

JULY 2015

Iowa Genealogical Society

Theresa Liewer, Ruth Bartels and I attended the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) Board meeting in Elk Horn, IA on Monday, June 29, 2015.

The SHSI Library has reduced its hours to only three days a week to evaluate the collection and how to best care for it. SHSI is developing a master plan in regards not only to the building but the collection—including the library, archives and museum. The plan should be available late summer.

SHSI had asked for \$65 million from the legislature in 2015 and did not receive those funds. So, no matter what the master plan outlines, nothing will be done until they receive funding.

In other states, genealogy is recognized as a “revenue generator”. Curt Witcher from Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne told me that the Genealogy Center creates over \$7 million in economic impact every year because of people traveling to Ft. Wayne. Which by the way, he says “is on the road to nowhere”. Oklahoma encourages family history research on its tourism website.

So as individuals, county chapters and IGS as a whole, what can we do? Contact your state representative. Let them know that genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the United States. Let them know people travel and spend money for family history research. Let them know that people visit cemeteries, courthouses and local repositories. Let them know that the money spent is not just in Des Moines, but in small towns and rural areas. Let them know that access to records is why people travel and spend money on family history research and that our history as Iowans is important.

Jennifer Ewing
Executive Director



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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.

PERSI

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Jennifer Ewing

“The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is the largest subject index to genealogy and local history periodical articles in the world.” PERSI has over 2.5 million entries available to be searched from thousands of publications. PERSI is available at HeritageQuestOnline.com with an organizational subscription, like a public library card, and at Find-MyPast.com for a fee.

PERSI is a subject index to articles, not an every name in every index search engine, so you’re searching for article titles. Articles can be found by searching: people, place, periodicals and how-tos. While PERSI is an incredibly useful tool, using key search terms is essential to success with the program. Searching for the same content using different terms may also be useful in finding content. Remember; be creative with your search terms!

Search results are shown as a list including: article title, periodical title, publishing location, date, volume, and issue number. You can then click on the links to gain access to the full-article or a citation stating where the article can be found.

PERSI is a great asset for anyone doing genealogy or historical research. The database provides an easy way to locate information about people, places and records. PERSI opens new avenues for investigation of the past.

The IGS library has a large collection of periodicals. If your PERSI search returns a periodical that is not available digitally, check out the IGS holdings.

Mikaylah Arens IGS Intern

Webster County Genealogical Society has updated their cemetery publication on Haviland, Old Prairie and St Paul’s (German Lutheran) cemeteries that are located next to each other. This April 2015 consolidated index for all three cemeteries lists if the information is available: Last, First, Middle and Maiden Names, date of birth, date of death, lot number and a notation if there is no stone. This is one of the 157 publications they have for purchase through the Iowa Genealogical Society at http://www.shop.iowapioneers.com/Webster-County_c85.htm.

Father's Story—HENRY RIEFE: A NEW LIFE IN IOWA by Carol Campbell Elliot

One of the joys of researching family history is discovering an ancestor's inspirational story that provides a wonderful example for future generations. I discovered the story of my great grandfather, Henry Riefe, who immigrated to the United States in 1873 and overcame numerous challenges to forge a new and successful life in Iowa.

Heinrich Wilhelm Christian Riefe was born on October 8, 1858, in the small farming village of Leese in the state of Hanover which was part of Prussia. By the time he was a teenager, the new German nation was reeling from years of warfare and economic turmoil. The family story says that the Riefe family sent their 14-year old son to the United States to avoid serving in the Kaiser's army. A poor economy with few job prospects may have also influenced the family's decision.

Henry traveled alone in steerage on the SS Bremen and arrived in New York City in August 1873. He likely connected with other German immigrants and ended up working in a grocery store, earning \$4.00 a month and sleeping in the woodshed behind the store. By 1875, he had moved to Greene, Iowa, to work in a general merchandise store for \$20.00 per month and board. Later, he moved to Charles City, Iowa, to take a better position at a salary of \$40.00 per month.

He was granted his US citizenship by the Circuit Court in Charles City, Iowa on October 9, 1879, the day after his 21st birthday. As soon as he became a citizen, he traveled to Germany to visit his family for the first time in six years. He traveled back to the United States on the steamship SS Main and arrived in New York in March 1880. The next person listed on the passenger list was Doris Winkelmann, a young woman from Leese. Apparently, Henry was escorting her to New York where she was met by family.

Henry returned to Iowa and opened a general merchandise store in Clarksville. Within the year, he married Agnes Hoffman who had emigrated from Germany with her family in the 1860's. The Riefe's first child was born in Clarksville in August 1882 but sadly died six weeks later. In 1885, the Riefe's moved to Charles City where Henry built a store due to more opportunities in a larger town. Unfortunately, a tornado leveled the store in 1886. Loss of the store and merchandise was valued at \$10,000. He had no insurance. Happily, a daughter, Elma, was born that same year. However, Agnes never fully recovered from the birth and was ill for nearly a year before passing away.

After losing his wife and business, it was not surprising that Henry's health began to fail and he could not work so he returned to Germany for a while. After returning to the United States, he reconnected with Doris Winkelmann, the young woman from his hometown that he escorted to the United States in 1880. They were married in Brooklyn, New York, in 1888 and settled down in Charles City.

In 1890, the Riefes moved to Mason City, Iowa. Initially, Henry operated a chicory and coffee roasting company. Unfortunately, fire destroyed the business. Once again, the business was a total loss and not covered by insurance. Continuing to persevere, Henry established the Mason City Bedding Company to manufacture mattresses and operated this business for over 25 years. He retired at age 78.

Henry and Doris Riefe were active community members and charter members of the St James Lutheran Church in Mason City. He served as chairman of the building committee, church treasurer and superintendent of the Sunday school. The Riefes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1938.

From humble beginnings . . . a journey alone to a foreign land . . . crossing halfway across the country to a place that became a state less than 20 years before his arrival . . . opening his first business five years later . . . suffering the death of a child and a wife . . . persevering through the total loss of two businesses . . . becoming a respected businessman and community leader . . . founding a church . . . watching four daughters and seven grandchildren grow and prosper. A remarkable life . . . A remarkable man . . . He was my great grandfather.

***Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery, Excavating a Nineteenth-Century Burial Ground in a Twenty-First-Century City.* By Robin M Lillie and Jennifer Mack. 2015. University of Iowa Press.**

Earlier this spring, I heard part of an interview with the two authors on **Talk of Iowa** on Iowa Public Radio. It was enough to send me off to buy the book and read the fascinating story of a long forgotten cemetery that was rediscovered under extraordinary circumstances. As genealogists, we love cemeteries and wince whenever we hear about graveyards in poor condition but this raised neglect to a new level.

The Third Street cemetery was used by the Catholic community of Dubuque from the mid 1830's until the 1880's. After a new Catholic cemetery was created, people were encouraged to move the remains of their families from Third Street to the new one and eventually the old one fell into total disrepair. Over time, land around it was developed and the property, on a bluff with a prime view of the river, was sold for a condominium project. When excavation began in 2007, someone saw human remains and the developer agreed to have experts from the Office of the State Archaeologist's Burial Program oversee what was supposed to be the removal of a few burials.

Four years, 939 graves and \$1 million later, the developer called a halt to the project. The authors, one, a bioarchaeologist with the OSA Burial Program and the other, an anthropologist with the University of Iowa, managed the project. Their book is a fascinating look at the process of discovery, the stories that the remains told of the early residents of Dubuque, the changes in burial customs, and the unbelievable tale of how an entire cemetery could be forgotten.

Members of the Key City Genealogical Society helped research records in old newspapers and a Depression era survey of the cemetery. The book ends with a list of all burials that could be identified from those records as well as the Cathedral's funeral register.

I was struck by one comment which as genealogists we can identify with. "By the end of the project, though, we were left wondering why people cling to old stories after being told the facts. Maybe it is easier to remember the exciting fictional version than a recitation of dull history. Or perhaps it is difficult to accept the idea that something 'everybody knows' is incorrect." How often have we met with a similar response to our own research?

Check your local bookstore or it is available through Amazon.com and the University of Iowa Press, www.uiowapress.org.

Theresa Liewer

Congratulations to our winners in the Father's Story Contest!

Carol Campbell Elliot 1st Place
Judy Strike 2nd Place
Barb Hug 3rd Place

You can read all the stories online at http://iowagenealogy.org/?page_id=7434

Get ready to submit "A Teacher in Your Tree!" Entries are due by July 15. Our guest judge will be the 2014 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Jane Schmidt from Makoqueta Community School District.

The deadline for the Soldiers story is October 15. Celebrate your Veteran's service by sharing their story.

Everywhere an Intern(s)

Our summer intern is Mikaylah Arens from northern Iowa. She is a marketing/advertising major at ISU and has been working on several different projects like updating brochures, library usage analysis and helping design a display for a wellness fair. Please welcome Mikaylah if you see her in the library.

Are you receiving this newsletter via snail mail? Receiving it by e-mail saves IGS printing and postage. Please contact igs@iowagenealogy.org if we can send the newsletter to you via e-mail. Contact igs@iowagenealogy.org. If you are not getting our Weekly E-Mail Updates, you can sign up on our home page: www.iowagenealogy.org.

Don't miss out on important communication from IGS.



Members Only Sessions 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.

Monday, July 13, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **DNA in Genealogy**—DNA is the newest tool in the Genealogist's toolbox. Bob Haskins will lead the discussion.

If you are a member of IGS, you can receive a discount to "FindMyPast". Contact the IGS office to find out how.



IGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

All groups meet at the IGS Library, 628 E Grand Ave, 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.

Ancestry.com Interest Group meets the **second Sunday** of the month, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Did you know that IGS is now a LDS Affiliated Library? You can order a microfilm from familysearch.org and have it delivered to IGS to view! We are open six days a week with extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday. That means just one trip to IGS to research and view microfilm.

Would you like to volunteer for IGS? We have several opportunities for you to work from home doing data entry. Contact Jennifer @ execdir@iowagenealogy.org.

Genealogical Proof Standard: Step 3—Evaluation, Analysis & Correlation, Part 3

By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

This is the third in our series of articles about Step 3 of the GPS: Analysis & Correlation. That it merits three articles should tell you something—this is the heart of the GPS research process. Last time we discussed analyzing each piece of evidence found in each source. We recognized that a single source may contain various types of information and evidence, and that a single source may provide evidence of varying degrees of reliability. That’s why it’s so important to conduct your search over a broad range of sources: you can correlate what you find and arrive at a sound conclusion.

“Compare and contrast,” is a term you probably heard in school. It’s an important research technique and one that can help break your brick walls. By examining each piece of evidence in context with other sources, you’ll identify areas of agreement and disagreement and hopefully resolve any inconsistencies. Here are a few tips to get you started:

Be aware you may be comparing evidence found in several or even many different sources. That means you need a way to keep everything organized. The key is to visualize all the different pieces together. That’s the easiest way to spot inconsistencies.

I like to use tables, but they are best with smaller comparisons. Timelines are another good way to arrange information. Your genealogical software may provide organizational tools, or you may want to use spreadsheets, either paper or digital. These can handle large amounts of data. A new tool that’s fun and effective is mind mapping.

Decide how best to organize/arrange the data. Here are some ideas:

Arrange information chronologically or by specific date ranges

Arrange by given names or surnames

Arrange by location, religion, neighborhood

Arrange by any criteria relevant to the type of data you need to compare

Once you find an effective way to organize and visualize the data, you can really dig into the analysis of what you’ve got. Ask yourself these questions:

Does the evidence make sense? Look for “outliers”—any single instance that differs substantially from all your other sources. These can often be set aside.

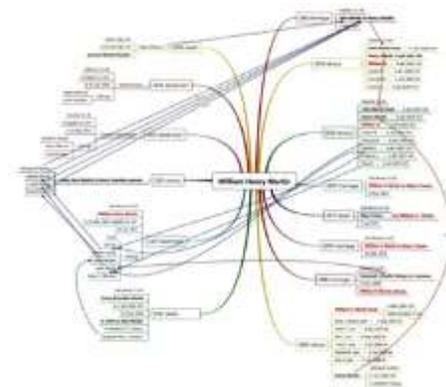
In each case, is the informant known or reliable? Was the record created close to the time of the event? Review each source in light of all the others you’ve found.

Do any patterns emerge between the different sources? Where do your sources agree? Where do they differ?

Finally, arrive at a conclusion about the data overall—have you found the answer to your question with either solid direct evidence or by combining indirect evidence from a variety of sources? Or do you need to continue the research process?

If you’ve arrived at a sound conclusion that answers your question satisfactorily, congratulations! You can skip the next step of the GPS: “resolve conflicts in evidence,” and go right to the final step of sharing your conclusions. But if you’re still at sea, take heart—we’ll look at conflict resolution in the next newsletter.

Evidence for William Martin Parentage				
Source	Evidence	Siblings/Associates	Father	Mother
1900 census Van Buren Co. IA ¹	William Martin (head) b Mar 1842 OH		father b OH	Nancy —?— Martin widow b June 1816 OH mother 8 children/7 living
1917 obituary William Martin ²	b 14 Mar 1842 Fayette Co OH	Cyrus George Harriet Stump Sarah Renker Jane Stump Mary E. Fillmore		
1901 obituary Nancy Kneeder ³	b 3 June 1816 OH d 3 Nov 1901 IA m 1840 to John Martin mother 8 children/1 d. in infancy	Mrs. J. Renker daughter		
1841 marriage ⁴ Fayette Co OH	m 1 July 1841		John H. Martin	Nancy Kneeder
1850 census Clinton Co-OH ⁵	William enumerated in household relationships not stated	Joshiah W. George W. Harriet E.	John Martin (head) b abt 1820 OH	Nancy b abt 1817 OH



Iowa Genealogical Society Fall Conference 2015

Finding Gold in Records—Celebrating 50 years of Discovering Family Secrets

Featuring John Philip Colletta

John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Knowledgeable, experienced and entertaining, he resides in Washington, D.C. For twenty years, while laying the foundation for his career in genealogy, he worked half-time at the Library of Congress and taught workshops at the National Archives.

Friday October 9

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 a.m. **Passenger Arrival Records, Colonial Times to Mid 20th Century** — Discover sources for finding the arrival time and place—and perhaps the ship—of an immigrant to colonial America.
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **How to Prepare for Successful Research in European Records** - How Americans can prepare for successful genealogical research overseas, whether that research is conducted through correspondence or in person.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Iowa State Archives & Historical Library**—presented by Sharon Avery, Archivist, State of Iowa
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. **Discovering the REAL Stories of Your Immigrant Ancestors** Using three 19th-century case studies, this lecture describes the original records and published materials available to discover the particular facts of your own ancestor's story.
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 4:15 p.m. **Annual Meeting**
- 6:00 p.m. **Banquet** --Celebrate 50 years of Discovering Family Secrets. Additional cost (see registration form), cash bar available

Saturday October 10

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. **Assembling and Writing a Narrative Family History** - Narrative techniques include putting ancestors into historical context and describing their lives, rather than simply relating facts.
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **Only A Few Bones: Case Studies in Building Historical Context** - Six 19th-century examples drawn from *Only a Few Bones, a True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath* demonstrate how to use multiple documentary sources in conjunction with oral family lore and material culture to solve research problems and generate vivid accounts of "individualized" ancestors.
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Lesser-Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Ancestors' Lives** - Whenever the path of an ancestor's life intersected with a federal government agency, paperwork was created. That paperwork fills our National Archives.
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. **Iowa: Fields of Genealogical Opportunities** —Marieta Grissom, CM

Complete the registration form and mail it with your credit card information or check payable to:

IGS Fall Conference
628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924
Register online: <http://shop.iowapioneers.com/>
For more information contact IGS: igs@iowagenealogy.org
515-276-0287

Cancellation Policy:

Before October 3rd Full Refund
After October 3rd No Refund

2015 IGS Fall Conference Registration

October 9 & 10, 2015

Toad Valley Country Club, Pleasant Hill, IA

Conference fees includes lunch on both days.

I prefer a vegetarian lunch. _____

Full 2-day Early Registration (Before Oct 1)

IGS Member \$95 _____

Non-member \$115 _____

Single Day Registration

Circle one: Friday Saturday

IGS Member 1-day early registration x \$55 _____

Non-member 1-day early registration x \$65 _____

Banquet Friday x \$26 _____

Total amount due: _____

Add \$10 after Sept. 30. No walk-ins accepted for the banquet.

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

Card Number _____

Exp Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Conference Hotel: Holiday Inn Express
165 Adventureland Dr.
Altoona, IA 50009
515-967-1855

A block of rooms has been reserved under IGS for \$124 per night. **You must call the hotel directly to make reserve a room at this price.**

Toad Valley Country Club is located at:

237 NE 80th St.
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

They recommend not to use Google or Mapquest. They are located approximately 5 miles east of the State Fairgrounds on University Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa. Toad Valley is 1/2 mile south of Southeast Polk High School.



IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Classes subject to change

Saturday, July 11 2015

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am—12:30 pm

Instructor—Theresa Liewer

Free

Revolutionary War Records

1:30 pm—3:30 pm

Instructors—Theresa Liewer and Jennifer Ewing

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

Saturday, August 1, 2015

Getting Started on Writing Your Family History

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Donna Anderson

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

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Probate Records

Lunch & Learn Noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Thursday, August 6, 2015

Beginning Genealogy

6:30 pm—8:30 pm

Instructor—Jennifer Barsetti

Free

Saturday, August 15, 2015

Federal Census

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

Members Only Sessions

Monday, July 13, 2015

6:30 pm

DNA Explained

With Bob Haskins

Monday, August 10, 2015

6:30 pm

Family Search—Beyond Searching

Round Table Discussion

Monday, September 21, 2015

6:30 pm

Widow Smith? Finding that elusive woman ancestor

Jennifer Ewing

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL

IGS has many member e-mails that are no longer active. Having your e-mail allows us to notify you quickly about special events or other happenings at IGS. It also ensures you get the e-news and newsletter as well as notification about the Hawkeye Heritage. Please send an e-mail to IGS at igs@iowagenealogy.org to give us your current e-mail. Be sure and give us your name too so we know whose e-mail it is.

If you don't have e-mail or just want a paper copy that's fine, you can still get it that way. But receiving it electronically helps us save our valuable resources—

Are you updating your financial plans and will?
Please consider including IGS as a beneficiary.

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**

July 2015

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.**