



Warren County Genealogical Society

306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

Volume 13

October 1987

Issue 9

MEETINGS: The third Monday of each month except August and December at the Indianola Public Library. Visitors are welcome. Coffee 6:45, meeting at p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 16, 1987. The program will be "Centennial Film". October roll call will be: What libraries have you researched?

NEWSLETTER: Published each month except August and December. We encourage our members to send queries. Editor: Cathy Ayers, 607 East First Avenue Indianola, Iowa 50125.

DUES: \$5 single and \$7.50 family membership. Dues are payable between September 1 and October 31 to our Registrar: Molly Bowlin, 802 Kennedy Street Indianola, Iowa 50125.

New Monthly Feature

A new monthly column is being created. This column called the Brag Box allows you to jump on the Brag Box and brag about your relatives. Submit your columns to Cathy Ayers, 607 E. 1st Ave., Indianola, 50125.

This month's column has been written by Molly Bowlin. Molly's husband Larry and his family are related to the famous Indian maiden Pocahontas.

See page 2

* * * * *

Genealogy Workshop

Scheduling problems have delayed the Annual Beginning Genealogy Workshop.

If you were unable to register for the September dates and are interested contact Barb Rasko, 961-6758 for dates, places, and times.

* * * * *

Dues Are Due

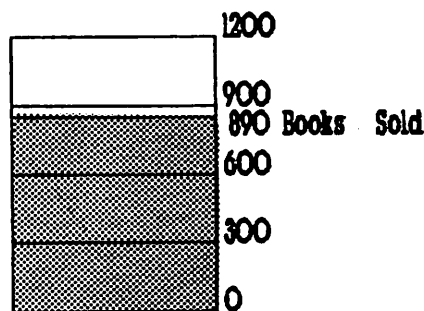
WARNING! The register is looking for you. Failure to pay your 1988 dues means you will not receive the January newsletter.

Send your dues to Molly Bowlin, 820 Kennedy Street, Indianola, Iowa 50125. NOW!

* * * * *

*****		*****
*	CALENDAR	*
*		*
*	November 1 - Dues Past Due	*
*	November 19 - Monthly Meeting	*
*	January 1, 1988 - Surnames	*
*	Due to IGS, Des Moines	*
*	*****	*

Book Sales



The Brag Box

Pocahontas, famous in romantic legend for saving the life of the English colonist Captain John Smith by staying the hand of her father, Chief Powhatan, is the tenth great grandmother of Larry Bowlin.

But it was not John Smith but Captain John Rolfe, an English tobacco planter, who married the Indian princess Pocahontas Mataoka, alias Rebecca, in Jamestown, Virginia, on about March 5, 1614. Following the marriage, perhaps the most celebrated of the Colonial period, the couple carried on in great style, and in 1616 Pocahontas was presented at the court of King James I, where she was received with the honors accorded a foreign princess. Unfortunately the damp English climate proved too much for Pocahontas; she died on the eve of the couple's scheduled return to Virginia at Gravesend, Kent, on the English coast, where she was buried under the altar of St. George's Church.

The line of Pocahontas, who bore one son, was a slender thread for nearly ninety years, as can be seen from the illustration which shows three generations of only children. In the fifth generation, with the birth of six children of Pocahontas' great-great-grandson, John Bolling, the family began to flourish. These six produced some forty-two children assuring the continuation of Pocahontas' line of descent. Today there are thousands of her descendants, who are eligible to be member of the Order of First Families of Virginia, living in this country and around the world.

Larry's line of descent is:

1. Pocahontas
- s. John Rolfe
2. Thomas Rolfe (only child)
- s. Jane Poythress
3. Jane Rolfe (only child)
- s. Robert Bolling
4. John Bolling (only child)
- s. Mary Kennon
5. John Bolling
- s. Elizabeth Balir
6. Rodney Bowlin
- s. Elizabeth Anderson
7. Jarrod (Jared) Bowlin
- s. Anne Roane
8. Rodney Bowlin
- s. Trisa (Tricy) Harris
9. James Bowlin
- s. Mary (Polly) ()
10. Franklin Powhatan Bowlin
- s. Mary Eliza Kyler
11. Walter Scott Bowlin
- s. Edna Ellen Hoover
12. Raymond Lyle Bowlin
- s. Wilma Forman
13. Larry Franklin Bowlin
- s. Molly Ann Marsh
14. Michael Dewayne Bowlin
- s. Rebecca Ann Sorenson
15. Michelle Renee Bowlin
15. Joshua Michael Bowlin
14. Mark Daniel Bowlin
- s. Susan Diane Daily
15. Daniel Mark Bowlin
14. Dani Rae Bowlin

Finding Your American Indian Ancestry

Just how far an Indian lineage can be traced depends on the tribe involved and the area in which it was located. You may find quite early records for some Indians who lived in the Eastern United States, for some of those who had contact with Spanish missionaries in the Southwest and for those who were converted to Christianity by the French in Michigan and Canada. The Indians of the Northwest, however, continued to have mostly hostile contact with non-Indians until well into the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Names present a particular problem, as a Native American might have several different Indian names during his lifetime and might use yet another English name when dealing with census takers and other non-Indians. You should make a special attempt to learn both the Indian and English names of your ancestors. These names, the name of the Indian tribe and specific or approximate years of births, deaths and other major events in your ancestor's lives are needed to gain access to information in government records.

There are three major repositories for the government records that pertain to research in American Indian genealogy: the National Archives, the Federal Archives branch in the region where the tribe is located and the agency office in charge of Indian records in the particular area of the tribe in question.

The records at the National Archives, arranged by tribe and dated 1830 to 1940, include various Indian censuses, muster rolls of Indians removed from the eastern U.S. during the first half of the nineteenth century, records of claims filed by the eastern Cherokees against the federal government and estate files for Indians who made wills with the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs after 1910.

Annual Indian censuses were authorized by law in 1884, begun in 1885 and continued on most reservation until 1940. The government undertook the enumeration of all Indians, including those on reservations and roaming over unsettled tracts of county, numbering among them not only full-blooded American Indians but "persons of mixed white and Indian blood . . . if they are enrolled on an Indian tribal or agency roll or if they are regarded as Indians in their community." The information recorded for each individual in the Indian censuses includes his or her Indian or English name (sometimes both), sex, age, relationship to the head of family and sometimes to another Indian named on the roll. Earlier rolls often show the names of people who were born or died during the year and give the dates of birth or death; after 1924, this information was recorded on separate, interfiled rolls.

You may also find information Indian ancestors in the schedules of the regular federal censuses beginning in 1860, when the category of "Indians taxed"-that is, living among the white populations- was first included in the census categories. The information on those Indians counted in this and succeeding censuses, however, is scanty and often inaccurate, (the barriers of social and geographical isolation, language, illiteracy and distrust of whites meant that accurate Indian enumerations were impossible for many decades) and many Indians gave the enumerators their "census names" while keeping their Indian names secret.

Among the Indian records in the National Archives are four volumes-covering only certain tribes in the Dakota and Washington Territories and California-of a "Special Census of Indians Not Taxed" that was conducted in 1880.

There are also a few very early Indian censuses taken in the East prior to the period of removal, including the 1832 Census of the Creek Nation and the 1835 Census of the Cherokee Nation. A very special Indian issue of the Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly published in 1967 contains census records and other genealogical details of Georgia Indians, and additional Indian censuses in printed form are included in the bibliography.

Beginning in 1830 the federal government undertook a policy, carried out over the next twenty-five years, of "removing" Indians from eastern areas and relocating them on lands west of the Mississippi. The removal muster rolls of these Indians sometimes enumerated the number of persons in each family by age and sex and identify the original residence of each head of family in the East. They are maintained in the National Archives and are chronologically arranged and indexed.

The largest and most consistently kept set of records of the reservation period, 1850 through 1887 are the annuity rolls. The federal government, in some of its treaties with tribes, guaranteed a certain amount of money or goods to be paid annually to the heads of Indian families. When these payments were made the Indians had to have their names noted by a government agent and sign, usually with their marks, to indicate that they had been paid. Often the age and sex of each family members are contained in these rolls.

Beginning in 1887, under the terms of the General Allotment Act, the federal government allotted each Indian a parcel of land to be turned over to him when he proved himself able to manage his own affairs. The allotment registers from this period are among the most accurate and detailed Indian records in existence and often contain a great deal of genealogical information. By law an Indian who wanted to sell his allotment, even to his tribe, had to have the permission of all other Indians who had any interest in it. At the death of an allotted Indian all his heirs and their specific relationship to him had to be identified. While terms of relationship are used very loosely in some Indian records--the same word might identify a brother, sister or cousin, for example--relationships are strictly defined in the allotment registers, as they were the basis for determining the amount of an allotment that passed from the deceased to each of his heirs. While allotment registers date from about 1905--the allotment period continued until about 1930--some of the family information in them goes back to the early part of the nineteenth century. It includes the allotted individual's Indian and English names, age and birth date and the names, ages and relationships of many family members.

Among the earliest claims filed against the federal government by Indians are the Cherokee claims authorized by a law passed in 1902. The Cherokee Claims Commission Records -- some 48,000 files of individuals who registered claims against the government--are in the national Archives, as is the two-volume index to them. Each Indian had to defend his claim by proving descent from an Indian who appeared on an earlier roll of the tribe, and the files reveal not only the name, date and place of birth and residence of the claimant but genealogical information about numerous family members.

An Indian who wanted to make a will after 1910 could do so with the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Information on family relationships can be found in the estate files containing wills, reports of heirship and related papers, which are kept in the National Archives.

A search of the National Archives Indian records other than the Cherokee Claim files can be made for you if you provide your ancestor's name (preferably both Indian and English), the name of his tribe and the approximate date of his tribal association. For a search of the Cherokee Claim files you need the name of the claimant or the number of the claim and the claimant's birth date or his age at the time the claim was filed. Additional information about your ancestor's residence at the time his claim was made and the names of his wife, parents or children are also helpful. You can search the National Archives records for Indians yourself if you know the name of your ancestor's tribe and some approximate dates pertaining to your ancestors lives.

Among the regional records maintained by each Regional Archives Branch are the records of field offices of federal agencies located in the region served by that branch, including records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the mid-nineteenth century until 1952. These may include birth, death or marriage registers, censuses of tribes and school records.

During the period of 1850 through 1870, the Bureau of Indian Affairs undertook a number of school censuses that listed Indian children, their ages, where they were born and sometimes the names of their parents.

Another record kept by the Bureau of Indian Affairs that is rich in genealogical data is the Sanitary Record of Sick, Injured, Births, Deaths, etc., dating from the late 1800's, in which information about all Indians who were treated by the Bureau's health services was recorded. If the individual died, the date of death is noted. In the case of births, the date and the names of the parents are given. You may be able to locate other scattered vital records, kept by non-Indians or by the tribal government, depending on the tribe and period you are researching.

In the office of the agency in charge of records for your ancestors' tribe you may find documents not on file at the National Archives or its regional branches.

During the earlier years of contact between Indian and white man, many churches sent missionaries to convert Indians to Christianity, and you should try to locate the records of any churches that might have been active in this work in your ancestors' tribe. In the Catholic Church some of these documents date back to the mid-1500's, though more complete records begin about 1730. Unfortunately when an Indian was baptized, he was usually given a Christian name, and only in certain cases was his Indian name noted.

References: How to Find Your Ancestors
Land Records, Military Records, Census Records of America
How to Trace Your Family Tree

All are available from the Indianola Public Library

"QUERY"

BOWLIN Elizabeth BOWLIN LEDLEY RASKO ... Ross is willing to
RASKO "share" (sell) genealogical information.
LEDLEY

Elizabeth Ross, publisher of "family albums", is assuming as her maiden name the name of the family to whom she is attempting to sell her book. When advertising the BOWLIN FAMILY ALBUM, she identifies herself as Elizabeth Bowlin Ross, LEDLEY FAMILY ALBUM she is Elizabeth LEDLEY Ross, . . . We also note that "Elizabeth" was associated with American Genealogies Ind., whatever that may be. She now gives her address as Genealogy Room, P.O. Box 5300, Scranton, PA 1805-5300.

This flagrant example of false advertising has been brought to the attention of the Consumer Protection Division of the U.S. Postal Service. In order to pursue this matter, the Postal Service needs to know of people who have ordered one of these books, believing it to have been compiled by a member of the family in question. If you know of such people, please contact the NAGS Newsletter Editor, 4527 17th Street, North, Arlington, VA 22207.

Cathy Elgin Ayers
607 East First Avenue
Indianola, Iowa 50125