

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Marjorie Gesson*

504 North Buxton, Apt. 7  
Indianola, Iowa 50125

APRIL 1982 NEWSLETTER

1982-1983 Officers

- President, Molly Bowlin, Route 2, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Vice President, Twilla Dillard, Route 1, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Secretary, Ruth Hall, 705 West Third, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Treasurer-Registrar, Thelma Pehrson, Route 1, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Editor, Maude Wilkins, 504 North Buxton, Apt. 7, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Historian, Marjorie Kline, 1003 North C., Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Librarian, Louise Pilmer, 210 West Girard, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Parliamentarian, Bertine Davis, 410 West 1st, Indianola, Iowa 50125
- Past President, Barbara Rasko, 1201 North D., Indianola, Iowa 50125

**DUES:** \$5.00 per person; \$7.50 per family, payable April 1, each year.  
(A red circle around DUES means we have not yet received yours!)

**MEETINGS:** Monthly, 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church  
**NEXT MEETING,** May 17 - "Of Local Historical Interest", by Ruth E. Hall.

**RECENT ACTIVITIES:** On the afternoon of March 15 the following members met at the home of Louise Pilmer and addressed and mailed the cemetery corrections: Molly Bowlin, Edith Conn, Doris Lawson, Lillian Noble, Thelma Pehrson, Barb Rasko and Maude Wilkins.

On the evening of March 16th Molly Bowlin, Louise Pilmer, Barb Rasko and Maude Wilkins attended the meeting of the Pioneer Sons and Daughters Chapter in Des Moines, where Barb was one of the speakers.

On the afternoon of March 20th Doris Lawson, Louise Pilmer, Charlotte Rice and Maude Wilkins served as attendants at the I.G.S. Library, pinch-hitting for another chapter which was unable to drive to Des Moines because of heavy fog.

On Saturday March 27th Barb Rasko served on the I.G.S. Auditing committee at the Library.

Work continues on the birth records. Much has been done and much remains to be done.

**CENSUS FILMS:** Help may be available even though the Inter-Library lending of census films by the National Archives has been terminated. Darline Winter, Box 312-A, Holland, MI49423 rents microfilm for one month for a charge of \$5.00 plus a \$10.00 deposit to be refunded when the film is returned (enclose a SASE for the refund). Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Two sources offer to read films. The Researchers, P. O. Box 39063, Indianapolis, Ind., 46239 asks 50¢ for catalogue of charges. Ralph Clayton, 1314 Hitmore Road, Baltimore, Md. 21239 will read Baltimore City and State for all years, \$5.00 per reel.

**FROM PIONEER TRAILS:** The International Genealogy Consumer Organization says to beware of solicitations from Sharon L. Taylor of Copley, Ohio. It is similar to those by Beatrice Bayley, Inc.

Pioneers will research Polk County, Iowa Records; minimal cost for time. Send Request and SASE for more information to P.O. Box 2103, Des Moines, Iowa 50310.

WHAT'S IN A NAME, continued from last month.

OCCUPATIONAL NAMES, continued:

Every village needed someone who could fashion objects out of iron and other metals, thus the Smith is found in every country. In the Slavic countries, many 'K' names designate workers in metal, chiefly iron - Kovacs, Kowalsky, Kovar; in France - Fernald, Ferris or LeFevre; Gow, Gowan or Goff in Gaelic and the German forms are Schmidt, Schmitz, Schmitt, Smit, and DeSmet.

Other occupation names are Wheeler, Wainwright, Rodamacher and Wagner, for the wagon makers.

Those making casks or barrels are: Cooper, Tubbs, Hooper, Coopersmith, Bender, Bittner and Scheffler.

Tillers of the land are: Bauer, Tillman, Burmeister, Hofer, Boer and Reuter.

The surname Farmer meant a tenant who cultivated a portion of land belonging to the Lord, paying for it a 'farm', that is, a settled, established rent. In Scotland, the name Farmer designated one who farmed the revenue, or a tax collector!

PATRONYMICAL NAMES:

The surname derived from the father's name is very common. Some use the exact same form as the father's name, such as George or Thomas. But a greater number use a patronymical prefix or ending, meaning 'son of', such as the English adding 'son' or 's' in Johnson or Johns. The Irish used Mac or O' (grandson). The Chinese use 'tse' (Tao-tse - from Tao). In France - Dejean, son of Jean.

The following names all mean son of John:

Bevans	Ivanov	Jaxon	Junkinson
Evans	Iwanowicz	Jenkins	McShane
Evenson	Jackson	Jenks	Yanke
Hankinson	Jankowski	Jennings	Yankovitz
Hanson	Janowicz	Jennison	Yohanen
Hansen	Janse	Johanson	Yonan
Ianson	Jansen	Johns	
Ibanez	Jantzen	Jonson	

A few surnames were derived from the mother's name and are called MATRonymics. Some say this indicates illegitimate birth but this is not always true. Sometimes the mother was the more wealthy or dominant parent, or the one with the higher social status, or the father died and the child was brought up by the mother. Some examples are Let and Letson from Letitia, Allison from Alice, Marion and Marriott from little May, and Tillie, Maud and Mawson from pet forms of Matilda.

NICKNAMES:

Most nicknames were derogatory in nature when first applied. Some early disagreeable nicknames found in early English records were Colfax (deceitful fox), Pourfish, Goosebeak and Catsnose. Of course they became obsolete as the descendants quickly discarded them or concealed the meaning by changing the spelling. Nicknames evolved from fairly regular rules and can be classified as:

- 1 Referring to color of hair or skin - Brown, Black, White, Red and variations, such as Bruno, Burnett, Blake, Blackman, Weiss, Fairfax, deWit, Dunn and Duff.

to

- 2 By referring/body build - Short, Tall, Longfellow, etc.
- 3 By a physical defect - Cameron (crooked nose), Calvin (bald), Cruickshanks (bow-legged).
- 4 Moral or mental characteristics - Goodheart, Jolly, Lovejoy, Meek, Truman, Curtis (cautious).
- 5 From a physical action - Lightfoot, Armstrong, Shakespeare, Smiley.
- 6 From a resemblance to animals - Crab, Fox, Vogel (bird), Oliphant (elephant-like).
- 7 Referring to age - Senior, Young Oldfather, Child, or Altman (old servant).
- 8 From speech habits - Sprowl (slow speech).
- 9 Occupations, such as Bishop, Duke, or King.
- 10 From article of dress - Hat or Hood, Burrell (a close-woven cloth) and Gildersleeve (golden sleeve)

How we sign our name tells a little bit about ourselves:

- 1 Margaret Smith - is preferred by ordinary people who go in little for frills.
- 2 Margaret A. Smith - indicates mature, conservative, middle-of-the-road traits.
- 3 Margaret Ann Smith - a both-feet-forward person. Clergymen who want to be recognized sometimes use this form.
- 4 M. Ann Smith - an individualist with high opinion of self.
- 5 M. A. Smith - a self-contained person who knows what they want, shrinking somewhat from publicity.
- 6 Peg Smith - a friendly, easy-going person.
- 7 M. Smith - implies a feeling of unimportance or exaggerated modesty.

With married women, the middle initial may stand for either the middle name or the former surname.

-----  
PUBLICATIONS ANNUAL REPORT, April 1, 1982, by Louise Pilmer.

A newsletter was printed monthly, excepting in December and January. Usually an issue is not prepared for August. This year, due to the emergency issue of closing records to genealogists, our society printed an August issue. Due to weather no newsletter was printed in January, and no issue was prepared for December.

The newsletters were distributed to all members and to the following six genealogical societies on an exchange basis: Lucas, Madison, Marion and Wayne Counties in Iowa, and to Southwest and Southeast Nebraska Genealogical Societies. They were also sent to Mrs. Boots Wooden and Donna Golightly, our District 5 Representatives.

Contents for the letters were taken from early Warren County newspapers, borrowed from exchange newsletters, gleaned from genealogical publications, queries submitted, and from announcements pertinent to activities of the members. They were written by Louise Pilmer, Barbara Rasko and Maude Wilkins. They were typed by Molly Bowlin and mimeographed by Barbara Rasko on the W.C.G.S. machine located in her home.

-----  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! For May 8th, to tend the I.G.S. Library

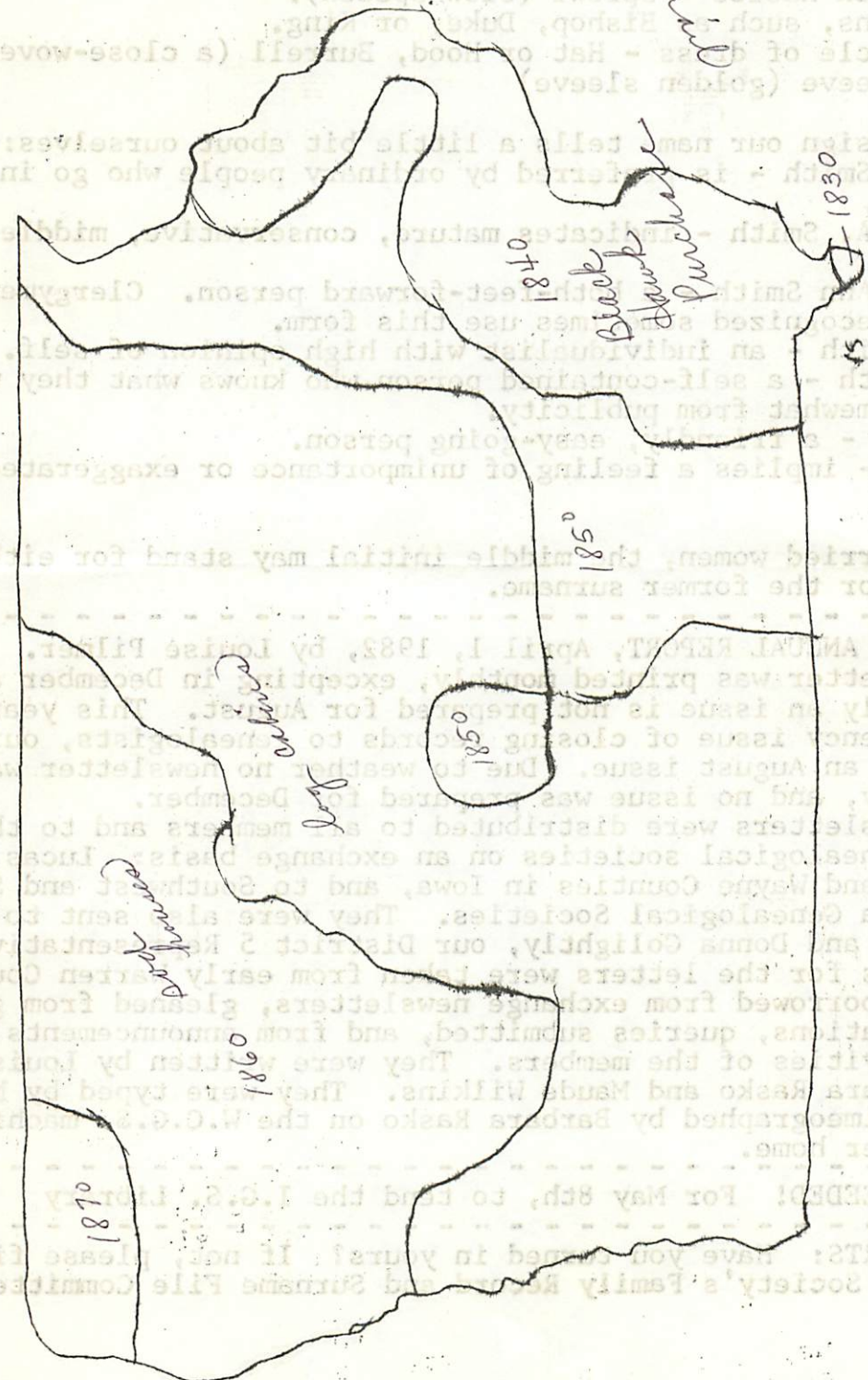
-----  
PEDIGREE CHARTS: Have you turned in yours? If not, please file one with the Society's Family Record and Surname File Committee.

Indian tribes  
paths  
Rivers  
Railroads  
Stage Coach  
Roads

main stage line - 180  
Western Stage Co - 5 states  
headquarters D.M.

June 3-4  
August 1934

1822  
Newman  
Bivens + Mc Knight  
1st needed till



April 5, 1982

Dear Friends:

To give each of you a review of our accomplishments for the last three years, I am including our achievements since 1979 in this report. Read this report and be proud of the part you have played in the successes of the Warren County Genealogical Society.

#### 1979 Goals

Proof deaths 1880-1900  
Clip and paste obits  
Proof and update cemeteries  
Copy death records 1910-now  
Work on birth and marriage records  
Increase attendance at meetings  
Increase membership  
Go to Des Moines and Iowa City  
Be aware of bills in legislature  
Opffer workshops  
Have State Genealogy Month declared

#### 1980 Goals

Each member assist with sale and delivery of Cemetery Books  
Complete copying of birth records  
Clip and paste obits  
Clip and paste worthy historical notes of county  
Copy more marriage and death records. Make complete index of marriages.  
Continue good attendance  
Increase membership  
Each member progress on genealogy  
Encourage members to print their genealogies  
Enjoy WCGS and strengthen friendships

#### December 1979

Completed through 1920  
Held several c&p sessions  
Preparing book for publication  
Completed through 1920  
Continuing  
Good attendance  
44 members *Previously 35*  
Wrote for better archival care  
Workshop held in October  
Signed by Governor Ray

Purchased mimeograph machine, file cabinets and book case.

#### March 1980

Published CEMETERY AND DEATH RECORDS OF WARREN COUNTY, IOWA  
Members sold books at the Warren County Fair, Log Cabin Days, and at the Milo Centennial. Also sold individually. 390 books sold  
Continued copying birth records  
Worked at IGS library regularly  
Members visited libraries in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Iowa City, Iowa, and the IGS and Historical Libraries in Des Moines.  
Wrote letters to ask for better facilities for state archives and protesting closing of vital records to genealogists.  
Added books to the library.  
Members attended Annual IGS Convention in Ames  
Conducted two-night workshop.  
Increased attendance at meetings  
Members submitted cards for Surname Index IV  
Published 10 newsletters  
Executive Council met regularly  
Members spoke at schools, clubs, and presented a program on TV.  
Interesting and informative program  
Seven members attended a training session at IGS library  
Continued to sell Warren County Atlas and Marriages.  
Members enjoyed working together

## 1981 Goals

Finish copying birth records  
Alphabetize Warren County Marriages  
Compile Webb Cemetery index  
Compile corrections for Book  
Consider indexing Warren County  
census records  
Catalog library  
Continue excellent programs  
Purchase books for library  
Go to Salt Lake, the Des Moines  
libraries and Iowa City  
Attend IGS convention and meetings  
Work at the IGS library  
Continue working on obits  
Have booth at WC Fair  
Continue selling books, Atlas and  
Marriages  
Hold annual beginning workshop  
Continue working for legislation  
Increase membership and interest  
Continue informative newsletters  
Members submit pedigree charts  
Print list of books in our library  
Print books (list) of interest  
to members

**BE PROUD OF YOUR WARREN COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY!**

**SUPPORT THE SOCIETY WITH YOUR  
ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST, YOUR  
VARIED TALENTS AND YOUR VALUABLE  
TIME!**

## April 1982

We thought so, but keep going for  
more!  
Compiled and mailed Webb Cem. Index  
Compiled and mailed corrections  
Gave this some thought, but can't  
work out the details yet.  
Catalogued the "books" of library  
We had many excellent programs  
We purchased many new library books  
Members went to Salt Lake City, and  
the IGS library to go individual  
research. We're going to Iowa  
City at the end of this month.  
Members attended IGS Convention and  
some quarterly meetings.  
Had a great booth at the Fair  
We sold several Atlas and Marriage  
sets and 50 books.  
We had the workshop in October  
We attended public hearings and  
wrote concerning the courthouses.  
51 members paid dues in 1981-82  
We have had 9 newsletters  
Members are beginning to turn their  
pedigree charts in for the library  
We printed the list of library  
holdings  
In a couple newsletters we ran  
lists of books from other states  
that might be useful to members  
Members spoke to various groups,  
clubs and classes on genealogy  
Members visited the Madison County  
Genealogical Society, and the  
Pioneer Sons and Daughters in Polk  
County.  
Members hosted our District 5 Rep  
and the Madison County Genealogical  
Society  
We exchanged newsletters with more  
chapters.  
A Cemetery Book was donated to a  
Library for Handicapped Genealogists  
WE SETTLED OUR ACCOUNT WITH WALSWORTH  
AND HAD ABOUT \$1,000.00 LEFT!!  
We paid the Warren County Historical  
Society \$307.23 from sales of the  
Atlas.  
Seven members checked books from  
our library.  
Members worked at the IGS booth  
at the Iowa State Fair & gave 2  
programs to the public.  
THE WCGS CHARTER WAS SIGNED, FILLED  
IN AND FRAMED!

To each of you:

Thank you for the support you have given me over the last three years.  
Now we look forward to new challenges and accomplishments with Molly!