

Iowa Genealogical Society

“Sharing Family History for Fifty Years” is the theme for our year long celebration in 2015. We want to give you an opportunity to share your family stories with us.

We will have six contests throughout the year, with a first, second and third place prize being awarded. The first story contest of the year is due no later than January 15, 2015, and is a love story from your family tree.

The rules are as follows:

- All submissions must be received by mail, in person to the IGS Desk or email to execdir@iowagenealogy.org by the deadline. No exceptions.
- By submitting a story for the contest, you agree to have the story published in the IGS Newsletter, the IGS website or any other IGS publications.
- Prizes will be given for 1st place (\$25 gift card), 2nd place (\$10 gift card) and 3rd place (\$5) gift card for each contest.
- Length of the story must be NO longer than 750 words.
- Stories must be typed and if submitted electronically in a word document or plain text.
- An individual may only win twice in 2015.
- Stories will be judged by a panel and their decision will be final.
- One picture may be submitted with the story but will not be a factor in judging.
- Author’s name, address and phone number must be on all submitted stories.

There will be a total of six stories for you to share throughout the year. Check the website for more details.



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IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

628 E Grand Ave
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

Vacant

Secretary

Marieta Grissom

Treasurer

Tom Newell

IGS STAFF

Administrative Assistant

Debi Iseminger Chase

Assistant Librarians

Susan Claman

Judy McClain

Executive Director

Jennifer Ewing

IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

Hawkeye Heritage

Susan Claman

IGS Newsletter

Jennifer Ewing

EACH ONE REACH ONE

Each One, Reach One Did you know that 79% of people join an organization because someone invited them? Have you invited anyone to a class or conference at IGS or to join? New members are critical to our growth and success at IGS. To encourage you to invite new members, for every new member that you refer to IGS (make sure they put your name in the “How Did You Hear About Us” space on the form), your name will be entered to win a \$25 gift card. The more people you get to join, the better your chances are. Think about purchasing a gift membership for someone or paying for one day of research at IGS so people can see what we offer.



Volunteer Spotlight

Margaret Foster joined IGS in 1972 and served in many capacities throughout the years. We honored Margaret at the Annual Meeting as she has retired as our Director of Volunteers and Historian.

Margaret is a retired professional genealogist and has taught classes and represented IGS all over the state.

Margaret continues to volunteer as our Monday Library Attendant and shares her knowledge and research abilities with everyone.

Margaret and her husband, John, have four children, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She also has a dog named Heidi.

A big thank you to Margaret for all of her years of service and her continued contribution of time to IGS.

Coming Soon—a members only section to the website. This project has been in the works for months and we are getting closer to the release. We are so excited about this new benefit for our members. Watch the website, www.iowagenealogy.org for the big announcement.

There have been some changes at the IGS Library.

Family histories are now located in the area south of the computer bays. All Periodicals are located north of the west wing stairs along the west and north walls. Printed census indexes have been moved to the wood shelving immediately north of the stairs to the west wing.

International and general periodicals are with the periodicals.

There is a new book section located outside the Librarians' area on the north side.

Did you know? If you are an AARP member, you can get a discount on Ancestry World. You will need to call them and have your AARP number ready.

Benefits of Membership

For your \$35 annual membership in IGS, you receive the following:

- Help, support and friendship of like-minded folk
- Discounts on educational opportunities, classes and conferences and on research fees
- Members Only Classes
- Networking opportunities (which means you get answers)
- Email notification of upcoming events and classes
- Access to genealogical interest groups
- Help tearing down “brick walls”
- Opportunity to participate in special projects
- Access to the exceptional, free resources at the IGS Library

You can also receive a discount on “Find My Past” for being a member of IGS. Just call us to get the code.

Rarely a day goes by that a volunteer is not helping someone on a one to one basis. It is rare in society to get that kind of service from an organization.

Sharing Family History for Fifty Years

50/50 for 50 More Years

The Iowa Genealogical Society has a lot to celebrate in 2015. Fifty years of preserving family history and creating an interest in genealogy through the entire state is a remarkable achievement. We continue to add items to our collection, develop our website and educate not only our members but the state-wide community as well. In fifty years, we've grown from a box of books in an orange crate to a nationally recognized research facility. For the last eleven years, we've been in a building that is large enough for our library, classes and backroom operations, is handicapped accessible, raises our public profile and is conveniently located across the street from the Iowa State Archives and Library.

IGS is planning great classes, events and celebrations for 2015. We want to continue to provide exceptional learning opportunities and continue to grow our collection. We continue to work to grow our membership base and volunteer resources. We want to insure that this wonderful institution continues to flourish and grow so we're taking the opportunity of the 50th Anniversary to do a major fundraising drive. We will be reaching out to the greater community as well as our membership.

You can be part of the celebration of 50 years by joining our 50/50 Campaign. We are asking you to consider making a donation with a "50" in it – at the beginning, in the middle or at the end, whatever suits your budget. Which means it could be \$5000, \$500, \$50, \$150 or even \$25. Fifty percent of your donation will go towards mortgage reduction and the remaining funds will go towards operating expenses. Our goal is to make a sizeable reduction in our \$500,000 mortgage and increase our funds to carry on our work of education and preservation.

Please consider making a 50/50 tax deductible donation today.

Sincerely

Theresa Liewer
President

Jennifer Ewing
Executive Director

Yes, I want to be part of the 50/50 Campaign Enclosed is my check for _____.

Or Please charge my credit card Visa MasterCard Discover

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Exp Date _____ Verification Code _____

Signature _____

You can also go online to www.iowagenealogy.org to make a donation via credit card or PayPal.



Members Only Sessions are a new focus for IGS. They are a round-table sharing format and are open only to members of IGS. There is no fee for these classes other than being a member of the Society. The classes are held on Monday evenings. Join us for an informative, fun evening.

November 17, 2014, 6:30 p.m. "Heirloom Preservation"

January 6, 2015, 6:30 p.m. "Create Family Web Pages"

Watch the website and upcoming newsletters for more Members Only Opportunities.

We are looking for volunteers to help plan IGS's 50th Anniversary Celebration. We want a planning committee and then smaller groups of volunteers to "manage" one event of many through 2015. If you are interested, please contact

**Jennifer Ewing
(execdir@iowagenealogy.org)**



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.

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.

Holiday Hours

Hard to believe that the holidays will be here before too long. IGS will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 2014. For the Christmas holiday, IGS will be closed from Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2014, through New Years Day, Jan. 1, 2015. We will reopen to the public on Jan. 2, 2015.

During the time we are closed, we need volunteers to help with book inventory and cleaning.

Please contact Jennifer Ewing (execdir@iowagenealogy.org) if you can help us during this week, even if it is only for a few hours.

Also, if the weather cooperates, we are going to open the library to members only from noon to 4 pm on New Years Day. What a great way to start the 50th Anniversary Celebration of IGS.

GPS Step 1: Reasonably Exhaustive Search—The Plan by *Alice Hoyt Veen, CG*

You know what you want to know about your ancestor, and you've crafted a focused research question. How do you apply the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) to answer that question? Let's take a closer look at step one of the GPS: the "reasonably exhaustive search."

The GPS calls for a "reasonably exhaustive search" of all sources that might answer your research question. But how do you know you've met that standard? There are certain steps you can take to ensure you've done your best to locate every relevant, available source. Here are some tips to help you formulate an effective research plan.

Understand the Location

Explore the area you plan to search—identify the federal, state, county or other governing bodies that might contain records. When was the county or jurisdiction created? Where is the county seat? Was there a parent county? What about the surrounding area: adjacent counties or municipalities. Have records been lost or removed to archival collections?

Understand the Time Period

Identify the time period of your search. What historical events or circumstances might have influenced your ancestors and the records they created? What was the ethnic, cultural and religious composition of the communities in which your ancestors lived?

Understand the Law

What laws governed the creation of the records you seek? Legal requirements have changed over time—research the relevant statutes that determined the types of information recorded for your time period.

What are the Records?

Location, time period and laws impact the types of records available. Identify the most likely sources based on these factors. Available records may provide direct evidence to answer your question, or you may need to consider sources that offer indirect evidence. One good source for preliminary research is the Family History Library online catalog. While it only includes the resources of the FHL, it's still a good place to start your list. Take note of relevant non-governmental sources in your plan: church records, newspapers, cemeteries, etc.

Where Are the Records?

Where will you find these wonderful original sources? Not everything is on the Internet! Only a tiny portion of available sources can be found online. Check repository websites or onsite catalogs for holdings information. You may find what you need at the county courthouse, state archives, or on microfilm at a research library. Clues may be found in online databases, but you are searching for the original record or an image copy (digital or microfilm). Never, ever settle for what you find in a database or compiled index. And be prepared to conduct a page-by-page search of unindexed records—often a necessary step for a truly effective search.

Formulate Your Plan

Write out the records you plan to look for and where you will conduct your search. Find a method that works to organize your research plan. Genealogical software can help, or you may prefer to use spreadsheets or tables. I use a template to organize both plan and results. My "Research Plan" is actually included as part of my "Research Log." Each record I target for examination is noted first in my Log as a "planned step," then as a "completed step." Since my plan includes a good start on each source citation, all I need to add are elements for what I find, or don't find, during the research process.

GPS Step 1: Reasonably Exhaustive Search—The Plan by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG (cont.)

Whatever method you use to construct your research plan, it should include the following information:

The research focus or question.

The name/names/surnames you plan to search for, the target location(s), and date range.

The record/record series to search. Be as specific as your preliminary investigation allows. For example, “Mahaska County, Iowa, Marriage Records, 1895 – 1905.”

The original repository for the record. Perhaps you’ll search the National Archives for military records, or the county courthouse for vital statistics.

The format you will search: is it a bound volume at the courthouse? FHL microfilm? Online digitization?

Where will you access the records? If you plan to visit the courthouse, identify the offices to visit and the hours of records availability. For microfilm images, record the film numbers and where you will view the films. Online research should include the name of the website you’ll be searching and what you’ll search: database, transcriptions, digital images, etc.

During the research process, you may need to modify the plan to fit your findings. That’s OK: a research plan must be flexible to meet changing circumstances; we’ve all encountered unexpected surprises during the research process. Keep track of changes and note why you’ve altered course. With a solid plan in place, you’re ready to begin your search!

Learn More About Locations

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Redbook: American State, County, and Town Sources*. 3rd ed. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004.

The USGenWeb Project. *The USGenWeb Project*. <http://www.usgenweb.org>. Information for every U.S. county.

National Genealogical Society *Research in the States* series. Individual state guides available as print editions or online downloads. National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22204-4370. Ph. 800-473-0060. Website: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Iowa Genealogical Society County Guides. See the IGS website: <http://www.iowagenealogy.org>. County Guides are listed under the “Library” tab.

For international research, try starting with the FamilySearch Family History Research Wiki: www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page.

Learn More About Law

Iowa’s beautiful Law Library is located in the Capitol building in Des Moines. Bound volumes of Iowa Codes, Journals, Acts and Resolutions are also available at the State Historical Society Library, 600 East Locust, Des Moines. View digitized Iowa laws online: *The Iowa Legislature Archives*. <http://www.legis.iow.gov/archives>.

Learn more about Iowa’s judicial system. *Iowa Judicial Branch*. <http://www.iowacourts.gov>.

Gallaher, Ruth A. *Legal and Political Status of Women in Iowa: An Historical Account of the Rights of Women in Iowa from 1838 to 1918*. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1918.

Salmon, Marylynn. *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Black, Henry Campbell. *Black’s Law Dictionary*. 4th ed. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1968. This older edition contains many outdated terms not found in modern dictionaries.

Russell, Judy. *The Legal Genealogist* blog. <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Theresa Liewer

The annual conference is successfully behind us but things never slow down at IGS. The planning committee for the 50TH Anniversary celebration next year has been going full tilt. The Education Committee has filled the schedule for the first part of 2015. I looked at the calendar for tomorrow at the library and realized there are three groups meeting there, the GPS class, the Roots Magic User Group and members of the local Colonial Dames organization. It's a hopping place.

I want to thank retiring board members, Barb Hammer, Marcia Guffey, Ken and Mary Booth, Alan Neve and Linda Abercrombie. They served admirably and we appreciate all their efforts. I also want to welcome new board members, Marietta Grissom, Mark DeGeest, Jeanine Wickman and Jack and Fran Maulden. And we are fortunate that Allaire George, Sandra Leininger, Martha Schmidt and Linda and Mary Cae Madden agreed to stand for reelection for their positions as regional representatives. Our first board meeting will be November 8 and the plan is to hit the ground running.

We do have open positions – Second Vice President, Representatives for Region 16 in the southwest corner of the state, for Region 5 in the northeast corner of the state and for Region 9 in south central. If you're interested, please let us know.

We're still trying to visit as many chapters as possible. Tomorrow I'll be at the Iowa City Genealogical Society meeting in the morning and then I'll be teaching two classes at the Independence Public Library in Buchanan County in the afternoon. IGS volunteers Linda Greethurst and Dennis Allen have also been in Independence to teach and Dennis is heading to Webster City tomorrow. Linda presented a great program on "Sick Trees" at the Ankeny Genealogical Chapter. Let us know if someone from IGS can come see your group some time.

And in case you don't already know, you can get a 30% discount on an Ancestry subscription with your AARP membership. It has to be a World subscription but a year's subscription is \$210 instead of \$299 and a six month's subscription is \$104 rather than \$149. I renewed last month and did the happy dance after I hung up.

Take care and good luck finding that elusive ancestor.

IGS CALENDAR

All programs & activities take place at the IGS Library, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA, unless otherwise noted.

Naturalization Records

Saturday, November 15, 2014
Time: 10:30 pm—12:30 pm
Instructor: Theresa Liewer
\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members

War of 1812 Research

Saturday, November 15, 2014
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Instructor: Jan Myers
\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members
Preregistration required.

Beginning Genealogy

Saturday, December 6, 2014
Time: 1:30 pm
Free

FindAGrave.com

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Part of the Lunch and Learn series so please bring your lunch and eat as we learn!
Instructor: Linda Greethurst
\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members

**See the IGS Website,
(www.iowagenealogy.org) for a list of
all scheduled classes**

MEMBERS ONLY

These sessions are a new focus of IGS.

They will use a round-table format, with moderators starting the evening's discussion and attendees joining in with their suggestions and experiences.

They are open only to members of IGS. There is no registration fee for these classes other than being a member of the Society.

Heirloom Preservation

Monday, November 17, 2014
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Moderators: members of IGS and participants
Come join us as our members discuss various methods of organizing genealogical information into a narrative form.
Preregistration appreciated. Walk-ins welcome

New Year's Research Opportunity

Thursday, January 1, 2015
Time: Noon — 4 pm
Bring a snack to share and start IGS's 50th Anniversary off with an afternoon dedicated to research!

Create Family Web Pages

Monday, January 12, 2015
Time: 6:30 — 8:30 pm
Moderators: Dennis Allen and Dennis Davies

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 Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924



**IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

November 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.**