



# Warren County Genealogical Society

306 West Salem Indianola, Iowa 50125

VOLUME 15

MARCH 1989

ISSUE 3

MEETINGS: 7:00 P.M. the third Monday of each month, except August and December, at the Indianola Public Library at 207 North B. Visitors are welcome.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: April 17, 1989 - "Care and Storage of Family Photographs" by David Godwin

NEWSLETTER: Published each month except August and December. We encourage members to send queries and articles for publication. Editor: Marieta Grissom.

DUES: \$5.00 single and \$7.50 family membership. Dues are payable to Registrar: Molly Bowlin, 802 Kennedy Street, Indianola, IA 50125

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

MEET OUR SOCIETY'S VICE PRESIDENT: Jane Godwin

Biographical Information:

I was born in Carroll County, IA and attended a rural school for 8 years. After graduation from Carroll High School, I enrolled at Simpson College where my relatives had been students. I worked in the actuarial department of Bankers Life and taught in the Audobon Schools, then stayed at home while our five daughters, Joanne, Janet, Mary Lou, Nancy and Sally were growing up. I taught Special Education classes in the Indianola Schools for 10 years and Adult Basic Education at Winifred Law Opportunity Center for 9 years, retiring in 1987. My husband Roy has been in the construction business with his brothers and we have lived at 808 W. Detroit for 32 years. I am a member of the Warren County Historical Society, Delta Kappa Gamma Society and First United Methodist Church, where I am co-president of United Methodist Women, lead a Bible study and play in a handbell choir. Special people in my life are our 12 grandchildren, ages 1 to 17.

Interest in Genealogy:

During my years at home, I heard many stories about my grandparents and great-grandparents which made these ancestors seem like very real people, even though I did not know them. For many years, I thought about writing down this information. After taking a class offered by the WCGS about 5 years ago, I began compiling facts and writing a family history which I hope to have printed this year. I wish I had done this years ago, while older members of the family were living. I have twice visited Cornwall, England, home of my father's family, and we have also visited the home area of the Godwin family in England and Denmark. These visits were meaningful because we knew when and where our ancestors lived. Genealogy is a wonderful hobby because it enables us to pass on the past to the future.

Goals for the Society:

When planning the 1989 programs for the WCGS, our goal was to present something each meeting that would help each member organize, research and write family history. We have many wonderful resources--libraries, printed material, and experts in many fields--and we need to learn and re-learn how to use them. We also need to hear the problems and successes of members of the WCGS, so that we can learn, share and grow together.

TYPES OF GENEALOGISTS. Genealogists come in all different shapes, sizes, and mind sets. They are not the same as Historians, but some could talk your ear off. Be aware that all people think differently and use their thinking patterns in approaching genealogy. I have noted the following kinds of genealogists:

1. The researcher. This person loves to research and will go at any time any where to find anything. However, none of the discovered items ever get compiled.
2. The chart maker. This person loves to make charts and family group sheets. All time is spent on this and never any reference made to where the information was obtained.
3. The book writer. This person is always planning a book or writing a book or has several books to his or her credit. Many times this person loves to write and puts everything down without references. Books are written, but have no system or index.
4. The know it all. This person has all the answers and will not listen to any other suggestions of items to check or will listen, but never follows up. This person will believe the first thing that they hear or see in print and never believe anything else.
5. The hurrier. This person is always in a hurry. In and out of the court house in five minutes. Good research takes time.
6. The dabbler. This person loves to dabble in genealogy, but never comes to any conclusions or writes up their findings.
7. The letter writer. This person writes letters of at least three pages each and either never asks a question or asks so many questions, it would be a two day job to answer them all.
8. The dishonest researcher. This person is too cheap to pay for a few copies and steals what they want. They make it hard for everyone and cause many libraries to have all kinds of security measures.
9. The listen to me researcher. This person wants everyone to take their time to listen to their wonderful genealogical stories or they tie up a librarian for several hours seeking help for their special problem.
10. The balanced researcher. This person will take the time necessary to do the job right. They will know the rules of the places where they are researching and abide by them. They will seek to help a library and make their visit remembered with joy. They will record their findings and publish quality works from time to time.

-South Central Pennsylvania Gen. Society, Nov 1988

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SHEET PROTECTORS: Poly vs. Vinyl: VINYL is made of plasticizers and is an acid-based material. Plasticizers cause VINYL to give off static electricity which can be a nuisance. The acid in VINYL can literally pull ink off printed pages and transfer it to the VINYL itself. POLYPROPYLENE is acid-free and does not cause ink to migrate from the original documents. It contains no plasticizers, so it gives off less static electricity. VINYL protectors are usually available in a thicker material than POLYPROPYLENE, but are not as strong. Both are clear. VINYL can turn yellow and crack with age; it will also tear...while the poly is said not to discolor or tear and is usually less expensive.

-Key City (Dubuque, via Crawford Co. via Sac County (IA) Gen. Soc Oct 1988

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The Family Tree is worth bragging about if it has consistently produced good timber and not just nuts...  
Author unknown

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## MILITARY HINTS:

Revolutionary War: Most men in PA ages 18 to 53 were listed in a militia unit. Men could also have served in the Continental Army. Many men never applied for a pension. Those who received a pension could have gotten one from the federal government, state government, or county government. Many federal records were destroyed in the War of 1812, but many are still available from the National Archives in Washington DC. State pension records are held by the State Archives, Harrisburg, PA. County records vary by county and some of the pensions are recorded in the orphan court records.

Civil War: Many men served in the Civil War. In searching, the first step is to find the name of a unit in which they served. That information may be in an obituary or county history. There are several reference books that tell what each unit did during the war. After the war, many men joined a group called the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Records for these groups are scattered and in many cases have been lost or destroyed. Pension records (from the National Archives, Washington, D.C. of anyone who served usually contain any amount of interesting and valuable information.

-South Central Pennsylvania Gen. Society, Oct 1988

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COMPUTERS: Computers are a wonderful thing for a genealogist. If you are thinking of buying a computer, consider getting some computer training before doing so. If possible buy your computer at a place where you can get service and support if you have questions on how to operate it. All genealogists should buy a computer with a letter quality printer. No one wants to read a letter or book in dot matrix. With a computer buy a good word processing program. Many people will buy a genealogy program, but remember you must type all information that you have into the computer. If you were to type it into a good word processing program, then you would have it in book form (and ready to be published). Otherwise to do a book you would have to type all of your information twice--once in your genealogy program and a second time for a book.

-South Central Pennsylvania Gen. Society, Dec 1988

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COLOR PHOTOS: Most of us have recorded the important occasions of the last 20 years with color photographs. The color pictures are beautiful and lifelike, but they are fading. Future generations will not be able to see what we looked like when we were a child, when we graduated from high school, or got married because once a color photograph fades, it can not be recovered. One method of preserving these important photographs is to copy them as black and white photographs, which can last for hundreds of years. Kodak says Ektacolor 78 and 74 prints are estimated to have a 10% dye loss in about 8 years, and will suffer an obvious loss of contrast and shift in color toward red in about 16 to 20 years. By the time 30 or 40 years have passed, the image deterioration will be very serious, and nearly half of the original cyan dye will have faded away.

-Monroe County (IA) Gen. Soc, Oct-Dec 1988 via North Texas Trail Tracers, Wichita Falls, TX via Northwest IA Gen. Soc, Oct 1988.

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"CERTIFICATES" Do not request a certificate for genealogical use. The certificate is simply a formal paper to testify the date, cause and place of death. The death record includes somewhat more information and place of nativity. Also, if you ask for a marriage register, not a certificate, you get more information. The marriage register gives the names of parents, place and residence of bride and groom, often their birth dates, where married, the names of witnesses, etc.

-Sac County (IA) Gen. Soc. Oct 1988

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If you could see your ancestors, all standing in a row,  
Would you be proud of them, or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made, in climbing the family trees,  
And some of them, you know, do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors, all standing in a row,  
There might be some of them, perhaps, you wouldn't care to know.

But here's another question, which requires a different view,  
If you could see your ancestors, would they be proud of you?

-Buena Vista County Root Diggers, June 1988 via Monroe County (IA) Gen Soc.  
Oct-Dec 1988

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UNUSUAL PET NAMES If you should happen to find an "Effie" on your family tree, chances are her real name was Euphemia. Not long ago the name "Leany" was found on a census record that puzzled the finder, but on a later one she was listed as Angelina. If it were a case where the person was better known, and called by her middle name, as frequently happens, then another census record might have her listed by her first name. This is just a little matter that researchers need to be aware of. Otherwise, they might be inclined to think that grandpa or grandma had been married three times.

-Adair County (IA) Historical Society Newsletter, Nov. 1988

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GERMAN RESEARCH - 19th Century Emigration Indexes. These are unique indexes for family researchers, designed especially for people who do not know the exact place of origin of their 19th century immigrant ancestor of German descent. For a list of the indexes offered, write: Mr. Henning Schroeder, Genealogy Service IM Sol 60, 5270, Gummersbach 1, West Germany

-Botna Valley Gen. Soc. Iowa via Sac County (IA) Gen. Soc Oct 1988

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In genealogy, the term LINEAL means ascending or descending in a direct line; COLLATERAL means descended from the same ancestor but not in a direct line of descent; ALLIED FAMILIES are families related usually through marriage.

-Clark Co. Gen. Soc., Vancouver, WA. via Sac Co. IA, Oct 1988

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An old photograph with a funny looking little tax stamp(s) on the reverse side will enable you to put a date on it as tax stamps were only used on photos from September 1964 to August 1966.

- Clark Co. WA. via Sac Co. IA, Oct 1988

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USE THE FOLLOWING WITH GREAT CAUTION: the works of the following genealogical writers: Gustave ANJOU, Charles H. BROWING, Orra E. MONNETTE, Horatio Gates COMERBY, John S. WURTS, Elizabeth L. M. RIXFORD, C.A. HOPPIN, Frederick A. VIRKUS, William the Conqueror Society, The Reprint Publisher, Co. Spartanburg, S.C., Elizabeth Ross is no longer associated with "American Genealogies, Inc." and gives her address as Genealogy Room, P.O. Box 5300, Scranton, PA. According to Clark Co. Gen. Soc. for Nov. 1987, Elizabeth Ross has been put out of business because the U.S. Postal Service has been granted a request to intercept mail orders for a family album apparently researched by Elizabeth ROSS. American Genealogy has admitted that ROSS is a factitious person.

-Wayne Co. Gen. News via Sac Co. IA, Oct 1988

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ALSO BEWARE - with the same old format as that of Taylor, Ross, Bailey and Bayley that of MARY WHITNEY, 306 Easton Rd., Ottsville, PA

-Iowa Genealogical Society

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## BASIC TIPS ON TRACING A FAMILY TREE - REMINDERS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

1. YOU'RE NUMBER ONE. Start with yourself; your full name, date of birth and other important dates, the full names and dates of your parents.
2. KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT. You may use file cards, loose-leaf notebook, or another system. Enter all the information you find so that you can find it again when you need it.
3. ONE STEP AT A TIME. Prove the facts as you go; don't skip generations. You can't prove that John Henry MORGAN was your great-grandfather unless you can show positive evidence that your grandfather was his son.
4. PENCIL VERSUS PEN. You need both. Keep unproved records in pencil so they can be changed. Don't make a permanent record till you're sure.
5. IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR. Enlist the help of relatives. If they're nearby, visit them. If they're far away, write. Get reacquainted with distant cousins; learn their family traditions. Ask questions.
6. DATES ARE VITAL. Exact dates of birth, death, marriage may be found in family Bibles, on tombstones, in state, federal, or local records. Approximate ages appear in the census. Try every source.
7. "THEY WENT THATAWAY"...whichaway? Census records since 1850 show state of birth, family migration. Newspaper obituaries, county histories, some land and probate records also give clues to residences.
8. WHERE THERE'S A WILL...probate records can be proof positive of a relationship. Even when there's no will, records of estate settlements may show heirs and relationships.
9. NAMES ON THE LAND. Land transactions have been recorded with great care, through most of our history. Records of deeds may show not only owners, but heirs and relationship on both sides. Tax lists help, too. And look at the neighbors, they might be relatives.
10. PENSION PAPERS PAY DIVIDENDS. They're full of dates and places. If ancestor served in any war, it's on record; you can get a copy.
11. CHECK THE CHURCHES. Some denominations kept baptismal, marriage, burial records, others didn't. But some who didn't may have adjacent cemeteries with the data you need carved in stone.
12. LEARN TO LOVE LIBRARIES. For it may be that much of the research you need has already been done and is waiting for you right in your local library, in printed books or on microfilm.

-Bluegrass Roots-Winter, 1985, page 129 via Eastern Nebraska Gen. Soc. Jan 89

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The first place to look for a vanished town or one that changed its name is a gazetteer (a geographical dictionary). If you are still having trouble finding a town or locality in the United States, contact the United States Board on Geographical Names; give as much information as you can on possible location and date. Address:

Donald J. Orth, Exec. Secretary  
Domestic Geographic Names  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
National Center Stop 523  
Reston, VA 22092

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It is not too early to be thinking about your exhibits for the Warren County Fair!

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QUERIES:

COOK I need proof that Christopher Cook from Lincoln Co., N.C. who married  
COOKE Anna (maiden name unknown) is the same person as Christian Cook who is  
SHITTEL listed as the fifth child of Phillip Cook and Mary SHITTEL.  
WISE Christopher's father was Phillip from Lincoln Co., N.C. Christian and  
COFFEE Anna WISE were married in Lincoln Co. N.C. 17 Aug 1819. Christopher's  
family has been traced from N.C. in early 1800s to Indiana then to  
Missouri in the late 1800s, then to Washington state in early 1900s.  
Christopher had a son John born 1823 in Lincoln Co., N.C. who married  
Polly Ann COFFEE. Mrs. Irene (Cook) Britton, 1734 Fall Road, Fairbanks,  
Alaska 99709

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"Digging for lost ancestors is far more than simply collecting the names of your antecedents. It sometimes takes you into strange places; and in the course of your exchanges, a considerable amount of history, geography, psychology, and law very likely will be added to your store of knowledge. You don't dig merely to accumulate a lot of dry bones, as it were. Or to change the metaphor, you simply cannot back-trail your progenitors without becoming interested in the times in which they lived and in the various phases of their lives."

Gilbert H. DOANE

-Greater Omaha Gen. Soc. Jan 1989

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