

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 25 Number 2

March/April 1998

25TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CALENDAR

Mar. 10 7:00 BOARD MEETING. Library
Mar. 16 6:15 CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING. Reference area of the library.
7:00 REGULAR MEETING. Library. Jay De Young will speak about preparing and preserving fair entries.
Mar. 31 7:00 COMPUTER GROUP meeting. Library. Room B.
Apr. 14 7:00 BOARD MEETING. Library.
Apr. 20 7:00 CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING. Reference area of the library.
REGULAR MEETING. Library. Jo Ann Eddy will speak about her trip to Sweden.
June 11-13 IOWA HERITAGE EXPO '98. Des Moines.
Oct. 2&3 IGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Marshalltown.

Officers 1998:

Pres.	Ev Brightman
Vice Pres.	Marieta Grissom
Treasurer	Jane Godwin
Secretary	Virginia Nelson
Corres. Sec.	Thelma Pehrson
Registrar	JoAnn Harvey
Librarian	Elaine Bumgarner
Historian	Kate Kauzlarich
Newsletter	Ruth Hall
Past Pres.	Donna Crow

Active Committees:

Cemetery
Courthouse Abstracting
Newspaper Abstracting
Library Acquisitions
Obituary
Research Requests
County Fair Divisions
IGS Representative-
Area 4 Sheryl Gwinn

Genealogical Research Sites

Iowa Genealogical Society, 6000 Douglas Ave., DSM 515/276-0287. T,W,Th 10:00-9:00. Sa,M,F 10:00-4:00. Closed Sunday.
State Historical Library, 600 E. Locust, DSM 515/281-6200. T-Sa 9:00-4:30. closed Sunday & Monday.
Des Moines Public Library, 100 Locust, DSM 515/283-4152. M,T,W 10:00-9:00, Th & F 10:00-6:00. Sa 10:00-5:00. Closed Sunday.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Family History Center
3301 Ashworth Road, West DSM 515/225-0416 M,T,W,Sa 10:00-3:00. T,W,Th evenings 6:30-9:00. Closed Friday & Sunday.
1800 W. Jackson St., Knoxville. M 10:00-2:00. Th 6:30-9:30 PM, Sa 10:00-3:00. Info & appointments outside regular hours call Janet Long, Director, 515/828-8743.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I left for my vacation, I was saddened to learn of the death of past president Vicki Montgomery. I will remember Vicki for her enthusiastic leadership and selfless giving to family, friends and the many organizations of which she was a part. I am pleased that we will be donating a book to the public library in her memory. She worked on many projects for the Warren County Genealogical Society including preservation of materials at the court house and encouraging our purchase of the micro film cabinet for the library.

During my two weeks in the sunny Southwest I visited the historical site of the Yuma Territorial prison. Of the many folk who lived and died there, thirty-six were women. The majority of them were in prison for the crime of adultery. I kept thinking that many of today's Soap Opera plots would, a century ago, have ended in Yuma Territory prison.

Thanks to those who did the presentation on the fair and to Marieta for filling in. Our program on March 16 (not counting for blizzards) will be presented by our fair judge Jay Dengue. He will be sharing his extensive knowledge of the preservation and presentation of artifacts (without the hear of the fair and stress of judging).

I would like us to remember long distance member (and my uncle) John Paul Butrum who is facing medical problems. Hang in there, Uncle John Paul.

See you at the March meeting.

Ev

Roll call questions:

March-Share a trade or vocation of an ancestor which you find interesting.

April-Share the motivation (if you know) of an ancestor for leaving their native land or state to migrate to a new area.

COMPUTER GROUP TO MEET

Vice-president Marieta Grissom has arranged for a meeting for all those interested in the use of the computer in genealogical research. It will be at the library in Room B at 7:00 on Tuesday, March 31st. All levels of ability are welcome.

BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY IN 1997

Clarke County IA Cemeteries, Vol I, Maple Hill

Herbal Palliatives, Medicines and Health in 19th Century Lucas by

Ron E. Roberts and Richard Kaplan

The Bennett Family

The Endres-Steger Story by Sister Edelwalda Endres SSSF

Hanby-Vance Family

A Tribute to Emory J. Miller by Eric Miller

Obituaries 1995 and 1996

Will Extracts 1910-1987, 22 vols. Elaine Bumgarner, Librarian WCGS

WCGS Remembers 25 Years!

by Marieta Grissom

It was Saturday night, a couple weeks ago. My inquiring mind lead me to the 1987 Warren County History. My original quest now forgotten, I happened upon the article written by Pauline Baxendale on the Warren County Genealogical Society. It opens "On April 2, 1973..." Some quick math...I exclaimed aloud, "Our genealogical society is 25 years old this year!"

My mind started racing as I explored the possibilities--should we have a party--many of our members live some distance away--it's kind of late to arrange for a special speaker--besides the program already arranged for April should be an excellent one. Ev Brightman, our president, is out of town and she asked me, as vice president, to conduct next Monday night's meeting. Hoping that I wasn't crossing a glass barrier, I made my first "executive" decision and decided a special article in the newsletter might be an appropriate tribute.

The next day I consulted my mother (Thelma Pehrson) and Ruth Hall. They concurred, so the project began. I dug through boxes to find my old newsletters and Mom loaned me hers. I sketched an outline of the topics to be covered, but I knew I didn't have enough solid information to work with, even though I have been a member for quite a few of these years. I yearned for minutes from the meetings, the historians' books, registrars' rolls, etc, etc, etc.

I phoned Ev's house two or three times a day to see if she was home yet--I wasn't anxious--oh, no! Finally we connected and she brought me the records she had--all of the meeting minutes. WHAT A TREASURE! I usually have trouble staying awake through the 10:00 p.m. news. When I got started reading the minutes of those early meetings one evening, it was after 11:00 p.m. before I knew it. The foresight, enthusiasm and dedication of the early members were truly remarkable.

THE BEGINNING

The minutes begin...

An organizational meeting of a Genealogical Society was held in Indianola, Iowa on April 2, 1973 at 7:00 p.m. in the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company building. Fifteen men and women were present. Mrs. Robert (Rose) Bowery presided. Bertine Davis moved and Beulah Wilson seconded the motion that Mrs. Rose Bowery preside as president and that Mrs. Louise Pilmer act as recording secretary during this meeting. The motion carried.

...and so WCGS was born.

The first meeting was notably productive:

- Decided to affiliate with IGS.
- Elected President, Vice President and Recording Secretary.

- Elected nominating committee for other offices.
- Appointed by-law committee.
- Determined dues to be \$3.00 per single membership or \$5.00 per family.
- Decided number of meetings per year to be 8, September through May, excluding December, and to have a summer meeting.
- Decided refreshments would not be served as a regular part of each meeting.
- Discussed possible programs and the need for a program book.

The minutes do not indicate what time the meeting adjourned. However, the executive board consisting of the 3 newly elected officers, met following the organizational meeting and this group adjourned at 11:30 p.m. These people were excited!

At the second meeting, April 16, 1973, the official name was voted to be Warren County Genealogical Society, and the by-laws were adopted. It is interesting to note that between April 2 and April 16 was the paralyzing, record-breaking snow storm of April 9, 1973. *(It is also interesting to note that I am writing this article during the paralyzing, record-breaking snow storm of March 8, 1998.)*

LEADERSHIP

The following people have served as WCGS President: Rose Bowery, Louise Pilmer, Marjorie Kline, Barb Rasko, Molly Bowlin, Patricia Hailey, Elaine Bumgarner, Enola Disbrow, Vicki Montgomery, Donna Crow and Ev Brightman.

It is with some hesitation that I listed these people. No question, these individuals have provided exceptional leadership. However, I have used the very detailed and complete minutes the secretaries recorded as the basis for much of this article. Newsletter editors have done a wonderful job of keeping members informed and I also used the newsletters as a resource. Because WCGS activities and publishing projects have been many and varied, the treasurers sometimes have had very complicated finances to record and manage. The corresponding secretary frequently has many queries to research. So many people have faithfully served in the many official capacities--not the least of which also include the vice president (who serves as program chair), registrar, librarian and historian.

FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

Many members have faithfully worked behind the scenes. These people have spent hundreds upon hundreds of hours filling shoe boxes with 3" x 5" cards to alphabetize names for indexes. These people have spent hours and hours copying vital records at the Warren County Court House. These people have clipped and glued thousands of obituaries filling many notebooks. These people have typed and typed. These people have extracted information from newspapers, wills and

probates and filled more notebooks. These people have made phone calls, gone to many meetings both locally and away, written letters, and shared ideas. These people have manned sales tables. These people have prepared many county fair exhibits. These people have been the guts (and warm heart) of WCGS!

MEMBERSHIP

Everyone who joined WCGS during its first year were considered charter members. Records indicate 42 charter members:

Barbara Abell	Maude Kibee
Harry Art	Marjorie Kline
Leota Baber	Guy and Helen Lester
Charles and Alice Beam	Julia Lind
Sandra Bellman	Richard and Charlene McCoy
John and Pauline Boss	Ronald McDole
Robert and Rose Bowery	Loree Neiman
Tenney Brinkman	Lulu Patch
Janice Burton	Jim Patrick
Sterl and Edith Conn	Ethel Peterson
Sue Curtis	Louise Pilmer
Bertine Davis	Helen Schooler
Margaret Deleske	Roberta Smith
Bob Gieber	Kendall and Lois Strong
Ruth Hall	Maude Wilkins
Charlotte Hardin	Beulah Wilson
John Hare	Doyle Woods
Kate Kauzlarich	

Of these charter members, I think four have been continuous members for all 25 years: Tenney Brinkman (of Troy, Michigan), Marjorie Kline (Indianola resident until 3 years ago, now of Colorado Springs, CO), Louise Pilmer and Kate Kauzlarich.

As I researched the meeting minutes, I noted a few dates and numbers. In 1978 there were 30 members with an average attendance of 17 at meetings. In July 1982 membership was 51. The Birth Book lists 65 members for 1984. Membership for 1990 was listed at 123 in the annual report, and the Registrar's records indicate 124 members in 1992. 1997 membership ended at 103 and January 1998 membership started with 70 paid members.

Membership dues for WCGS are very reasonable. Originally dues were \$3.00 per individual or \$5.00 per family. In January 1981 they were raised to \$5.00 per individual or \$7.50 per family. Then in July 1989 they were increased to \$5.00 per individual or \$9.00 per family, which is where they have remained.

WCGS has members living across the United States, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Colorado, California, and Washington.

LIBRARY

Right away the new WCGS members knew they would need a library as research materials were acquired. In 1973 Marj Kline opened her home for the first library. Late in 1980 the library was moved to Louise Pilmer's home. In June 1981 the Society began considering a move to the Indianola Public Library, but in November 1981 the library moved, in part, to Maude Wilkins' apartment. Then in late 1987 at least part of the genealogical collection was moved to the Indianola Public Library. Over the years many acquisitions have been made and book and family history donations received.

WARREN COUNTY FAIR

Even the first year, the Society felt a need to have a presence at the Warren County Fair, though the booth rental fee of \$25 was felt to be beyond their means. The September 15, 1975 minutes report 9 atlases were sold at the Warren County Fair. The Society had a \$25 booth at the 1976 fair, but decided not to reserve one for the following year because 1) they had nothing more to sell, and 2) the location of the booth in 1976 had been undesirable. (\$18.50 had been taken in at the 1976 booth.) The fair booth in 1978 netted \$.20 after expenses, but "the booth made people aware of our activities and a chance to see the reprints, as well as the literature." (March 19, 1979 Minutes)

Remember the energy crises? The theme for the 1979 booth was "Spend Your Energy With Your Family." The booth was shared with the Historical Society. The display/sales booth concept continued through the 1982 fair when over 100 people signed the guest book, materials sold amounted to \$42.65 and 17 people signed up for the beginning genealogy workshop.

Then a new approach was discussed:

"Classified exhibits would be open to the general public, with prizes and awards as determined by a competent judge. Heirlooms, family Bibles, pictures, documents, charts, etc. would be the type of things exhibited. The consensus for a change to this was favorable."
(September 15, 1982 Minutes)

Fair Superintendents were appointed. Rules, regulations, classifications were presented to the fair board and approved. A judge was obtained. The first year (1983) over 100 entries resulted in 37 blue ribbons, 23 red ribbons and 14 white

ribbons. Suggestions for improvements were made and this concept has continued and been quite popular. Many people look at this as an opportunity to identify family items and preserve stories for future generations. In 1991 27 exhibitors had 179 entries.

BOOKS, BOOKS AND BOOKS

WCGS members have had a keen sense of the needs of genealogical researchers and have acted accordingly. Knowing that...

- every researcher likes to see maps of where their ancestors lived,
- "the only way" to find names in a book is via an index,
- not everyone can walk every cemetery to find their ancestral burial sites,
- not everyone can research all records in the Court House or all obituaries in old newspapers,
- our descendants will need information that we take for granted because "we know that",

the WCGS members have responded prolifically!

The members of the new organization wasted no time getting started. The first project was to reprint the *1887 Warren County Atlas*. This was first offered for sale on Ridiculous Day, September 1974 and by November 16, 1974 225 atlases had been sold.

The Warren County Historical Society decided to sponsor reprinting the *1879 Warren County History*, but it needed to be indexed. WCGS members spent hours and days at Louise Pilmer's home indexing and alphabetizing the names.

By October 1975 Society members began to consider publication of marriage records and cemetery records. They had already begun walking cemeteries to record tombstones.

The marriage records were laboriously copied at the court house compiling a 1849-1899 (50 years) Book to be sold on a cooperative basis with IGS. By March 1977 we were receiving proceeds from the IGS sales of the marriage records.

In July 1977 350 copies of the *1872 Warren County Atlas* were ordered, with the printing done by the Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune and the pages assembled by WCGS members.

In the fall of 1977 indexing and alphabetizing of the *1908 Warren County History* had been completed.

Intense effort was then made to finish the cemetery book. The book, *Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Iowa*, was taken to Walsworth Publishing Co. in Marceline, MO on May 16, 1980 and was picked up on July 2, 1980. With pre-publication sales, 324 books of 500 were sold by September 18, 1980. In February 1984 Maude Wilkins reported only 3 cemetery books remained.

The *Birth Records of Warren County, Iowa through 1920* was the next project. Countless hours were spent in the court house copying records. Then in mid-1981 it looked like the state was going to limit access to court house records, so WCGS had the remaining birth records photocopied to finish the project. The book was taken to Amundsen Publishing in Decorah in May 1985. 500 books were received in July.

In January 1984 the members began talking about publishing a new Warren County history, the first written since 1953. In mid-1985 with the Birth Book completed, energies were concentrated on the new history. It was an enormous undertaking. *The History of Warren County, Iowa 1987* includes approximately 1200 family stories, accounts of businesses, schools, churches, organizations, township histories, town histories and many pictures. 1250 books were printed by Curtis Media Corporation in Dallas, TX and were ready for distribution in September 1987. Including pre-publication sales, 964 books were sold by January 18, 1988.

In March 1990 a suggestion was made to begin abstracting deaths, probates and obituaries from old newspapers at the Warren County Historical Building. A small group began working on Thursday afternoons and by January 1992 had *Deaths, Probates and Obituaries of Indianola Newspapers--1857-1876* ready for printing and sale. Two more books covering 1877-1885 and 1886-1889 were published with IGS in early 1994.

In July 1990 Society members began talking about reprinting several atlases as one book. The atlases for the following years were enlarged or reduced as necessary for a uniform format and combined under one cover: 1847, 1872, 1887, 1987, 1902-1903, 1915, 1919-1924. Petznick Printing Company in Creston, Iowa was selected. 250 books, *Atlas of Warren Co., Iowa*, were printed and ready for distribution in June 1992.

Currently options are being evaluated for updating the cemetery book.

PROGRAMS

It would be impossible to list the programs that have been an integral part of 25 years of meetings, but most have been of exceptional quality. Many have been the result of talents and knowledge of our own members. Others have been presented by special guest speakers.

In addition to programs given at WCGS meetings, several members of the Society have given programs to various community organizations, 4-H and Scout groups, school classes, etc.

Also, Beginning Genealogist Workshops have assisted many community residents to begin their searches.

NEWSLETTERS

The early members recognized the need for a communication media for members. Volume 1, Number 1 was published February 1975 with Pauline Baxendale as editor. As I have reviewed the 3 binders filled with newsletters, I have been impressed with the quantity and quality of information found therein. These are a valuable resource in themselves.

MEMBERS' PERSONAL RESEARCH

Printing surname indexes and pedigree charts for members have been a continuous process. Out-of-town members are encouraged to send queries so local members or the corresponding secretary can assist in their search.

Over the years members have taken many group research trips, including the IGS Library in Des Moines, the Historical Library in Des Moines, the Historical Library in Iowa City, LDS Library in Des Moines, Wayne County Historical Museum in Corydon, Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Washington, D.C. Several members have published their family histories. Some members have taken personal trips across the country or overseas. Some members have put their research on computer; others have used the Internet to do research. Most members have some nagging unanswered questions; some members may have found information they wish they hadn't found. The search is intriguing and captivating; finding vital links is the reward.

WHAT'S NEXT?

WCGS members can take pride in where they have been and where they are. Furthermore, the technology advances in these 25 years have been enormous and have assisted the genealogist in more ways than could have been imagined. It is easy to forget the days of manual typewriters, stencils, mimeograph machines, and hand written index cards. If photocopiers seem like a dream machine, computers are a miracle maker. Genealogy software for personal computers make developing pedigree charts and family group sheets a matter of a few keystrokes. An entire book can be indexed with a few more keystrokes. We are approaching the millenium as a generation of information, not of products or services. What will come next? When will we be able to access microfilm in libraries through the Internet? Or will we buy a CD- or DVD-ROM with information, such as 100 years of Indianola newspapers? Or will we just key in vital information and obtain everything known anywhere about an ancestor?

In the meantime, most of us will keep plugging away, using the resources available and researching, compiling, and publishing more information for the next person.

HISTORICAL LIBRARY

The Warren County Historical Society has a Historical Library. It is located in the museum building. This building is in the historical complex at the east end of the Warren County Fairgrounds. Edith conn, former librarian spent many years collecting articles of interest to Warren County residents and former residents.

The collection includes newspapers, scrapbooks, books and records of many kinds such as schools, churches, clubs, obituaries, deaths, births and events. Anything of historical interest in Warren County.

It is not a lending library but a preservation and research library. The library is open from 1-4 P.M. on thursdays, weather and health permitting.

The museum is open Sunday afternoons in the summer and the library is usually open at that time. The museum phone is 961-4409.

Thelma Pehrson, Librarian WCHS

RECOGNITION FOR DOLLY FLINN

The January issue of the IGS newsletter contains a "Salute to Volunteers" that has a special article on Dolly Flinn, WCGS member. Her many efforts on behalf of IGS and genealogy include her work on Pioneer Certificates, the mailing crew, and as library attendant. In addition she has been responsible for the Sesquicentennial and Century documents.

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