

# Iowa Genealogical Society

## Family Stories

My father was an accomplished story teller. But most of his stories about our family had been embellished with the “Supreme Bedazzler.” It wasn’t until I started researching our family history that I found some of his stories were more fiction than fact and that sometimes the facts were funny, sad, tragic or heroic. My guess is that for most of us, we have “Bedazzlers” in the family and many hidden or forgotten stories. But his “bedazzled” stories ignited a desire in me to learn more about our family.

Why do we, as family researchers, do what we do? I have heard from patrons and members that it is fun, interesting, educational and fulfills a desire to find the truth. In a larger sense, why should we do what we do? One morning, on the way to work, listening to the radio, there was a discussion about a family in Louisa county where all six sons were killed in the Civil War. They were raising money for a memorial for this family and they had used census records to recreate the family story. Without the efforts of genealogists, the census records would not be so readily available. This is only one example of what family researchers have done.

Every high school student in the state of Iowa is required to take a course in American History. Perhaps what is missing from these classes is personal history. Our families faced many challenges, whether it be immigrating to the United States, serving in the military, homesteading or surviving the Great Depression. Our family members have the advantage of having us, the family researcher. And we can share what it really took for our ancestors to make a life here; how the decisions that they made affected us today. It may be as simple as my grandmother hitting my grandfather on the back when she got excited at a high school basketball game (that’s how they met) or as historic as being able to survive the first winter aboard the Mayflower.

I challenge every one of us to share our love and gift of family research; whether it be volunteering or sharing your research with your family. It may not seem that they care today, but you may light a fire in a young person. Sharing your love and gift of family history can give people a sense of what makes them who they are and what they can become.

Jennifer Ewing—recovering “Bedazzler”



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Volunteer Spotlight	2
Here an Intern . . .	3
Library Insights	4
Annual Meeting	4
Fall Conference	5
Members Only/ Holiday Hours	6
GPS Warm Up	7
President’s Message	8
SIGS	8
IGS Calendar	9
Membership	10

## **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.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RICH WOLFE

### IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**President**

Theresa Liewer

**1st Vice President**

Richard Wolfe

**2nd Vice President**

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**Secretary**

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Susan Claman

Judy McClain

**Executive Director**

Jennifer Ewing

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### IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

***Hawkeye Heritage***

Susan Claman

***IGS Newsletter***

Jennifer Ewing

Richard Wolfe is a native of Chicago having spent the first 23 years of his life there. Moving to Iowa to secure a teaching assignment, his family lived in Alden, Sidney, Ankeny, Johnston and Grimes until the present day. He retired from full time teaching as a band director eight years ago. He had not only been a teacher of music, but had also organized many travel opportunities for his students as well as organized many state level competitions. Staying active in education he was a substitute teacher, maintained a private clarinet studio, and traveled with student groups to Orlando, Washington D.C. and New York during retirement. His parents finally gave up on him moving back to Chicago and moved to Ankeny in 1991.

When his parents passed a few years back, he was left with a medium sized box of genealogical records, documents and pictures. They sat on the shelf for a few more years until Richard retired, when he decided that something needed to be done with the things inside. Exploring some of the papers inside, and checking then against other available records, he realized that his mother had been correct in naming some of the individuals that he was related to. He was hooked. The genealogy bug had taken its first bite and was not letting go. The first visit to an ancestral location sealed the illness started by the bug. Wandering through cemeteries, old library books, county records, etc. was in the blood. He started to realize that organizations that he was using to gain information had indexed and copied materials mostly with volunteer labor. He started to help index on line and then realized that maybe volunteering for local organizations might be a better idea. IGS presented itself shortly after and is now his major volunteering activity.

Richard is married to Peggy and they have four daughters, Laura Wolfe, Katie Albrecht-Snow, Caryn Albrecht and Kelly Albrecht-Weber, all out of the house.

Richard serves as First Vice President, and serves on the Library and Education Committees. He has been coordinating the Obituary Project and helping train new volunteers.

In 2013, a gift of over 6,000 volunteer hours was given to IGS. Without volunteers, IGS would have to close its doors. If you think you don't have anything to offer IGS as a volunteer, we can help you find your niche. Some projects can even be done at home. Give us a call at 515-276-0287.

## SOCIETY NEWS: Here an Intern, There an Intern, Everywhere...

Our summer Intern, Shelly Kern, has returned to school full-time at Simpson College. She did an amazing job for us and hopefully learned ways to help her future history students. Your support and wiliness to help her was one of the things that made this a very successful experience for everyone involved.

With this being said, we now have a semi official intern program at IGS. We have notices posted at ISU, Drake, Grandview and Simpson, although any student from any college is welcome to apply. These positions are unpaid but can offer valuable experience for college students.

Mostly, we are looking for History and English majors. English majors should have an interest in library science.

We are also looking for Marketing/Business majors. IGS will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2015 and having a team of Marketing majors help plan and execute the celebration would be beneficial to us and to the students.

Interns are required to take the Beginning Genealogy class and to work on a family history. The instructors always say “complete” but we all know that it is never really “complete”. The students need to understand what we do here so that experience is valuable to them. Also, it is addictive. If they are excited about their family history and what they learn here, they will tell their college age friends about it.

One of the more exciting developments in this area has been when the Internship Coordinator from Simpson College called and said that they got a grant. The “Career Readiness” grant will pay interns for their internships and is designed for organizations that cannot pay their interns. This has the potential to bring us more high quality

candidates for internships; although Shelly’s shoes will be hard to fill.

If you know of a student in the area that is looking for some work experience, either as an intern or volunteer, we would love to talk with them.



**SIMPSON  
COLLEGE**



\*Disclaimer—we could not put every college logo in, but students from all colleges are welcome to learn about our internship program.

**A list of books for sale has been posted on  
the website,  
[lowagenealogy.org](http://lowagenealogy.org).**

**IGS Annual Meeting** will be Friday, Oct. 10, 2014 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 6426 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA. We will convene immediately following the conclusion of the first day of the Fall Conference. Watch your mailbox for more information.

Sue Claman, one of our librarians, finds "Iowa's Old Age Assistance Tax Lists" on microfilm to be a great resource. The information in these lists are not about who received the assistance, but who paid for the assistance. The information gathered was name, sex, date of birth (many predating the keeping of vital records in Iowa), place of birth, father's name, mother's maiden name, county, P.O address, and township or street address. Headings in some booklets specifically requested month, date and year of birth, color and employer, if any. The law was repealed in 1937 so that the record period for existing Old Age Assistance Tax lists is only for the years 1934-1937.

The Family History Center, 3301 Ashworth Rd, West Des Moines, IA, is hosting a Family History Day on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014 at 10 a.m. The event is free but they ask that you pre-register at [www.lds.org/familyhistoryfair](http://www.lds.org/familyhistoryfair).

### 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
- 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.

Some of our volunteers have been working one on one with members who are Master Genealogist software users demonstrating other options for them. In a world where phones are answered by computers, there are not very many places that provide one on one support for people who are looking to investigate—whether it be genealogical software or some elusive relative.



## IGS Fall Conference Registration

**October 10 and 11, 2014**

**To be held in the St Paul's Presbyterian Church, 6426 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, IA  
Conference fee includes lunch.**

Early Registration (Before Oct. 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ IGS Member x \$95 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-member x \$115 = \_\_\_\_\_

Late Registration (on or after Oct. 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ IGS Member x \$105 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-member x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

### 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, Fall Conference

628 E Grand Ave

Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Register online: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

Our main speaker will be Kathleen Brandt. You can see Kathleen's work on TLC and NBC: "Who Do You Think You Are?" with Tim McGraw (she appears on this episode), Reba McEntire, and others, and in 2014 on the Cynthia Nixon episode which aired July 23, 2014. She is also a researcher with PBS: Finding Your Roots, a freelance writer for AARP and Jet Magazine and is a published author.

**Kathleen will be speaking on the following topics.**

#### Friday Classes

Finding the Elusive Civil War Ancestor

Technology Toys for Genealogists

Military Research for Genealogists

**Kathy Gourley** will present "American Indian Tribes in the Iowa Vicinity"

#### Saturday Classes

Leaping Over Brickwalls

How We Were Freed

Sharing Our Ancestors

**SAPIC (State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries)** will present a panel discussion on preserving cemeteries

**A block of hotel rooms** are available at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8600 Northpark Dr., Johnston, IA 50131

phone: 515-270-8890

To receive the group rate, you must make your reservation with the hotel no later than 9/18/14.





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. The library will also hold extended hours for members only those evenings. Come research from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and then join us for an informative, fun evening.

October 13, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. "Timelines to Aid in Genealogy Research"

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

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 the 2015. If you are interested, please contact**

**Jennifer Ewing  
([execdir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:execdir@iowagenealogy.org))**

Are you a Master Genealogist Software user? Upgrades, support and development of this program is being discontinued at the end of the year. IGS offers both Legacy and RootsMagic user groups which can help you get your gedcom loaded into either one of these programs and help you learn to navigate these powerful programs. The Legacy group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. at IGS. RootsMagic meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at IGS. Contact IGS at 515-276-0287.

### **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](mailto: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 on New Years Day. Researching instead of football sounds like a great way to start the New Year and the 50th Anniversary Celebration of IGS. Please let IGS know if you are going to attend so that we can contact you if there is inclement weather.

## GPS Warm-UP: The Question *by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG*

Questions, questions—we all have unanswered questions about our ancestors. The Genealogical Proof Standard is a great tool for addressing those questions. But The GPS works best when our question is clear, concise, and focused on a specific problem. It's necessary to organize not only our thoughts but our information in a targeted way that leads to a well-defined research goal. With a clearly articulated, specific goal, you can put the GPS to work! Here are a few tips to get you started.

**It All Starts With a Name**--Pick a name from your "wish list" of ancestors for whom you'd like to know more, and work through these next few steps.

Example: Sarah Jeane "Sadie" Guthrie married Osmond Elmer "Ozzie" Nevins in 1902. I remember Sadie, although imperfectly, and I have an obituary that states her relationship to Ozzie. I would like to know more about this couple; researching one spouse often leads to information for both. But if I state my question "What can I learn about Sarah and Osmond Nevins?" I've cast a very broad net. I need to be more specific.

**Starting Point Information**--To get organized and to visualize a new project, I like to do two things. First, I create a timeline for each individual and their immediate family. Each piece of information on my timeline is tied to a source citation. Next I create a list of my information sources. Your genealogical software can probably accomplish both these tasks for you, but it's nice to transfer whatever lists you create to a word processor where you can make alterations to the format and content. The timeline and source list help focus on what's missing for my ancestor, test the reliability of my starting-point sources, and clarify what my priorities will be. Let's see how this works with just one half of my couple: Sarah "Sadie" Guthrie.

Timeline For Sarah Jeane "Sadie" Guthrie			
Age	Date	Event	Location
0	10 Nov. 1883	Birth: d/o Andrew & Elizabeth Guthrie	perhaps Monroe or Mahaska Co., IA
18	8 April 1902	Marriage to Osmond Elmer "Ozzie" Nevins	perhaps Monroe or Mahaska Co., IA
85	22 Dec. 1968	Death	Tulsa, Oklahoma
	27 Dec. 1968	Burial Oakwood Cemetery	Pleasant Hill, Polk Co., IA

SOURCES: "Sadie Guthrie Nevins," obituary, printed copy, Hamilton Funeral Home, Runnells, Iowa, citing services held on 27 December 1968; Guthrie-Nevins Family Papers, 1787 --, privately held by Alice Hoyt Veen, Bouton, Iowa. Inherited from Sadie's grandson, Keith Hoyt, in 1979. Typed on funeral home letterhead, it contains several strikethroughs and corrections. Informant is unknown.

**What's Missing?**--Just about everything! With little to go on, I have many options for a research focus. The obituary is of questionable reliability, and the family traditions are secondary information. I am really starting from scratch. I need confirmation of every item on my timeline, plus I want to know much more about Sadie's life and her family.

**Constructing the Question**--I've decided my immediate goal should be to confirm the marriage of Sadie and Ozzie. A marriage record may lead to evidence for a birth date and location, parentage, and residency. Here is my research question:

***When and where were Sarah J. "Sadie" Guthrie, born 10 November 1883, and Osmond E. "Ozzie" Nevins, both probable residents of Monroe or Mahaska County, Iowa, married?***

Now that I have a clear objective, I can turn my attention to developing a research plan to achieve my goal.

**Final Thoughts**--Constructing a well-defined, concise research focus is a necessary preliminary to successful implementation of the GPS. Start by organizing existing information, then identify and analyze your sources. Decide what your priorities should be, and put your question in writing. These few steps will get you off to a great start with the GPS process!

### Source List for Sarah Jeane "Sadie" Guthrie

- Guthrie-Nevins family traditions regarding the residency of the Guthrie and Nevins families, and the marriage location for Sarah Guthrie to Osmond Nevins, Alice Hoyt Veen, compiler (MSS notes, ca. 1974 – 1979; privately held by Veen, Bouton, Iowa, as reported by Keith Hoyt, Sadie's & Ozzie's grandson, 1976.
- Wedding photograph, Sarah J. "Sadie" Guthrie and Osmond E. "Ozzie" Nevins, ca. 1902; Guthrie-Nevins Family Papers, 1787 --, privately held by Alice Hoyt Veen, Bouton, Iowa. Inherited from Sadie's grandson, Keith Hoyt, in 1979. Undated handwritten note on back identifies the couple.
- "Sadie Guthrie Nevins," obituary, printed copy, Hamilton Funeral Home, Runnells, Iowa, citing services held on 27 December 1968; Guthrie-Nevins Family Papers, 1787 --, privately held by Alice Hoyt Veen, Bouton, Iowa. Inherited from Sadie's grandson, Keith Hoyt, in 1979. Typed on funeral home letterhead, it contains strikethroughs and corrections. Informant is unknown.

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

### President's Message by Theresa Liewer

I'm writing this from home as I recover from surgery after I managed to fall and break my hip but between the phone and internet, I've stayed up-to-date with what's happening. The staff and volunteers continued to do their normal fantastic job of making sure that library patrons were taken care of, classes were taught, bills were paid on time, committees met, door locks were repaired and plans for the future were made. I can't tell you how grateful I was that Jennifer is here to see that things go on. We spoke almost daily about things like grant applications, conference meals, over-charges by vendors, interns from Drake and Grandview and items I no longer remember.

I hope you're all planning to join us for the fall conference on October 10 and 11. Our speaker Kathleen Brandt comes highly recommended and we are excited to have her. Just an aside – Kathleen actually visited our library while she was researching for Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s PBS series, Finding Your Roots.

Plans are beginning for next year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IGS. We want to have a fantastic year-long celebration. So be on the look-out for events. And think about joining the volunteer team as we plan and carry out the happenings.

Have a great fall. And may you find that illusive ancestor.

**Interested in learning more about the GPS process?** Join us for the orientation class on Saturday, Sept. 6 @ 1:30 to learn more. The orientation class is required to attend the GPS Series Class taught by Alice Hoyt Veen and Linda Greethurst. Contact IGS for more information (515-276-0287).

We all love software programs but some of them can get pricey—\$80+ for a map software program. If you are a member access to the library is always free. We have lots of free resources available to you; not to mention help breaking down those brick walls. One of those resources is the "Map guide to the US Federal Census 1790-1920." Check out the library before you invest in a resource. We may just have what you are looking for.



#### 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 Ave, Des Moines, Iowa, unless otherwise noted.*

## **Missouri Vital Records**

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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: Jan Myers

\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members

## **Introduction to German Research**

Saturday, September 13, 2014

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Instructor: Ruth Bartels

\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members

Preregistration required.

## **Digital Organization for the Digitally Challenged**

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

***(Class size is limited and help will be available in the afternoon, by appointment, at no extra charge)***

Instructor: IGS Technology specialists

\$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members

Preregistration required.

## **Pennsylvania Vital Records**

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

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

## **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.***

## **Writing Your Own Family History**

Monday, September 8, 2014

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Coordinators: 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

## **Other Sessions:**

**October 13, 2014: "Timelines to Aid in Genealogy Research"**

**November 17, 2014: "Heirloom Preservation"**

## **Genealogical Proof Standard I**

A special series of 5 classes plus an initial orientation session introducing the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) and how to apply it to genealogical research situations.

After the orientation session on Sept. 6,

which is open to all, the size of this class is limited, has required attendance, and is for members only.

Dates (all Saturdays) include September 6, October 25, November 22, January 24, February 28 and March 28.

Instructors: Linda Greethurst and Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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**For more information about IGS programs and activities, or to register for classes, contact IGS: 515-276-0287; [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org), or visit the IGS website: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://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**

**September 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.**