



# IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

---

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's wonderful to be able to start this letter with good news. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Polk County Board of Supervisors voted to award us a \$15,000 grant through their Community Development Program. It's been a long process but it's proof that patience pays off. I want to thank the Grant Committee, which included Marcia Martin, Duane Pierce, Dennis Allen and Ted Lussem, for their work on this.

We want to thank the following for stepping forward and accepting positions on the IGS board – Denise Gripp, Indianola, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Phyllis Rothlauf, Burlington, Region 1; Alan Neve, Oskaloosa, Region 2; Stan & Fran Jeffers, Decorah, Region 5; and Linda Abercrombie, Glenwood, Region 16. You'll be hearing from them soon. And thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work on this.

As always, there has been lots going on at the library. The weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup> was prime example. We had a two day garage sale that brought in over \$1,300 – and Margaret Foster and her crew deserve applause for all their work on it. Then Saturday night we had a slumber party with 28 people settling in for a night of marathon researching. Close to a dozen managed to last all the way until dawn. Ken Kerr had organized the event (thank you very much) and says that he'll do more this year.

There are also so many things that occur behind the scenes. We have used Microsoft's system for our online commerce activity but at the beginning of the year they announced that they were getting out of that business. So Dennis Davies took on the monumental task of migrating our entire on-line catalog to a new system, setting up new credit card processing and redesigning the e-commerce web pages. He's not finished yet but the next time you order a publication or pay your dues on-line, think of the hundreds of hours that went into making it possible.

In mid-April Dennis Allen and I went to a regional gathering in Chariton and got to meet with people from Lucas, Wapello and Monroe counties. It's always great to talk to other genealogists, learn what they are doing and share what is happening at IGS. Plus Dennis gave a great presentation on using Microsoft Paint to repair old photos. We're hoping other regions will put together similar meetings.

A final comment on IGS finances. The Polk County grant has given us some breathing room and allow us to make principal payments on our bank mortgage but we still are working to find major sources of funds for a final solution to our financial issues. For the past year, we have been fortunate to have a challenge grant of \$500 a month. Without that commitment, with the matching funds, IGS would not have been able to stay current with its bills. More good news is that the donor has agreed to continue the challenge through the end of the year. This is your opportunity to add your donation to others and bring the challenge funds home to us. This Society needs the support of everyone, not just that of a few members. Please think seriously about joining the effort.

Here's hoping that you find the clue to your most elusive ancestor this summer. See you at the Irish and German conferences this June where that clue might be found.

Theresa Liewer

---



## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### IN MEMORIAM

Barb Price, Marshall County  
Gwen Sims, Lucas County  
Chris Smith, Polk County

### ANCESTOR MEMORIAL WALL

Thanks to all the people who have responded to our letter concerning the placement of items in a file “for posterity”. We are pleased with the response and are looking forward to receiving more information concerning the person or persons you are honoring. This is an ongoing project and information can be submitted at anytime.

If you have not placed a name on the wall or would like to place additional names you may fill out an application and send it with \$175 per line to the Iowa Genealogical Society. There is an application on our website. ([www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)) For more information please contact the Iowa Genealogical Society at: (515) 276-0287.

### IOWA CEMETERIES

The State of Iowa is wanting information on all of the cemeteries in the State of Iowa. They are getting complaints from individuals about the stones and other things being destroyed, but the state does not know where all of the cemeteries are located. Next month Judy McClure will be putting together a form that is necessary to help the state with this project. We will be putting the form in the next newsletter. If you are interested in preserving our state cemeteries please put together a list of cemeteries that are in your area. Please include the following information on your list: name, location, number of burials, earliest burials, etc. The more information the better.

### IOWA VITAL RECORDS

As of May 12th we have received about 160 signatures on the petitions. In order for us to make a difference in keeping the Vital Records open to all genealogists, now and in the future, we are going to be needing a lot more signatures. If you have not signed a sheet or need a new one please contact either Dennis Allen at [dmfd305@mchsi.com](mailto:dmfd305@mchsi.com) and we will get them sent out to you.

### IGS MATCHING FUNDS

For the month of April the matching fund was outstanding!! Thank you to all members who have helped with the Matching Fund Campaign. The total for the month of April is \$1,650. The members of IGS came up with a total of \$1,150.

### THE IOWA STATE FAIR

The Iowa State Fair will be here August 9th—August 19. Once again, we will have a booth in the Varied Industries Building and we need volunteers for the booth which is open from 9:00a.m.-9:00 p.m. each day. We have three shifts of 4 hours each, so we need lots of volunteers to share their enthusiasm for IGS and what we have to offer. Please call Billie or Margaret Foster at (515) 276-0287 if you are willing to help with this.

### EMAIL VS MAIL

Due to the increase in postage we are giving the members of IGS the choice between email and regular mail. If you want to receive the newsletter by email please send an email to: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) You need to get this to IGS before July 15th so that we can make the changes before the next newsletter.





## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### IGS ON THE MOVE

To all of the volunteers that make these events happen IGS appreciates all you do!!

On April 14th Joyce Brown gave an "Introduction to Genealogy" talk at the 50's Plus Senior Expo. Duane Pierce and Marcia Guffey hosted the booth. On May 21st at "The Governor's Conference on the Aging" booth was hosted by Jim and Bev Nelson. On April 14th Theresa Liewer and Dennis Allen went to Chariton to the Region Conference. Dennis taught a class on Restoring Photos.

In May, we took IGS on the road to Courtyard Estates, Lodge of Ashworth and Wesley Acres. In the month of June we will be at Wesley Village on the 6th of June, Ramsey Village on the 12th of June and Auley Terrace on the 21st of June.

We would like to thank all of you that have helped on all of the special committees and special events that have been going on for the past couple of months. If anyone is wanting to help in the future with any of the special events that are coming up please contact Margaret Foster or Marcia Guffey at 515-276-0287 for more information.

### IGS VETERANS GROUP:

The second organizational meeting of the new Iowa Genealogical Society Veterans Group took place on Saturday, April 28, 2007, with three times as many attending as the first meeting. That number of interested people included two women Veterans.

The group was honored to have present, Mr. John E. Shimko, Director of the Veterans History Project at the local Veterans Hospital. Mr. Shimko gave a presentation on the project and informed the group as to what it does and who stands to benefit from the project.

A number of things were discussed by the group and a few decisions were made. One important decision was how often we should meet. The group agreed on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m., which gives us the following dates for the remainder of 2007: June 9th; July 14th; August 11th; September 8th; October 13th; November 10th and December 8th.

Another very important decision made was who could take part in the group. Instead of restricting the group to only veterans, the group felt it best to open the group to anyone interested in or related to a veteran.

The group has already acquired a web site through Roots Web and plans on listing as many Iowa Veterans as possible by County and separating them as Deceased, Killed in Action, Prisoner of War or Living. The URL (or address) for the web site is: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~iagsvg/igsvets.html>

The group is also acquiring a Mailing List from Roots Web, with intentions of publishing a monthly newsletter as well as reminder notices for meetings and special events.

Anyone interested in being a part of this group is cordially invited to attend the next meeting which will be held in the Iowa Genealogical Society Conference Room. All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Duane Pierce by telephone at (515) 266-5326 or by email at [webbp@dwx.com](mailto:webbp@dwx.com)





## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**THE EVENTS COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP:** The Events Committee needs your ideas and help for the remainder of 2007 and beyond! Our goal is to expose as many people as possible to IGS and educate them about who we are and what we do. If you have any ideas or want to be involved in sharing your passion for genealogy please contact Marcia Guffey at (515) 964-7680.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Chapters who have forgiven their commissions in addition to those in the April newsletter are: Tama County Tracers, Wapello County, Muscatine County, Dallas County, Scott County, Davis County, Cass County, Delaware County, Bremer County and Iowa City Genealogical Societies. IGS thanks these chapters for their generosity to the building fund.

**GOODSEARCH:** IGS has earned \$54.79 from the GoodSearch.com search engine. As a reminder - use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet. Every time you do, money goes to Iowa Genealogical Society. We hope you'll give it a try and support IGS by selecting Iowa Genealogical Society in the second dropdown box.

The site is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get the same quality search results that you're used to. What's unique is that they have developed a way to direct money to IGS (when selected in the second dropdown box) with every click. The more people who use this site and select Iowa Genealogical Society, the more money will go to IGS. So please spread the word to your friends and family.

**WEB:** The [iowagenealogy.org](http://iowagenealogy.org) website has successfully moved to a new provider as Microsoft no longer offers this service. All ecommerce functions have moved to <https://shop.iowapioneers.com> . Transactions between your browser and our payment agents are encrypted as signified by a locked padlock in the browser window. Currently payments can be made through PayPal which allows credit card payments. When the site is completed a direct credit card payment option will be added. You can go directly to <https://shop.iowapioneers.com> or link through our [iowagenealogy.org](http://iowagenealogy.org) online membership, research and publication links. If you get an error message be sure to refresh your browser to update the links to the new site. If you still have problems, email the webmaster at [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) to report the problem.

**LIVING HISTORY FARMS:** On Friday, June 8th, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. will be presenting a program called "S.O.S. Save Our Stuff!" Morning sessions are: Textile Tour includes the historic quilt collection, Historic Flynn House and Maintenance/artifact restoration area. Afternoon sessions are: Two Simple Repairs to Two common Textile Problems by Susan Kueker, Preservation of Museum Collection on a Small Budget by Grace Linden, Preservation Behind the Scenes at Living History Farms by Mike Witmer and Newspaper and Book Indexing by Nancy Neumann. The cost is \$50.00 and includes lunch. If you want more information please visit the ICPC website at: <http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/stuhr/icpc/> or contact Ruth Hall, who is the Iowa Genealogical Society Representative with ICPC, at [hallross@aol.com](mailto:hallross@aol.com) or at (515) 961-3201

**BOOKSHELVES:** The IGS Library is needing more shelves. If you are interested in helping please contact Billie at 515-276-0287 for more details.

**IGS GARAGE SALE:** Margaret Foster would like to thank the members who donated items for the sale and the volunteers who helped run the sale. The total amount made from the sale was \$1,300.00.





## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### CHAPTER NEWS

**DALLAS COUNTY:** If you are doing research in Dallas County you need to check out the IaGenWeb site. They have a lot of great information on there.

**GUTHRIE COUNTY:** Guthrie County is listing in their newsletter a list of veterans from their county who have served in the wars. You may find someone you are looking for. They are active in walking their cemeteries in the county. Their library has a lot of information for researchers.

**GREENE COUNTY:** They have many publications for sale. There is information on the internet today but these individual counties have so much information in their libraries that you don't find on the internet. I would encourage everyone to visit the individual counties in their research.

**ANKENY CHAPTER:** On Monday May 21, 2007 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. the Ankeny Chapter will be have a night of researching at IGS for their annual outing. They have reserved the IGS Library. Please remember that we go out for pie and coffee when they are done. On Monday June 25, 2007 from 7:00 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Kir Kendall Library we will be updating our pedigree charts that are on file. We will also share any tidbits or shortcuts with the membership.

**POCAHONTAS COUNTY:** Laurens Genies are working the plans for celebrating the July 2007 Quasiquicentennial observance of the founding of the town of Laurens. Future plans for the programs include topics on "The Homestead Act of 1862"; "The Founding of Jamestown, Virginia-1607"; "ABC's for School Research".

Pocahontas Genies members continue to work with the local elementary school students to help with their unit on family history and provide suggested research materials. Several members are also busy copying records at the Pocahontas County Courthouse. At the Pocahontas County Fair this coming summer, the Pocahontas Genies will have a booth to promote their group and family research; there will be a judged competition in various areas of genealogy.

**EMMET COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** If you are interested in joining this group please contact Grace Hertz at [gradon@ncn.net](mailto:gradon@ncn.net)

**CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** The Rockwell City Cemetery Book has been published by the Iowa Genealogical Society as part of the IGS Revenue Sharing Program. Plans are to finish compiling the information about the small cemeteries in the county. Two Pomeroy cemeteries were walked last fall; official records will be checked for accuracy and to look for burials that are not indicated by stones in the cemeteries and add recent burials.

**GRUNDY AND HARDIN COUNTIES:** Are you interested in family history or genealogy? Do you want to join others and form a genealogy chapter in Grundy and/or Hardin Counties? There has been a change in Grundy and Hardin Counties, Pat is retiring from being a region representative and is moving to Ankeny, Iowa. I know she will missed by the members in her region. The new representative is Eileen Johnson please contact her at 2097 Oak Park Circle, Parkersburg, Iowa 50665 or by phone at 319-346-1516.

**HAMILTON HERITAGE HUNTERS:** This group has been busy working on their sesquicentennial project. Webster City will be celebrating their 150th birthday June 29-July 1, 2007. They will also have a float in the fair parade.





## IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### CHAPTER NEWS

**WEBSTER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** A project of the society has been to pay for the subscription of Heritage Quest On Line for the Fort Dodge Public Library; the cost to subscribe has been increased by \$100 to \$730/year. A grant request has been written to obtain money to pay for the subscription. Members had hoped to use the income from the IGS Revenue Sharing Program to pay for the subscription to Heritage Quest but they have not received payment from Iowa Genealogical Society. If the grant is not approved the group may have to discontinue their subscription. A project of the group is to photograph grave markers in cemeteries throughout Webster County as well as recording the information using Cemetery recording software.

**MADISON COUNTY:** The Madison County Genealogical Society hold their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p. m. during the summer months at the Winterset Public Library meeting room. The program for May is "The History of Madison County Covered Bridges" given by Walt Libby. The program for the month of June will be, "Preparing Your Entries for County Fair" by Donna Crow. Visitors are welcome to attend the meetings. The Madison County Genealogical Society will have an exhibit at the Madison County Fair, July 18th thru July 22nd. For more information send email to the Madison County Genealogical Society at: [www.rootsweb.com/~iamcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~iamcgs)

Members of the genealogy society have been working hard to get all the gravestones in Madison County cemeteries photographed and entered on the Madison County website. They hope to have this project completed in 2007. They are also busy putting Madison County obituary index on the website. Copies of the obituaries are available at the Winterset Public Library. The 1920 Madison County census has been transcribed and is now available on the Madison County website. On April 12, 2007 the Madison County probate index also went on the website. The probate and guardianship records in the Madison County courthouse through 1924 are in the process of being microfilmed by LDS. This project was started in January of 2003. The documents were placed in archival folders and boxes and placed in storage. The micro film rolls are available for viewing in the Winterset Public Library.

**KOSSUTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:** We would like to welcome Kossuth County Genealogical Society to Region 12. There have been two meetings so far. Officers have been elected, dues have been paid and projects have been discussed. The meetings have been held at the Algona Public Library. There is lots of enthusiasm throughout the county. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Grace Hertz at [gradon@ncn.net](mailto:gradon@ncn.net)

**WARREN COUNTY:** The Indianola Public Library has purchased a hard bound copy of Family Maps of Warren County. This includes a patent map for each of the townships of the county.

Warren County Genealogical Society will hold its Sixth Annual June Meeting in a Cemetery on Monday, June 18th, at 6:00 p.m. This year we will meet in the Hartford Cemetery. The town of Hartford is just off Highway 5 about 4 miles southeast of Carlisle and the cemetery is on the south side of the town. Anyone with an interest in the cemetery is welcome. There will be a light meal at a nominal charge followed by an informational program on the cemetery. The program will start about 7:00p.m. Bring a lawn chair. In case of rain we will meet at the Presbyterian Church at the corner of Howard and East 1st in Indianola. For more information call Ruth Hall at (515) 961-3201 or email her at [hallross@aol.com](mailto:hallross@aol.com)

**WRIGHT COUNTY:** They have been busy working on the Clarion, IA Funeral Home Records 1969-2000. The records are indexed. Later on they will be working on the earlier records. Thanks go out to Marilyn & Rosella for this project. Judy is busy working on updating Belmont Cemetery. Mona has finished the St. Francis Cemetery. The members would also like to thank Pat for being their region representative. Pat has inspired them with good ideas and help.





**IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S  
GERMAN CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, June 30, 2007  
Time : 8:45 A. M.-4:00 P.M.  
Registration: Open at 8:15 A.M.**

**In this issue of the newsletter, there is a registration form for the all day  
German Conference, featuring noted author, Ernest Thode, to be held at the end of this  
month, on Saturday June 30, 2007.**

**The Des Moines Botanical Center has been the site of this conference in recent years, and  
is conducive to making new friends who share your German  
heritage and Genealogical enthusiasm.**

**A registration form is also available via a link on the IGS website:  
[www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)**

**At our monthly meetings, we continue to welcome new members and have been sharing  
our most recent success stories with each other. New searching techniques are revealed in  
this manner, plus there is time to utilize the  
resource at the library. We are striving to make our German collection one of the finest  
and most complete in this area, including many detailed area maps of that region.**

**Please come and join the group when you can.....Germans are a friendly bunch of people.**



# IOWA GENEALOGICAL

628 E. Grand  
Des Moines, Iowa

Phone: 515-276-0287

Website: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

E-mail: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)



Non Profit Organization  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Permit No: 286



## IGS SLUMBER PARTY

Looking for some Uninterrupted Research Time?  
Not Willing to Subscribe to Ancestry.com?  
Need to Make a Trip to the IGS Library?

Spend a Night at the Library  
Saturday, July 14, 2007  
5:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.  
Cost: \$15.00 per person

Bring Snacks to Share

Come and spend 13 hours of uninterrupted research time at the IGS Library. Enjoy late night pizza, and a light breakfast the next morning. Sit down and research on Ancestry.com compliments of the German Interest Group.

To reserve a spot contact the library at:  
Iowa Genealogical Society  
628 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924  
Telephone: 515-276-0287  
Email: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)

