



# IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Iowa Genealogical Society

August 2007

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the space of 30 days, a member from Florida sent us a check for \$4,185.52, another member visiting from Oklahoma gave us a check for \$1,000 to fix the printer on the older reader/printer, at the Irish workshop a member handed me a check for \$500 as a match to the challenge program and we received notice that we were awarded a grant from Bravo Des Moines for \$1,500. Also within the same time period, a board member gave us \$2,850 to pay off one of our equipment lease/loans, saving us the monthly payment of \$455. All of this came at the time of the year when our funds traditionally run low since the largest influx of memberships come in the winter. I have put these people in the category of angels and I give thanks daily for them and others like them whose support keeps IGS running.

At the time I am writing this, we have been told that the check for the grant of \$15,000 from Polk County has been written and we should be receiving it very soon. At the Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that \$2,000 of the funds will be used to “buy down” the interest rate on our mortgage. The new, lower rate will be fixed for 5 years, rather than 3. We will have earned back the \$2,000 in less than 20 months because of the reduction in the interest we will be paying. State Savings Bank has been very helpful as we have worked through our financial issues.

June was a busy month at IGS for several reasons – the German Interest Group held its fifteenth conference and the Irish Interest Group held its first. Attendance at both was gratifying – there were over 100 attendees at the German conference and over 50 for the Irish. These are part of our effort to offer quality resources to genealogists in Iowa.

The Nominating Committee has just finished doing an outstanding job. For the first time in quite awhile, we will have almost a full slate of officers. We still have three regions open – the ballots will be mailed in mid-August and if you live in one of these regions, think seriously about being a write-in candidate.

I want to thank Denise Gripp of Indianola for stepping in and filling the position of First Vice President. She has taken on the planning of the Fall Conference with enthusiasm and her great ideas are translating into what will be a great conference. I hope to see lots of you there – this is your opportunity to hear a world-class speaker and add to your skills.

By now, you will have noticed that you are receiving the newsletter on a regular schedule of every other month. Cris Nagla has done a wonderful job of putting it together. She cracks the whip and strictly enforces the deadlines for those of us who submit items. I am writing this with one eye on the clock to be sure I meet the midnight deadline. I will send it off to her with over 2 hours to spare!

One last thing – we have a gremlin in our e-mail system that we can't seem to locate and rid ourselves of. When you send an e-mail to [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org), it does get through to us. Ignore the notice from Concentric Host that says it wasn't delivered. Short of dynamite, our experts can't figure out how to fix the problem.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support. Theresa Liewer

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### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!**

**We are needing volunteers to work at the Iowa State Fair Booth. The shifts are 4 hours in length. Please contact Debi at the IGS Library for more information (515) 276-0287**

### **BASIC INTERNET GENEALOGY CLASS**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2007  
7:00PM-9:00PM  
AT THE IGS LIBRARY**

**Do you have a road block? Do you need some new websites to browse? Come join the class!!**

### **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**

**IGS needs volunteers for abstracting obituaries from about 3 years of newspapers in Keokuk County. We have formatted cards for them and the information is to be transferred by hand or typed-which even method is convenient. You all know how great it is to find an obituary that is a positive goldmine of information. These are from the late 1940's and early 1950's and there are three or four obits on nearly every front page. We have removed the particular pages with the obits and they are flaky and falling apart, but we believe that we can send them to you or you can come in and pick them up. Either way they need to be in the file so that they can be used! Will you help us with this project? Please contact Margaret at IGS (515) 276-0287**

### **NOTES FROM THE SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

**We would like to thank all of you that have signed the Vital Records Petition. As of this newsletter we have 943 signatures. I think it may draw a little attention with legislators, however if they wish to go forward without educating themselves we will need more signatures than this. A focus will be made on the districts of those Legislators who are part of the committee.**

**If you have not signed a petition and wish to do so contact Dennis at [dmfd305@mchsi.com](mailto:dmfd305@mchsi.com)**



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!  
TO  
IGS MEMBER, JEAN SMITH  
OF  
SAFFORD, ARIZONA !!!!**

**She is the lucky winner of the raffle drawing for a \$100 Office Depot Gift Card. She entered the drawing by mailing in her entry. Her hometown is Waverly, Iowa.**

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## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### IGS BOARD MEETING

**Just a reminder that the next IGS Full Board Meeting will be August 18th at 10:00 am.**

### THE EAST VILLAGE PROMENADE

IGS will once again be participating in The East Village Promenade. With the Promenade just 4 months away now is the time to start thinking about display's, presentations and crafts to sell. Last year we had a lot of fun and we made over \$400 for IGS. We would like to make this year even bigger and better. If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved please contact Elizabeth Williams at: [rossawill5@aol.com](mailto:rossawill5@aol.com)

### ALLIED/NATIONWIDE AGRIBUSINESS EMPLOYEE WELLNESS FAIRS

IGS has been invited to participate in the Allied/Nationwide Agribusiness Employee Wellness Fairs at their three locations in Des Moines. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be able to promote our library and programs to an expected attendance of 1,200. If you work for Allied/Nationwide, be sure to stop and say hello. If your employer has a similar event, let us know – we'd love to be involved there as well.

### STATEHOOD, CENTURY AND PIONEER CERTIFICATES

The Iowa Genealogical society issues certificates to persons who are directly descended from Iowa Pioneers. Applicants must prove that the ancestor settled in Iowa:

**By 1846 to receive a Statehood Certificate**

**By 1856 to receive a Pioneer Certificate**

**More then 100 years to receive a Century Certificate**

You can purchase these certificates for either yourself or others. The person to whom the certificate is issued need not live in Iowa. These certificates can make great gifts for family members. The cost is \$10.00 per certificate. You can find the application along with the instructions on the IGS website:

[http://www.iowagenealogy.org/research\\_resources/index.htm](http://www.iowagenealogy.org/research_resources/index.htm)

You can also contact the Iowa Genealogical Society at (515) 276-0287 for more information.





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### NEW PUBLICATIONS AT IGS

**2828 Heisler Cemetery Monona County**

92 pages for \$14.70

**2829 1997 *Sioux City Journal* Death Index**

116 pages for \$17.60

**2830 1880 Federal Census Vol 1 Arlington , Banner, Concord , Correctionville, Floyd, Merville, Rutland , Sioux City , Union, Wolf Creek Twps**

68 pages for \$10.90

**2831 1880 Federal Census Vol 2 Grant, Kedron, Liston, Little, Sioux, Morgan, Rock, Sloan & West Fork Twps**

68 pages for \$10.90

**2832 1880 Federal Census Vol 3 Lakeport, Liberty , Grange & Willow Twps and Sioux City 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wards**

112 pages for \$17.90

**2833 1880 Federal Census Vol 4 Sioux City 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wards**

76 pages for \$12.20

#### Web:

The [iowagenealogy.org](http://iowagenealogy.org) website is now complete. Your order can be paid by mail with a check or encrypted payment information through your PayPal account or credit card. You can also order by phone by selecting the Print and Call payment option in the shopping cart. This allows you to complete your order online and then call IGS to determine a payment method. Just print the order invoice and fax or mail it along with payment or call IGS with the invoice number, give IGS a card number over the phone, or arrange to pay some other way.

If you just want to shop go directly to <https://shop.iowapioneers.com>. Publications are available directly at <https://shop.iowapioneers.com/categoryNavigationDocument.hg?categoryId=3>.

#### GoodSearch:

IGS has earned \$84.62 through July 12th from the searches you have done through the GoodSearch search engine. See the [iowagenealogy.org](http://iowagenealogy.org) website main page for more information.

#### Amazon:

For those of you ordering from Amazon.com please go to <http://iowagenealogy.org> and select Amazon.com at the bottom of the middle (yellow) column. This also generates funds for IGS from Amazon without increasing your cost. Thanks.

Dennis R Davies





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### GERMAN INTEREST GROUP CONFERENCE UPDATE

As we reflect on our recent German conference, we wish to thank all who attended, and all our members who worked so diligently, to ensure its' success. This great effort enables us to continue our support of the Iowa Genealogical Society and the Library.

Our gift of the Ancestry.com subscription is being used with increasing frequency, especially by the vacationing researchers that we welcome in the summertime. The small fee being charged for it's use will, hopefully, cover the cost of next year's subscription.

We are pleased that the publisher has resumed printing the German Parish Records series, which we are purchasing for the Library collection; Volume 13 is now on the shelves, with several more scheduled to be printed in the future.

Various members of our group have shared their research success stories at our monthly meetings, which are very inspirational and instructional. One member even submitted his experiences, along with some great photos, to a genealogical publication, which accepted and printed the story. We invite others to share their experiences and knowledge in this manner.

Anyone wishing to learn about doing German research is welcome to attend our meetings held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday evening of each month (excepting when it falls on a national holiday) at 7 PM at the Library.

## IGS CHAPTER NEWS

### MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:

Volunteer members continue to add obituaries on line each day, as of July 5, they have over 17,246 obituaries on the Madison County website. Our project of taking photos of the gravestones in the Madison County cemeteries is drawing to a close for the first time around. There are still photos of the oldest section of the Winterset cemetery to be entered on line, they will be entered as time permits. We have started going back to the first cemeteries that were photographed in 2003 and taking new burial photos and updating the cemetery listings. As of July 3, 2007 we have 32,617 gravestone photos on line. A way of preserving the gravestones. Our big news this newsletter is that our county coordinators have just put the Madison County 1919 death index on line. We now have 1880 - 1919 death indexes on line. However there is a portion of 1904, all of 1905, 1906 and a portion of 1907 and 1919 that is missing. It is believed that the rest of 1904, all of 1905 and 1906 are in the State of Iowa collection. The MCGS will have a booth and will be exhibiting at the Madison County Fair, July 17th through July 22nd.

Theresa Liewer will be presenting a program at our August meeting on 'Immigration and Naturalization.' In September, Tim Waddingham will have program on the Madison County Courthouse Renovation, our October program will be 'Madison County History through Photos' by Gary and Shirley Allen, Tom McGarvey will give the program on 'Unusual Sources Where I Found Family Information'. Madison County Genealogy Society will be receiving a Volunteer Recognition Award, Monday, July 16th for the preparation of the Madison County probate and guardianship records through the year 1924 for micro filming by LDS. LDS is still in the process of filming the probate records, once they are completed, they will micro film the guardianships records. The members, who volunteered lots of hours, will be receiving a volunteer certificate. This is through the State Historical Library. Delpha Musgrave, from the Iowa State Historical Library, asked the genealogy society to prepare the records for micro filming. Delpha helped by making a alpha listing of names along with the probate numbers once we were able to get the files organized.





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### KEO-MAH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

#### “THE THIRD ANNUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP”

Keo-Mah Genealogical Society in Oskaloosa will be hosting “The Third Annual Genealogy Workshop” beginning at 9:00a.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday September 8th at the Pizza Ranch in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The workshop will feature a variety of speakers and a drawing for door prizes. There will also be a drawing for a hand made quilt. Tickets for the quilt will be available at the workshop.

Some of the guest speakers will include: Beverly Bethune, speaking on Cemetery Ornamentation; Pat King will be talking about Elderhostel; Don DeBoef on Technology and Genealogical Research; Using the Family History Center by a Representative of the LDS Church; Alan Neve will talk about the Iowa Genealogical Society; Mark DeGeest on Researching While on Vacation and a representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution about the genealogical records needed to become a member of the D.A.R.

The cost of registration is \$20.00 for pre-registration and \$25.00 at the door (this included a lunch buffet at the Pizza Ranch). Tickets for the quilt drawing are 6 tickets for \$5.00. For more information on the workshop, the quilt drawing, or advance tickets please contact the Keo-Mah Genealogical Society at 641-673-9373

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 8:30-9:00      **Registration**
- 9:00-9:05      **Welcome**
- 9:05-9:35      **Beverly Bethune “Cemetery Ornamentation”**
- 9:35-10:05     **Mark DeGeest “Researching While on Vacation”**
- 10:05-10:15    **Break**
- 10:15-10:45    **LDS Representative “Using The Family History Center”**
- 10:45-11:15    **D.A.R Representative “Genealogical Records Needed”**
- 11:15-11:45    **Pat King “Elderhostel”**
- 11:45-12:45    **Buffet Lunch at Pizza Ranch**
- 12:45-1:15     **George Forby**
- 1:15-2:00      **Alan Neve “The Iowa Genealogical Society”**
- 2:00-2:30      **Don DeBoef “Using Technology for Research”**
- 2:30-2:45      **Drawings For The Quilt and Door Prizes**
- 2:45-          **Adjournment**





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### THE STORY TELLERS

We are the chosen. My feelings are in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us "Tell our story." So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family you would be proud of us? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do? It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

( Unknown Author )

This was sent to me by Pat Bernard. Thanks Pat!!

### DONATE A QUARTER OR MORE!

The Polk County Genealogical Society, the local members of Charter-Pierce Memorial Internet Genealogical Society and a Chapter of the Iowa Genealogical Society, has placed this set of containers, one for each state, so that Members of the Iowa Genealogical Society can contribute in a small fund raiser. There is one large container for old quarters.

These containers will be in place until the end of September. The donations will be counted every Friday until that time and the amount collected announced to the membership. They will also be moved to the Conference in Marshalltown in October.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!



**Iowa Genealogical Society**

628 E. Grand  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515-276-0287  
Website: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)  
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**IGS ANNUAL POTLUCK**

**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**  
**WHERE: IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**TIME: 12:30 PM**  
**RESEARCH HOURS: 9:00 am-9:00 pm**

**We have extended the hours for the library for the day. So that those of you who would like to research after dinner may do so.**

**Please bring a covered dish along with your place setting. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Marcia Guffey at the IGS Library (515) 276-0287**

