

August 2008

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

IGS Needs You!!!!

This is the time of year when our cash levels are traditionally lowest. This year we are facing an even more crucial need because of increases in items such as utility bills, mailing costs, and paper supplies. We have cut every possible expense and what is left are the very basics to maintain the library and support our members. Last year we had a grant from Polk County to help us through – this year those moneys are not available to us. Our bank balance is now uncomfortably low.

People have continued to show their support of IGS by sharing their time, talent and treasure. Among other sources, we have a pledge to continue the matching funds program through September. We are reaching out to all of the members with an appeal for financial help – we would like to raise an additional \$20,000 by the end of September to allow us to stay current with our bills. In the meantime, we are working on other sources such as grants and corporate sponsors.

Can you help? IGS has been the foundation of family history for Iowa for decades, supporting researchers through an outstanding library, publications, classes and conferences. We want to continue that heritage.



Yes, I want to help. Here's my contribution of

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please let us know

If any IGS members are employed by AVIVA please contact the library and let us know.

We are working on a grant proposal and need that information.





**IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

August 2008

Debi Chase, Editor

*The Newsletter is published
Bi-monthly by the
Iowa Genealogical Society
628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924*

Members of the IGS receive the newsletter as part of their membership. Annual dues for 2008 are as follows:

**\$30 for a single membership
\$40 for a family membership**

Send dues in care of the Registrar at the address above.

Editorial staff invites members and the public to submit material for publication. The Iowa Genealogical Society assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or opinions expressed by the contributor. Material not used in the newsletter may be placed in the IGS library. If the contributor wishes the material returned, please enclose a S.A.S.E. and the proper postage. Send articles via email to

igs@iowagenealogy.org

or to the editor at the address listed above.

Claims for missing newsletters must be made within 6 months of date of issue.



From the President

by Theresa Liewer

It's been a tough two months for Iowa. Since I last wrote, we've had tornados and floods in what seems to be every part of the state. We've heard stories from members that make our hearts ache. One IGS member who works with the State Historical Society of Iowa has been taking the reports of damages to historical sites and it's a depressing list. Once the personal losses have been worked through, communities are going to have to cope with the loss of some of their institutional history.

As I look at the shelves of research and books that I have at home, I try to think about how I would feel if they were lost. And then I think about all the times I've read genealogical articles about having a disaster recovery plan for those items. If you haven't done something about it, now is the time.

On a brighter note, the Hawkeye Heritage showed up in your mailbox last month. I hope that you all enjoyed reading it as much as I did. There was a lot of work by the volunteers that I mentioned in the last newsletter. Others underwrote the \$2,000 printing cost and \$1,000 postage. The next issue is being worked on as we speak.

We've had discussions about delivering the Hawkeye and the newsletter electronically to those who would prefer to receive it that way. It could save dollars and paper. Right now, you have the option of receiving the newsletter electronically – e-mail the office at igs@iowagenealogy.org to tell them that is what you'd like. The Hawkeye, because of the size and format, is a little more challenging. We'll keep working on that part.

We had a wonderful Saturday on the 19th, with classes and open houses at the IGS library and the SHSI library. I took part in the Slumber party – at 4:00 I finally wandered over to the West Wing and stretched out on an old couch for a short nap. Revitalized, I dug in for another 4 hours of research. We had people from Kansas, Texas and Nebraska as well as the outer parts of Iowa. It's always a fun way to meet people. In the middle of the night, we tend to share amazing family stories.

We also had a Town Hall meeting that was well attended. There was a good exchange of facts and ideas. It's obvious that we need to continue to find creative solutions. All of us hate to have to constantly talk to the members about the financial issues that plague us. After awhile, I think that the membership becomes numb, annoyed, irritated or depressed – or all of the above. We hope that you will continue to stay with us through it all. This time of the year, our coffers are traditionally low and this year it's especially true.

Fun to know...

I was going through a listing of what items were on an agriculture census and came across the word pulse. I didn't know what it was and the volunteers working that day didn't know either. So here it is.

Pulse

an edible seed from a pod, e.g. a pea or bean,

or

a plant that has pods as fruits and roots that bear nodules containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria, e.g. the pea, the bean, alfalfa, or clover eaten fresh or dried

Genealogy can be frustrating at times, so for a little Humor...

My family coat of arms ties at the back...is that normal?

My family tree is a few branches short! All help appreciated.

My ancestors must be in a witness protections program!

How can one ancestor cause so much TROUBLE??

I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.

If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help...

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!

A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.

A family tree can wither if nobody tends it's roots.



Borrowed from the Summer 2008 Christian County Genealogy Society Quarterly

2008 IGS Fall Conference



The Iowa Genealogical Society
Proudly Presents
IGS Fall Conference 2008

Expanding Your Research Horizons

Meldon J Wolfgang III

October 3 & 4, 2008

**West Des Moines Christian Church
4501 George Mills Civic Pkwy
West Des Moines, Iowa**



Thursday evening, October 2, 2008

6:30 pm - 9 pm - **Pre-Conference Reception**
Iowa Genealogical Society Library
628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines

Friday, October 3, 2008

8:00 am - Registration
9:00 am - Welcome, Announcements
9:15 am - **Researching "Birds of a Feather" Cluster Studies, & other Techniques to put leaves on your family tree**
10:15 am - Break, visit vendors
10:45 am - **Uncommon Research Tools & Sources**
12:00 pm - Lunch
1:00 pm - Breakout Groups
2:00 pm - Break, visit vendors
2:30 pm - **Urban Research: Sources and Techniques**

3:30 pm - Break
4:00 pm - IGS Annual Meeting
5:00 pm - Break
5:30 pm - Banquet, Awards

Saturday, October 4, 2008

8:00 am - Registration
9:00 am - Welcome, Announcements
9:15 am - **Identifying & Using Obscure and Uncommon Records of Local (City, Town & County Governments)**
10:15 am - Break, visit vendors
10:45 am - **Multi-Cultural round table**
(12-16 experts will be available to answer questions, offer advice & share literature regarding their respective expertise)
12:00 pm - Lunch
1:00 pm - **Tips on Becoming a "Digital Ahnenforscher" German Internet Research**
2:00 pm - Break - Last chance to visit vendors
2:30 pm - **Beyond-the-Basics: Tips & Techniques for using newspapers in genealogical research**
3:30 pm - Closing remarks

Hotel Information

Heartland Inn
11414 Forest Ave
Clive, IA 50325

Reservations 800-334-3277

Rooms 69.99 + tax

Full Breakfast, all rooms non-smoking

Call by Sept 18, and ask for the IGS rate

Nationally known author, teacher, lecturer and founder of Jonathan Sheppard Books, Meldon J. Wolfgang III served for many years as a city government department head in Albany NY, a position that gave him a unique insider's view of local government records. His knowledge of library and archival resources also comes from years of "inside" experience. Mel was a twenty-year trustee of a major urban public library and also served on the advisory board of one of the nation's first intergovernmental archives.

Since 2005, he has written the genealogy column for "*Archives*", the quarterly publication of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust.

Mel has been a sought-after speaker at numerous national, regional and state genealogy conferences for more than 20 years and is an active member of numerous organizations, including the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Ephemera Society, the Manuscript Society and the Society of American Archivists. In addition to those activities, he is also the immediate past president of the Executive Council of the Kappa Alpha Society, the oldest college fraternity in America.

Breakout Sessions will include:

Software to Get You Organized - Clooz

Personal History Projects

Naturalization Records and Resources

Banquet Speaker:

Galin Berrier a Humanities Iowa Speaker on

"The Underground Railroad in Iowa"

FULL CONFERENCE

Members \$85

Non-Members \$110

FRIDAY ONLY – (lectures, lunch, banquet)

Members \$65

Non-Members \$80

FRIDAY BANQUET ONLY

Members \$25

Non-Members \$35

SATURDAY ONLY – (lectures, lunch)

Members \$50

Non-Members \$65

MEMBERSHIP \$30

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$40

TOTAL

ENCLOSED _____

Cancellation policy: Before Sept 24 -Full
 After Sept 24 – None

Make check payable to:

Iowa Genealogical Society

628 E Grand Ave

Des Moines, IA 50309-1924

Or Register on-line:www.iowagenealogy.org

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Don't forget to help IGS

Use www.goodsearch.com for all your internet searches and IGS earns a Penny a Click.

On your personal computer (you need to do this only ONCE):

1. In the box "Who do you GoodSearch for?"
2. Type: Iowa Genealogical Society
3. Click the "Verify" box
4. It will now show: Iowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, IA

Every search earns a penny for IGS!

And, now, Goodsearch has added Goodshop! Currently, there are 34 companies, including Ebay, Target, Wal-mart, Travelocity, Land's End, Best Buy, Sears and Old Navy, who will donate a percentage of everything you buy from their website to IGS. Just click on the Goodshop logo on Goodsearch.

So use Goodshop!



If you buy from Amazon.com please go there from the IGS homepage as IGS gets a donation from Amazon for those using our web site to visit Amazon.com. It doesn't cost you a cent. Please spread the word. Use this logo or the one at the bottom of the page in the yellow column. Thanks!

New IGS publications available

COUNTY	GROUP	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	PRICE
<i>ADAMS</i>				
NEW	CENSUS	1925 IOWA STATE CENSUS INDEX	2846	\$10.10
<i>CALHOUN</i>				
NEW	CEMETERY	ST MARY'S CEMETERY, POMEROY	2847	\$5.80

Be prepared for mother nature

Mother Nature seems to be winning in 2008. Floods, fire, tornados, mud slides, hurricanes this seems to be the year.

If you haven't thought about it before, now is the time. You've worked on your genealogy, 50 years, 20 years, six months. If you're not prepared all that effort can be gone in seconds.

If your records are on computer, do you have backups? Are you sure the backups work? Do you have a copy stored somewhere other than your house? As this year's disasters show, it's probably better to store the backup in another town, or possibly in another state. Your neighbor may be in the same boat you are, literally. Maybe storage on an on-line server is the way to go.

Where do you have your family pictures? In the basement, in the attic, under your bed?

Can you get at them quickly, or are you like most of us, they're spread all over the house.

Share copies of your pictures with friends and family. When my niece lost her family photos in a house fire she was able to recreate all but one. She had shared pictures with family and could get copies from them.

My computer crashed last week, but I'm not too worried because most if not all of the info is saved in many other places.

Make a plan for your family files now. Make sure you have backups and important papers & photos that you can grab quickly. Perhaps in a backpack or small portable box.

You may have days to prepare for a disaster or you may only have seconds. Plan ahead now so you don't have regrets later.



Share some cheer

Greta Faye Mix, an IGS member and volunteer has been having some health problems recently. She could use some cards and letters to cheer her up.

She is living at Prime Towers (previously known as Heather Manor).

Address them care of Greta Faye Mix

600 E 5th St

Des Moines, IA 50309-5409

Chicago & North Western Historical Society

I recently ran across this website

<http://www.cnwhs.org/>

If you have any railroad workers in your family tree this might be of interest to you.

You'll find tons of pictures of trains and depots and you can spend hours on the links page alone. I don't have any family that worked for the railroad but I found this site fascinating.

The Chicago & North Western Historical Society was founded in 1973 by Joe Follmar and a group of Midwestern railfans interested in the C&NW, along with its predecessor and successor roads. These roads include the Chicago, St. Paul Minneapolis & Omaha; the Minneapolis & St. Louis; the Chicago Great Western; the Litchfield & Madison; the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern; the Des Moines & Central Iowa; and many more.

The Society's purpose is to collect, circulate and preserve the history of the C&NW and its predecessor and successor lines; to create and publish a magazine; and to promote fellowship among C&NW fans and Society Members.

Genealogy

The C&NWHS Archives holds an important collection of railroad employee data (#4) which is especially valuable to historians of the railroad and to family history researchers. The holdings include:

- Social Security applications for all C&NW non management personnel employed between 1937 and 1970.
- Card records of long term C&NW personnel who were able to retire under the railroad sponsored pension plan between 1909 and 1940.
- Employment cards for large numbers of C&NW as well as "Omaha" personnel employed in Illinois and Wisconsin between 1935 and 1970.
- Work record ledgers of C&NW and "Omaha" employees in Iowa and Dakota.
- Detailed personnel records of "Omaha" Railroad employees in Wisconsin from 1890 through 1948.
- Detailed personnel records of Wisconsin Division (Northwest Line) C&NW personnel employed from 1850 through 1960.
- Lists of Station agents and telegraphers system wide from 1878 through the 1930's.
- Various system wide ledgers listing telegrapher, brakeman, and conductor work histories.
- Annual Seniority lists of C&NW personnel system wide from 1920 through 1970.
- Employment applications for M & St. L personnel from 1909 through 1928.
- Limited amounts of data concerning C&NW management personnel.
- Odds and ends of C&NW and related lines personnel data throughout the entire C&NW system from 1850 through 1970.

Unfortunately, the Society does not hold any significant amount of data for Chicago Great Western Railroad personnel. Much data for those employees can be found at the Hub City Heritage Museum, Box 300, Oelwein, Iowa 50662.

Since the collection is warehoused, only very limited access to the material is possible. Those wishing to obtain data on C&NW employees can make an e-mail (genealogy@cnwhs.org) or a postal mail (Craig Pfannkuche, 8612 Memory Trail, Wonder Lake, Illinois 60097) request. Stamped, self addressed reply envelopes are appreciated since the collection is maintained by Society dues and donations and is staffed by volunteers. Look ups are done "as time allows". There is no charge for doing personnel look up work.

The Iowa Genealogical Society Needs You! Part two

Many of you live far away. You may have health issues of your own or another family member. Or age has crept up as it does to all of us and you're not able to do as much as you could. You can still make a contribution to IGS and all the other genealogists around the world. Many of you are probably aware of the FamilySearch indexing projects. But perhaps you are not as aware of the results.

Click on *Record Search Pilot* located under the *Search Records* tab on the FamilySearch.org main page and see what is available. I think you will be amazed. The more people who volunteer to help, the more that will be available for researchers to use.

The following is from the FamilySearch web site

The key life events of billions of people are being preserved and shared through the efforts of people like you. Using our online indexing system, volunteers from around the world are able to quickly and easily transcribe the records—all from the convenience of their homes. The indexes are then posted for FREE at familysearch.org.

Millions of rolls of microfilm provide census, vital, probate, and church records from over 100 countries for indexing projects. Governments, churches, societies, and commercial companies are also working to make more records available.

YOU CAN HELP by volunteering to index one of the current U.S. census projects or the upcoming England and Wales census projects. Find out more: U.S. Census U.K. Census

Volunteering is a simple process

1. We gather genealogical and historical records from around the world and convert them into digital images which are stored in our online system.
2. You download the images to your computer and transcribe the highlighted information used to create a searchable online index.
3. Everyone gets free access to the indexes at familysearch.org

What a great way to join other genealogists from around the world and create indexes you and others will be able to use at home. It's easy, even I can do it. The information is downloaded in small batches that only take about 30 minutes to do. You can do as little or as much as you want. You can help create free public access to the U.S. census indexes and other records!

Click on *index records* located on the familysearch.org site to sign up and start transcribing.

You've been asking, now it's here.....

IGS Garage Sale

September 11, 12, 13

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

No clothing please

No junk please (if you wouldn't sell it at your own garage sale, don't bring it to ours)

We will accept furniture, but you are responsible for transporting it here.
Bring your donations to the library before September 8th.

Volunteers needed for

Pricing and setting up

Working the sale

Packing up after the sale

Contact Margaret Foster with any questions at
fosterm@mchsi.com or (515) 285-8031



Meeting change

The African American Special Interest Group is changing the day and times of their meetings.

Starting in August they will now be meeting the **first Tuesday of the Month at 7 p.m.**

Meetings will be

August 5th at 7 p.m.

September 2nd at 7 p.m.

And so on.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let them know of this change.

From the Cataloging Corner

128 books were cataloged in May and June. This has added 540 books to our shelves since January 1, 2008. **ALL** of these books have been donated by generous IGS members and our special interest groups. **THANK YOU!**

Our new Iowa books include:

Carroll County: Coon Rapids Cemetery

Warren County: 1925 Census, St. Mary's Consolidated School, May 13, 1948
Commencement Program

Webster County: Ft. Dodge Messenger (newspaper), 1917 Index

Woodbury County: Floyd Cemetery, Graceland Cemetery and Logan Cemetery

Some of the states and their counties included in our newest books:

Georgia: Cherokee

Indiana: Jefferson, Orange, Ripley

Kansas: Phillips

Kentucky: Carter, Fleming, Lewis, Mason

Missouri: Adair, Audrain, Bates, Boone, Callaway, Franklin, Greene, Platte,
and Scotland

Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Armstrong, Indiana, Lancaster, Somerset

Virginia: Bath, Culpeper, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Middlesex, Pittsylvania, Prince George,
Prince William, Stafford, Westmoreland, Wythe

Special Mention: 12 books indexing Native American censuses and 11 new family histories

There are just too many to be listed on this one page. Be sure to check the "Recent Library Book Acquisitions" binder on top of the card catalog files when you're at IGS. A listing of our new books is printed at the beginning of each month.



Please Support Our Sponsors



Support Our IGS Business Friends

Graves Consulting

- Consultants In
Telecommunications
Data Communications
Contingency Planning

2821 360th Street
Van Meter, IA 50261
515-240-8024

Gerald@GravesConsulting.com

Brooks-Lussem-Clem Insurance

- For all your insurance needs – business & personal

10546 Justin Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-243-4289

NEBRASKA STATE GEN SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN SCOTTSBLUFF, NE

[Http://www.nesgs.org](http://www.nesgs.org)

The 2009 NSGS Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the Harms Advance Technology Center in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., Nebraska on May 2nd & 3rd., 2009. The conference is being hosted by the West Nebraska Family Research & History Center. The featured speaker will be Julie Miller, CG.

For detailed information visit the following websites:

http://www.nesgs.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=15&Itemid=38

Alternate Session: Barb Netherland

Julie Miller is a Certified Genealogist [CGSM] with more than 30 years of research experience. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists and the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Julie is the President of the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogist (APG) and a past president of the Colorado Genealogical Society. Julie currently writes a newspaper column for the *Broomfield Enterprise* and has volunteered for more than 11 years at the National Archives and Records Administration, Rocky Mountain Region complex.

Julie will present lectures on the following topics: The 5 Steps of a Genealogical Proof; Lost in Translation: How to Cite Genealogy Sources; Chasing the Link: Passenger Arrival Lists; Granny, Who Am I?: Genealogy for Children; When Grandpa Went Off to War: U.S. Military Records

Paul & Helen Henderson Collection: Alternate Session: Barb Netherland

Join Barb Netherland, Director of the North Platte Valley Museum in Gering, NE as she discusses the details of the Paul & Helen Henderson Oregon Trail Collection.

Board Members & Calendar of Events

2008 IGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ Theresa Liewer, President
- ◆ Denise Gripp, 1st Vice President
- ◆ Dennis C Allen, 2nd Vice President
- ◆ Diane Densmore, Secretary
- ◆ Barbara Hug, Treasurer
- ◆ Vacant, Executive Director
- ◆ Vacant, Region 1
- ◆ Alan Neve, Region 2
- ◆ Pat Border, Region 3
- ◆ Michael Magee, Region 4
- ◆ Stan & Fran Jeffers, Region 5
- ◆ Vacant, Region 6
- ◆ Eileen Johnson, Region 7
- ◆ Ted Lussem, Region 8
- ◆ Betty M Cross, Region 9
- ◆ Saundra Leininger, Region 10
- ◆ Judith Runestad, Region 11
- ◆ Grace Hertz, Region 12
- ◆ Vacant, Region 13
- ◆ Janice Danielson, Region 14
- ◆ Adrian Brisee, Region 15
- ◆ Linda Abercrombie, Region 16

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

August:

- 4th - German Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 5th - African-American Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 9th - Board Meeting 10 a.m.
- 16th - Genealogy 101 10 a.m. - noon
- 19th - Irish Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 26th - Norwegian Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 26th - Genealogy 101 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

September:

- 1st - Closed for holiday
- 2nd - African-American Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 8th - German Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 13th - Genealogy 101 10 a.m. - noon
- 16th - Irish Interest Group 7 p.m.
- 20th - Software Organization Class 10 a.m. - noon
- 23rd - Norwegian Interest Group 7 p.m.

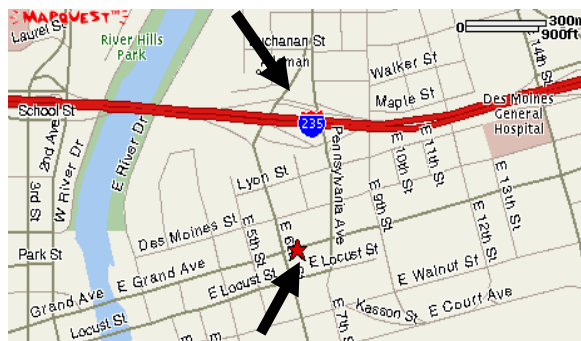


Iowa Genealogical Society
628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309-1924

Phone: 515-276-0287
Fax: 515-727-1824
Email: igs@iowagenealogy.org

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 286

Send your conference registrations in now



How to Get Here...

From I-235, take the East 6th Street exit. Go south to the first stoplight at Grand Avenue. Turn left and we're in the center of the block on the north side of the street. Look for the signs, you can't miss us!

Special Interest Groups

All Groups Meet at the IGS Library, 628 East Grand Avenue

German Group - 7 p.m., 1st Monday of Every Month

Irish Group - 7 p.m., 3rd Tuesday of Every Month

African-American Group - 7 p.m., 1st Tuesday of Every Month

Norwegian Interest Group - 7 p.m., 4th Tuesday of Every Month

Library Hours at a Glance

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.