

MARCH 2014

Iowa Genealogical Society

SORRY! YOU MISSED ROOTSTECH

WHAT IS ROOTSTECH YOU ASK?

RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch, is the largest family history conference in the North America. Whether you're just beginning your family tree, an avid hobbyist, or an experienced researcher, RootsTech is the perfect conference to help you connect with your family—past, present, and future!



SOME OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES FROM ROOTSTECH

About the Scots Irish **“We never let the proof interfere with a good story.”**

About DNA **“Who knew spit could be so interesting?”**

About FamilySearch Family Tree **“Family Tree is FACEBOOK for the dead.”**

I missed it too. But RootsTech 2015 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 11 - 14. Visit <https://rootstech.org/about/videos/> to watch some of the speakers from this year.



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IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309-1924

Phone: (515) 276-0287

Email:
igs@iowagenealogy.org

Website:
www.iowagenealogy.org

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday
10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m.— 9 p.m.

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Theresa Liewer

1st Vice President
Richard Wolfe

2nd Vice President
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Barbara Hammer

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Susan Claman
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IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

Hawkeye Heritage
Susan Claman

IGS Newsletter
Debi Iseminger Chase

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Theresa Liewer, IGS President

I am pleased to share the news that Jennifer Ewing will be joining IGS as our part-time executive director on March 17. Although all the candidates that the search committee met with had talents that would benefit the Society, Jennifer brought a unique set of skills that the committee felt would best suit the position. She will be working an average of 20 hours a week, concentrating at first on working with our staff and volunteers to learn the ins and outs of the normal routine at IGS as well as working to implement the Strategic Plan that the board adopted last year. This includes seeing that the needs of current members are being met, marketing IGS and its resources to potential members and marshalling new volunteers to help with all the projects within the Society. Please join me in welcoming her and I know that she will enjoy the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible.



For Jennifer to succeed, she will need help from all of us. The list of things to be done will cover more than 20 hours in a week. Almost every letter from every president includes a plea for volunteers and this is no **exception. We've included a form in this newsletter with a list of volunteer opportunities** and I ask that you read through it carefully and consider answering the call. Without a strong volunteer base, IGS cannot thrive.

As you may have noticed, the Education Committee has put together an expanded list of classes and conferences for this spring. The list for the balance of the year will be coming out soon and I think you will be excited. Be sure to mark your calendars for June 9th and 10th. **ROAD TRIP! We're making an excursion to the Midwest Genealogy Center (MidContinent Library) in Independence, Missouri. ROAD TRIP! Rich Wolfe, our first vice president, is working out the final details of pricing for the bus and hotel and we'll have them posted on our website and distributed to you soon. ROAD TRIP!**

It's been a tough winter and I want to thank Ken Booth for his volunteer efforts at the library. Although we have a professional snow removal service when we have 2 inches or more of snow, Ken has taken care of **the sidewalks when there isn't enough snow for the service to come.** And I think he managed to find the last two bags of ice melt in the city when the sidewalks recently turned into a skating rink. This is on top of his volunteer janitorial services. We let him go to warmer climes for a few weeks in February and breathed a sigh of relief when he returned.

One last thing. I know that the local societies are always looking for speakers for their meetings. The Iowa Genealogical Society would like to help with that and we have several people, myself included, who would be willing to come and talk on various topics, from military records, FamilySearch, naturalizations, newspapers, cemeteries, funeral home records, etc. If your society is interested, you may contact me at TLiewer@aol.com and I will see what we can arrange.

Theresa Liewer

LIBRARY NEWS: Cataloging Corner

By Diane Densmore, Library Acquisitions



The new year has gotten off to a slow start in the cataloging corner, due to inclement weather and the usual winter illness. But even the few books that have been added to the IGS shelves in January might be just what you need to further your research. Donations of new books have come in while I was absent, so the next newsletter should have a longer list.

The new Iowa books are:

Bremer: *Bremer County Cemeteries* (in two volumes)

Polk: *A Brief History of the First Norwegian Settlements, 1855-1905* (written in Norwegian);

Harbach Funeral Home Records, Des Moines, 1920-1923

Thank you to the donor who located a copy of *Tracy [Iowa] Centennial, 1875-1975* to replace our lost copy.

We received the following Iowa city directory donations in January:

Ames: 1979, 1982, 1984, 1985

Charles City: 1993

Indianola: 1990

Marshalltown: 1995

Spencer: 1964

There were no new family history books.

International books:

Canada, New Brunswick Province, Westmoreland County:

Marriage Register, 1790-1888 (in two parts);

1861 Census;

Early Families Revisited

Other titles:

Family Trees, A History of Genealogy in America;

Colonial Families of Maryland, Bound and Determined to Succeed;

Founders of Early American Families, Immigrants from Europe, 1607-1657 (Second revised edition);

The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, Register, Lineages of Associates, Third Supplement, 1961-1980;

The History of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Be sure to check the “Recent Library Book Acquisitions” binder on top of the card catalog cabinet when you’re at IGS. The list of our new books is printed at the beginning of each month.

CHECK IT OUT

Your public library can be a great genealogical resource.

County histories, town histories, online databases, digitized newspapers, genealogical magazines and books. Local librarians that may know all the answers or that can at least point you in the right direction.

Your public library also gives you the ability to interlibrary loan books and microfilm from other libraries across the country.

Spring Technology Workshop Registration

April 12, 2014

To be held in the IGS Library west wing.
Conference fee includes lunch

Early Registration (Before April 6)

_____ IGS Member x \$55 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$65 = _____

Late Registration (on or after April 6)

_____ IGS Member x \$60 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$70 = _____

IGS MEMBERSHIP

I want to join IGS, which entitles me to the above member registration rate:

Individual \$35 = _____ Family \$45 = _____

Check enclosed.

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

(we add \$2.50 for credit card handling fee)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Account Number _____

Expiration date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Complete this form

and mail it with your credit card information or check to:

Iowa Genealogical Society, Spring Workshop

628 E Grand Ave

Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Register online: www.iowagenealogy.org

For more information contact IGS:
515 276-0287; igs@iowagenealogy.org

The following classes will be offered

Tribal Pages – Personal Website

Learn how to setup and use a personal website, Tribal Pages, to allow others to see and contribute to your family tree. As the webmaster you control who can see or contribute to the site. It can be everyone on the web or only people that you invite. Tribal pages has great visual presentations of your data and printable charts. There is both a free and a paid version. This can be as simple or complex as you want but still is easy to setup.

Purchasing a new computer/tablet

How fast is it or how much memory a computer has may not be the first questions to ask yourself when considering a new computer. How will you use the computer is the best first question as it will determine the previous questions. For genealogists you don't need the fastest or fanciest computer. In fact you may want a tablet version of a computer. The next question usually is Apple or Windows operating system. All these things and more will be discussed.

Using the Cloud

What is the cloud? Think of the cloud as offsite storage, programs or applications. Learn how to use various cloud storage sites to backup your data, to have access from many devices and to share or collaborate with others. Free verses paid options.

Useful Utilities

GenSmarts Utility-GenSmarts is a utility that uses artificial intelligence to analyze your existing genealogy file and gives you research recommendations. It is a Windows only program, versions 98 through 8.1. Live demonstrations of the use and benefits of using GenSmarts will be given.

Animaps Utility-Animaps extends the My Maps feature of Google Maps by letting you create maps with markers that move, images and text that pop up on cue, and lines and shapes that change over time. When you send your Animap to friends and family it appears like a video – they can play, pause, slow and speed up the action!

IGS TEN MOST WANTED BOOKS

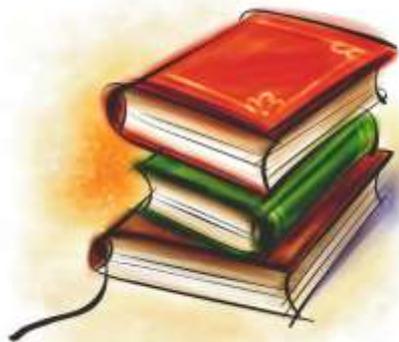
Thanks to several generous donations since the last newsletter, we have purchased the four volume set of *The Pension Roll of 1835*. Unfortunately, by the time we received sufficient funds, the price had increased. The current list is as follows:

1. *18th Century White Slaves* by Meaders \$120.00
2. *The History of Jackson County, Iowa, 1910*
70.00 (in 2 volumes)
3. *Trinity Lutheran Church Records, Lancaster, Pennsylvania,*
78.00 Volumes 4 & 5
4. *Virginia County Records, Vols. 1, 5 & 8* by Crozier
84.00
5. *Bond's Genealogies and History of Watertown, Massachusetts*
45.00
6. *New York State Probate Records, A Genealogist's Guide*
25.00

Note: #3 and #4 would complete sets of books on our shelves.

This effort helps IGS obtain books that may be otherwise cost prohibitive. You may add a book to the list, without a donation. Just notify us in person, by phone, by email or snail-mail. Once a list of 10 books is established, no more books may be added to the list, until one is purchased. Donations of any amount are welcomed. Donations will be added to book #1, unless otherwise indicated by the donor.

Look for the list and donation progress when you're at IGS.



SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TRIP SEPTEMBER 21 – 28, 2014

Once again, the Iowa Genealogical Society is sponsoring a research trip to Salt Lake City. However, payment changes have been made this year to make things simpler for everyone involved.

A block of 10 rooms (4 have been booked) has been reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel (www.plaza-hotel.com) next door to the Family History Library for the IGS group. If you go, you make your own hotel reservation by calling the hotel (1-800-366-3684) and requesting one of the available rooms, using your personal credit card for payment. You must make your reservation at least 30 days in advance to get the following group discount rate:

Single or Double: \$85/night + taxes

Triple or Quad: \$92/night + taxes

A free genealogy class is taught Monday evening at the hotel. If we do not have 12 people in our group, we will likely join another genealogy group for their class.

There is a hotel courtesy van for transportation to and from the airport. Also available this year, is the UTA TRAX train between the airport and hotel.

Transportation arrangements and expenses to and from Salt Lake City and all meals are your responsibility.

Any monies that are earned from the hotel for the number of rooms booked will be donated to the IGS book fund.

If you reserve a room, please notify Diane Densmore (for future instructions and coordination) or for further information, please contact:

Diane Densmore
ddindsm1@mchsi.com

Obituaries + Volunteers = A Treasure Trove of Searchable Stories

February 6, 2014 By [Katie Gale](#)

Borrowed from FamilySearch.com Blog



FamilySearch has declared 2014 the “Year of the Obituary” and is working with partners and the larger genealogy community to collect and digitize millions of obituaries from the United States, with other countries soon to follow. The goal for this year is to index 100 million names from these historical documents, including the name of the deceased, relatives, and all other individuals found in each document.

1 This massive collection of obituaries will add a fabulous new dimension to online family history research. Obituaries are a “treasure trove” of valuable genealogical information. Each is a unique story of a person’s life. Many obituaries include a photo of the person along with the names of generations of family members.

2 The success of this indexing campaign depends on volunteers. Tens of thousands of additional volunteers are needed to keep up with the volume of obituary indexing projects coming this year. This represents an excellent opportunity for societies, archives, schools, and churches to participate in a meaningful act of service that will pay big dividends for generations to come.

3 Many indexers will enjoy indexing obituaries because they are so interesting to read and are virtually all typewritten. However, each obituary is as unique as the deceased person it portrays, and this uniqueness can make obituaries deceptively tricky to index correctly. Good judgment and a willingness to closely follow the instructions are crucial.

4 Volunteers are encouraged to start immediately. The quirks of the project may take some getting used to, but help resources are readily available, including:

5 A video: [Indexing Obituaries](#)

6 A blog article: [12 Vital Hints to Guide You as You Index Obituaries](#)

7 FamilySearch support: <http://familysearch.org/help/contact>

8 FamilySearch indexing Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/familysearchindexing>

9 If you haven’t indexed before, get started today by following these steps:

Go to familysearch.org/indexing and click Get Started.

1. Follow the download instructions.
2. Open the indexing program using the new indexing icon on your desktop.
3. Sign in with your FamilySearch or LDS Account.
4. Enter your profile information.
5. Read and agree to the license agreement.
6. Click Download Batch.
Select a project to index.

To download a set (or batch) of obituaries to index, do the following:

1. While in the indexing program, click the Download Batch button.
2. Select Show all projects.
3. Scroll down to US indexing projects, and select a project that includes the word “Obituaries.”
4. Click OK.

A message will pop up offering help. Use the help resources as needed, and then click Close to begin indexing the batch.

Although 2014 is the “Year of the Obituary,” this collection will likely require several years to fully index. Working together we will unlock this treasure trove of fascinating information for researchers everywhere.



IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF RURAL IOWA EDUCATION AND CULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA | 3219 HUDSON RD, CEDAR FALLS, IA 50614

Just in case
spring
doesn't
really
come-here
are some
flowers

The Center for the History of Rural Iowa Education and Culture at The University of Northern Iowa is dedicated to the preservation, organization, and dissemination of unique and rare materials documenting the history of Iowa's rural school system.

The Center maintains collections of historic textbooks, artifacts, rural school related reference books, oral histories, photographs, and ephemera as well as a collection of official school records, the Rural School Records, transferred from the state's Area Education Agencies. Holdings cover 86 of Iowa's 99 counties and date from the mid-19th through the mid-20th century.

Reference services are available Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call (319) 273-7614 or email Dustin Witsman, Project Archivist (dustin.witsman@uni.edu) or Katherine Martin, Project Director and Head, Collections and Museums (katherine.martin@uni.edu).

Visit us online at www.uni.edu/museum/ruralschool



IGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

All groups meet at the IGS Library, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines:

German Interest Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

African American Interest Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Italian American Interest Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Irish Interest Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Norwegian Interest Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m.

British/Welsh and Scottish Interest Group meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Legacy User Group meets the third Thursday of the month, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

RootsMagic Interest Group meets the fourth Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon.

IGS CALENDAR

All programs & activities take place at the IGS Library, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 2014

Saturday, March 15

Beginning Genealogy
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Preregistration required. Cost: Free

This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family.

Using FamilySearch
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Debi Chase instructor.
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

Learn what's available from this fantastic research and how to find and use it.

Wednesday, March 26

MovieMaker for Genealogy L/L
noon - 1:00 p.m. Jan Myers instructor.
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

Saturday, March 29

Beginning Internet Genealogy
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Theresa Liewer
instructor. Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

APRIL 2014

Tuesday, April 29

Beginning Genealogy
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Preregistration required. Cost: Free

This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family.

MAY 2014

Saturday, May 3

Finding a Revolutionary War Patriot
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Barb Hammer instructor
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family.

Saturday, May 17

Newspapers in Genealogy Research
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Linda Greethurst instructor.
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

Wednesday, May 21

What About Me? L/L
noon - 1:00 p.m.
Jan Myers instructor.
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family.

Saturday, May 24

Beginning Genealogy
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Preregistration required. Cost: Free

This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family.

L/L - Bring your lunch and learn at the same time.

For more information about IGS programs and activities, or to register for classes, contact IGS: 515-276-0287; igs@iowagenealogy.org, or visit the IGS website: www.iowagenealogy.org.

Iowa Genealogical Society Membership Application

Membership Benefits:

- Free access to IGS research library
- Bimonthly Newsletter
- Admission discounts to all IGS classes & events
- Discounted hourly research rate

Individual: \$35 Family: \$45

New membership Renewal

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

My company has a matching gift program. Company name:

My gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of

My gift may be best utilized for:

Building Fund \$_____

General Fund \$_____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day phone: _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed.

Please charge my credit card in the amount of
\$_____ (+ \$2.50 credit card handling fee)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Account No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Iowa Genealogical Society,
628 E Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309-1924



IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2014

The Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter is a publication of the Iowa Genealogical Society. Members receive the newsletter as part of their membership.

Individual members, member chapters, regional representatives and the public are invited to submit articles, reviews, chapter news and program information for publication.

Contact IGS for more information or to submit your article:

Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309-1924
515-276-0287
igs@iowagenealogy.org

NOTE: Please check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

I WANT TO HELP

Iowa Genealogical Society relies on volunteers and we are always welcoming new help. The commitment can be one-time for an event or as often as you like. Society needs include:

Everyday operations: ___ Library attendant (We'll train)

___ Tracking volunteer hours ___ Maintaining the membership database

___ Preparing New Member packets ___ Mailing crew

Records collection/Access:

___ Indexing (Can be done at home) ___ Website design

___ Selling extra books on E-Bay

Publications/Publicity: ___ Distributing publicity info to a list of websites

___ Delivering class & conference brochures to your library

___ Talking to civic and social groups (we'll supply a script)

___ Writing articles for the newsletter or Hawkeye Heritage

Facility maintenance:

___ Lawn mowing ___ Vacuuming and/or dusting ___ Perform minor maintenance

Finance and accounting : ___ Helping to write grants

Special Events: ___ Helping at conferences ___ Helping with garage sales

Teaching Genealogy Classes (We'll train) _____

Serving on a Committee (Finance, Library, Building, etc.) _____

If you have a special talent to share, please let us know.

YES! I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I have another idea for a volunteer project. _____

PRESERVING THE PAST & ENRICHING THE FUTURE

