



WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

504 North Buxton Apt. 7

Indianola, Iowa 50125

Vol. 12

FEBRUARY 1986 NEWSLETTER

Number 2

MEETINGS: The third Monday of each month except August and December at the Indianola Public Library, 207 North B.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 1986. Program: "Quilting Through the Years" by Mary and Marvin Smart. Roll Call: Name a Favorite Heirloom. TONIGHT'S ROLL CALL: Name an Ancestor from one of these time periods: 1760-1780, 1830-1840 or the 1880's.

NEWSLETTER: Published each month, except August and December. Queries Welcomed!!

Editor: Molly Bowlin, Route 2, Box 211, Indianola, IA 50125

DUES: \$5. single and \$7.50 family membership. Dues are collected for the upcoming year between Sept. 1 and Oct. 31 and are payable to our Registrar: Mary Lou Parks, 2003 West 4th, Apt. 9D, Indianola, IA 50125

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!! A NEW HISTORY OF WARREN COUNTY, IOWA IS NOW BEING PUBLISHED!

You may still order copies of the History of Warren County, due out in the fall, for the early sales price of \$45. plus \$1.80 sales tax for Iowa residents and \$3.50 if you want it mailed directly to you. ORDER NOW WHILE THE PRICE IS LOWEST!! Send to Sheryl Ledlie, 3005 SE 72nd Ave. Route 2, Des Moines, IA 50320

Written material and photographs are still being received at the Indianola Library each Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. A WCGS representative will be there to answer any questions you may have. PLEASE GET YOUR STORIES IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

If you have, or know of, old pictures with Warren county interest please bring them to the library on Thursday afternoons or give Barb a call and tell her about them.

We also need business histories, past and present and "I Remember When..." stories.

Family stories are coming in well. with over 400 now being processed. Several meetings of the township heads have been well attended, with Louise Pilmer heading up the gathering of this material.

We still need to contact our friends, neighbors and other people we feel might be interested in this project. Spread the word!! Folks can't get their stories in or purchase a book if they don't know about it!!

If you feel you have some time to volunteer for this project, please let Barb know---961-6758. There are varied jobs to be done and your help is needed. THANK YOU to all who are helping! It couldn't be done without you!

Over 260 copies have now been sold!!

COPIES OF THE "BIRTH RECORDS OF WARREN COUNTY, IOWA THROUGH 1920" are still available in limited numbers! Alphabetized with mother's surname index. Over 300 pages, hard cover. \$25. plus \$1.00 sales tax to Iowa residents and \$3.00 mailing. Order from Sheryl Ledlie, 3005 SE 72nd Ave., Route 2, Des Moines, IA 50320

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Doris Lawson has agreed to serve as our Sunshine committee chairman again this year. Please let her know if one of our members is in need of a Get Well, Sympathy or Congratulations card. Thank you, Doris.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE: Maude Wilkins is chairman of our calling committee this year and now has the WCGS calling tree prepared. This will be used to 'pass the word' of meet-cancellations, etc. She will be contacting committee members soon. Thank you all for helping!

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER AS YOU RESEARCH: "Mrs" used with a woman's name did not always mean she was married. This was used if she had wealth and was the proper way to address her. "Mr/Mister" was used only for men of wealth and/or education. A retired man might be listed as a "gentleman".

"Jr." after a name did not always mean that his father had the same name; it might be an uncle or older cousin. "Stepmother" was sometimes called "Mother-in-law" in Colonial times. "Cousin" could be a relative of any degree, sometimes even a friend. "Uncle" might refer to a close family friend, not related.

In early wills "Son-in-law" could mean stepson as well as the spouse of a daughter. "Nephew" sometimes meant grandson or granddaughter, as well as nephew as we use it today.

The word "Housekeeper" once meant property owner, and could be used for a male as well as female. "Domestic" once meant the housewife, not necessarily a servant.

"Inmate" as used in the Pennsylvania Archives, refers to a man living in the home of another person, and not necessarily in an institution. In the same books, "freeman" means a young man, not yet married. (Ancestors Unlimited VIA Eastern NE Gen. Soc. Dec.85)

-----  
GOT A COMPUTER?? Mark this date on your calendar: 18 October 1986. Third Conference on Computer Applications in Genealogy in St. Paul, MN. Pre-registration is \$15. After Sept. 1 it is \$25. For further information, write: Minnesota Family Trees 3C, 718 Sims Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106 (IGS)

-----  
CASS COUNTY, IA is now publishing a quarterly newsletter. Members allowed one query per newsletter, non-members pay \$1.00 per query. Cass County Genealogical Society, 907 $\frac{1}{2}$  Laurel, Atlantic, IA 50022 Dues \$5. per year.

-----  
ADDRESSES FOR IRISH RESEARCH from Union Co. Notes and News. Dec. 1985:

Genealogy Off., Office of Arms  
National Library  
Dublin Castle  
Dublin, Ireland

Irish Name Society  
P.O. Box 2095  
La Mesa, CA 92041

North of Ireland Family Soc.  
History Soc. QUB  
Teachers Centre  
Upper Cres.  
University Road  
Belfast, Ireland BT7 1nt

Irish Gen. Research Soc.  
16 A Kings Way  
Dunmurry, Belfast, Ireland BT 17 9AD

Ulster Scot History Society  
Law Courts bldg.  
Chicester St.  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Presbyterian Historical Soc.  
Church House  
Fisherwick Place  
Belfast, Ireland

-----  
DID YOU KNOW: THE STATE OF MAINE was called YORK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS before the Revolutionary War? (Ancestors Unlimited 9:4-85)

-----  
HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A PLACE NAME IN THE US? Have you looked in every possible atlas and gazeteer in vain? then contact the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, giving them as much information as you can on possible location and date, etc. The address is: Donald J. Orth, Exec. Sec., Domestic Geographic Names, U.S. Board of Geographic Names, National Center Stop 523, Reston, VA 22092. (Ancestors Unlimited VIA Crow Wing Co. Gen. Soc.9:4/85)

-----  
SALT LAKE CITY LIBRARY OPENS: The new address of the Genealogical Library is: 35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84103. The phone number for special information is 801-531-2331. The library features special lighting, humidity and temperature controls to protect the collection from deterioration, orientation rooms, theaters and classrooms, and seating for 963 patrons (202 more than at the previous location). Guide service is provided for newcomers and research reference service for all who need assistance. Photo copy centers are on each floor.

QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES

HUTT Need info. on James L. and Hannah THOMAS and children, Jane and Joseph B.  
THOMAS Also, on Peter and Phebe FORTNER; Thomas F. HUTT and wife Isabella FORTNER  
FORTNER and children, William A., b. 1852; Sarah Frances (RICHARDS), b 1853; Nancy  
RICHARDS J., b 1856; Mary T., b 1858; Benjamin W., b 1858; Martha, b 1864; Thomas  
TILLEY F., b 1864; Cassa (TILLEY), b 1865; and Charles, b 1869. Write to Donna  
M. Ratzloff, 1451 North Walnut, McPherson, KS 67460

KNOTTS Seek info on Absalom & Matilda (or Maria B.?) KNOTTS; also James and Polly  
McGEE Ann (KNOTTS) McGEE. Was William McGee the father or brother of James McGee?  
Barbara Stenberg, 2114 Deborah Kay Lane, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.

LUNDY Searching for info on William Elsworth LUNDY, who may have been born in  
Warren Co. in 1860. Who were his parents? Cindy Juhl, Route 1, 203 Elm,  
Winfield, IA 52659.

HENDERSON Seek parents and siblings of Thomas HENDERSON, b 16 Dec 1797 in NC, died  
COFFIN 6 Sept 1866, Warren Co., IA, married 25 Sept 1819 in NC to Polly COFFIN  
STARBUCK STARBUCK, b 10 May 1797 in NC, died 24 April 1875, Warren Co., IA. Also  
same for Polly. Write: Mrs. Emily (Kite) Schaumburg, 743 34th Place,  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

WOODS Seek information on John WOODS and Elizabeth SNODGRASS WOODS (whose maiden  
SNODGRASS name was Jamieson). they were the parents of Hugh Snodgrass Woods, b 10  
JAMIESON March 1810, Franklin Co., PA, died 5 Feb 1861, Knox Co., IL, married 28  
HARPER Jan. 1840 to Jane HARPER McCANDLESS, b 30 April 1822, Alleghaney Co., PA,  
McCANDLESS died 23 April 1903, Knox Co., IL. Contact: Mrs. Doris Lawson, 301 N. 10th,  
Indianola, IA 50125.

-----  
From Warren Record, March 4, 1875

The destruction and removal of the old house on the east end of what was anciently known as "Cow Pasture Row", one block north of the square, will awaken memories of the early days of Indianola in the minds of the older inhabitants.

In the year 1850, P. Gad Bryan came to this place, which was no place at all, and in the might of his youthful vigor, and with another young man to help him cut the logs, hewed them and put up that cabin and there-in resided for two years. In later years when aristocracy began to insinuate itself among the people, a frame addition including a piazza of modern fashion was put up and in that shape the old house remained until a few days ago. This was the first house north of the square. A few yards west of it stands the Liston property, erected soon after Colonel Bryan's and where his brother kept an old fashioned frontier tavern for some time.

About this time in history, Des Moines consisted of a few soldiers' barracks down on the point between 'Coon and Des Moines Rivers, and all these little villages west of us, especially Winterset, had not been dreamed of and Indianola was in the slimmest kind of embryo, there not being over a half dozen cabins in the city. Colonel Henderson resided in one, south of the square. Another stood just west of Graham & Swan's present grocery, being the residence of Jesse Liston.

Of course, there was plenty of outdoors and fresh air in those days. As for grass, the blue stem was so thick and high about town that the citizens were frequently getting lost in going from one house to another and even in later times people thought it hard to be obliged to make hay so far from town as the present site of the college.

In the spring of 1851 was a long spell of the wettest of wet weather. The Heavenly windows were opened and the fountains of "The Tree River" country were broken up. Col. Bryan says he went fishing on the northeast corner of the square and drew out small whales of the cat-fish kind, also fine chunks of pike. This a true fish story. The whole county was covered with water. South River rivaled the Mississippi. The Des Moines River was Noah's flood without the trimmings. Yet for all this, fish were crowded for room and shoals of them ascended Short Creek as far as the source, which was then somewhere between the present site of the M.E. Church and the public well on the corner.

Many of our old residents, while grazing on the ruins of this old house, will remember those days that tried men's souls and bodies when Indianola (heavenly maid) was young.

(1869 map shows ME Church where Penney's is now) This was in the JAM JAR, by Edith Conn

For Genealogical purposes a birth or death record will supply more information than a certificate. Also ask for a marriage register instead of a marriage certificate and ask for the probate packet rather than a will. (Eastern NE Gen. Soc. Feb. 86)

-----

PIONEER CERTIFICATES: Marilyn Schmidt at the IGS Library reports that they would like to expand their Pioneer file. If you have a direct ancestor in Iowa before 1856 and can prove it through Census, tax or other records, you may apply for their attractive certificate which states your ancestor's name and your own as his direct descendant. There is a form available, which I will try to get in our next newsletter.

-----

PLEASE NOTE: Every member is encouraged to file with the Family Record and Surname Committee, chairman-Mary Lou Parks, his pedigree chart as far back as possible and a set of surname cards for the Society's Surname Index. Each member is also encouraged to submit a full set of Surname cards to the Iowa Genealogical Society Surname Index. IGS has a form printed with instructions for preparing your surname cards, which will be included in our next newsletter.

-----

RECORD MEMBERSHIP YEAR: WCGS now has a total of 78 paid memberships to date. This is a new record number of people interested in family research in our group. WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS! A reminder to all of our members--We need a copy of your pedigree chart as far back as possible for our file and a set of Surname cards for our Surname Index.

-----

#### ANCESTORS

Ancestors are found along with old furniture and captive skeletons in all our best regulated families. Ancestors consist of forefathers and foremothers, to say nothing of for-uncles and aunts, who have done something grand and noble, like being beheaded by a king or having a relative who was governor of a colony. This enables them to be pointed at with pride by their descendants forever more.

Being an ancestor is one of the easiest and most attractive of jobs. It merely consists of being boasted by one's descendants. Thus many ancestors have been able to make good after they are dead. More than one ancestor who has gone out of this life a poor person and only a few jumps ahead of the sheriff, has had a good fortune a century later, to become the ancestor of some ambitious family with plenty of money and has become so famous in consequence that its tombstone has had to be greatly enlarged and improved.

Ancestors are one of the most valuable and satisfactory of possessions. They are non-taxable and cannot be stolen. Their upkeep is practically nothing, and they do not deteriorate with age and neglect. In fact, they increase in value as they grow older. An ancestor six hundred years old is worth a whole mass meeting of fifty-year-old ancestors. Adam is the oldest ancestor. He is six thousand years old, and had a fine record. But he is a common possession, like education and liberty, so he is not valued very highly.

Almost all rich people own and operate ancestors. But the poorest man may have them, too. Many a man who hasn't two vests to his name, and cannot hold a job two minutes, has ancestors which are the envy of his automobile neighbors. We cannot buy ancestors if we do not have them, but we can buy them for our children by marrying discreetly. A full set of fine imported ancestors can not be purchased for a million dollars. The great trouble with this imported goods is the fact that they are often badly infested with descendants. Some of the very finest ancestors have been almost ruined by these parasites, and there is no legal cure.

In England, everybody has ancestors. Some of them are over a thousand years old, and are still in a state of excellent preservation. The best American brand came over in the Mayflower about three hundred years ago.

We should be proud of our ancestors---but not out loud.

(Eastern NE Gen. Soc. Dec. '85 VIA North Dakota Gen. Record)