneered with pressed brick “to make a good showing for automobile row” along the Jefferson Highway. Renamed the Ogle Hotel in 1930, a renovation included hot and cold water in all 24 rooms. Selling again six years later, it became the Hotel Warren.



Tourist Camp Site (Simpson Barker Hall parking lot)

In 1922, Simpson College allowed the City of Indianola to use the area between Wallace Hall and Buxton Park as a temporary Jefferson Highway tourist camp. Equipped with showers, toilets and electric lights, the arrangement was much improved from the area beside the city’s sewage disposal tank. As community leaders realized vacationing tourists brought additional business, tourist camps became an asset. Over 200 Iowa towns developed camps by 1923.

Hastie Station (six miles north of Indianola, west side of highway)

This brick structure was erected in 1933 by brothers Ross and Louis Hastie as a Standard Oil station. Its location on US 65/69, known as Jefferson Highway, served motorists until 1943 when it closed its doors. In 2011, the Warren County Historical Preservation Commission started seeking funds for a stabilization project to preserve the structure. The building was finished in 2016.

The Jefferson Highway was the first intercontinental trail, while the Lincoln Highway (established a few years earlier), went east to west, coast to coast. Edwin F. Meredith of Des Moines was the man with a vision seeing the need for a north to south interstate opportunity and he would ensure this new highway went through Des Moines. Warren County and Indianola were lucky recipients being directly south

This new two-thousand-mile road, locally built with proper roadbeds, caused people to start traveling for fun by automobile. The Jefferson Highway Association encouraged the idea with maps and marketing brochures.

It wasn’t long before the business opportunities of bringing travelers and campers to towns like Indianola was realized by local businesses. There was now an incentive to attract and meet the needs of people willing and happy to spend a little money while vacationing.

The segment of Highway 65/69 coursing through Indianola still retains the name “Jefferson Way.” We are the only town in Iowa preserving this piece of history, and there are few others along the entire trailway.

Come on down to the celebration Monday, June 5th at 1:45 pm and learn a little more!



THE BEGINNING OF WCGS

On April 2, 1973 a group of interested persons met in the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company building to organize a genealogical society. Fifteen men and women were present. Rose Bowery presided as president and Louise Pilmer acted as recording secretary.

Primary purpose of the organization was to assist and encourage genealogical research in family history.

Charter members of the Warren County Genealogical Society were:

Mrs. Roland Abell	Kendall & Lois Strong
Harry R. Art	Maude Wilkins
Pauline Baxendale	Beulah Wilson
Charles and Alice Beam	Doyle Woods
Sandra Bellman	
John and Pauline Boss	
Robert and Rose Bowery	
Tenney Brinkman	
Janice Burton	
Sterl and Edith Conn	
Sue Curtis	
Margaret Duleske	
Bertine Davis	
Bob Geber	
Ruth Hall (Mrs. M.D. Hall)	
Charlotte Hardin	
John Hare	
Kate Kauzlarich	
Maude Kibe	
Marjorie Kline	
Julia A. Lind	
Richard and Charlene McCoy	
Ronald McDole	
Loree Neiman	
LuluPatch	
Jim Patrick	
Ethel Peterson	
Louise Pilmer	
Helen Schooler	
Roberta Smith	

IN 50th Year, WCGS Disbands

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023 the Warren County Genealogical Society met at the WCHS Museum and voted to end WCGS after 50 years and merge with the Warren County Historical Society.

In the last 20 years there have been many technological changes in how one can search for their family members (digital newspapers, Find a Grave, etc.); DNA testing, now available, turns up hundreds of great great cousins and the isolation of the COVID years was especially hard on the membership of non-profit groups.

If you frequent Warren County Historical Society, you will notice little changed. Juanita Ott will continue to answer your family history questions and we welcome you to visit and use our library for your research.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS From WCGS 4-30-2000

Direct Positive Photographs

Silver-plated sheet of copper, Daguerrotype 1839-1860

Glass, Ambrotype 1851-1880

Iron Japanned Surface, Tintype, ferrotype, melainotype 1854-1930s

Photographs from Negative

Uncoated Paper (1 layer)

Salted Paper Print 1840-1860

Platinotype 1880-1930

Palladiotype 1916-1930

Cyanotype 1860-1910

Coated Paper (2 Layer)

Albumin Print 1851-1900s

Carbon Print 1855-1930

Woodburytype)Photoglypty) 1866-1900

Coated Paper (3 Layer)

Collodion Print, Glossy 1880s-1920s, Matte 1894-1920s

Gelatin POP Print (Silver Chloride) 1880-1910

Gelatin DOP Print (Silver Bromide) 1880-present

Negatives: Paper, Glass & Film

Glass 1880s-1975

Gelatin 1884-1890s

Plastic Cellulose 1913-1939

Cellulose Acetate Black & White 1925-now, Color 1942-now

Polyester 1965-now