

MARCH 2015

Iowa Genealogical Society

I want to use my message today as a tribute and thank you to Margaret Foster. She has retired as our Monday library volunteer, coordinator of volunteers and IGS historian after more than 40 years. For many of you, Margaret was your point of reference for IGS. In 1977, she asked me if I would be willing to volunteer in the library and here we are today. Margaret was the first professional genealogist I had any contact with and she guided me, as well as many of you, through proper research. We will miss her on Mondays and all the other events she was part of. Thank you, Margaret. IGS would not be where it is today without you.

I also want to encourage you to check out all the IGS events coming up – open house, conference, classes, Members Only, Lives and Times. It's an exciting year at IGS. And for those of you in the Algona, Tama and Independence areas, I'll be seeing you within the next few weeks. Other volunteer teachers and speakers will be out and about too. Be sure to support your local genealogical societies.

Theresa Liewer, President



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

50/50 Campaign	2
Winning Love Story	3
Spring Conference	4
Library Insights	5
Open House/ Obituaries	6
GPS Step 3	7
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.

50/50 for 50 More Years

Sharing Family History for Fifty 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 State Historical Society of Iowa.

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.

Theresa Liewer, President

Jennifer Ewing, Executive Director

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

A Love Story from Your Tree—1st Place Winner Peggy Eichner

It was a bright October morning as Elbert Smith, better known as “Carver” stepped up into his buggy and headed south out of Booneville.

He was quite a handsome sight in his almost new suit. His curly black hair was freshly trimmed and the stubble of whiskers that he sometimes let grow for days had been shaved that very morning. You see this was his wedding day.

As he rode along at a slow trot, he let his mind drift back in time. He had known Bertha all her life, but now he had come to notice how attractive she was, and he admired her quiet and sensitive spirit.

For Christmas one year, he wanted to buy her something special. He paid the princely sum of seventy five cents for a plush green and gold photo album which he had inscribed “Miss Bertha; Album; Presented by Elbert Smith; December 25, 1905”. She blushed when he gave it to her and then a shy smile broke across her pretty face. She cherished that photo album and kept it all her life.

But then Miss Bessie came along and Carver fell head over heels in love with her, even gave her a ring. However, Miss Bessie was apparently out for a good time. She would write to him and cancel dates without giving a reason. After several such letters, she had aroused his ire, and mild mannered Carver dropped her like a hot potato.

Now his attention once again settled on Bertha. They had chosen Bertha’s 22nd birthday, October 16, 1907 for their marriage.

The old buggy rattled across the wagon bridge and started up the Sand Hill. There stretched out before him was a beautiful sight of red and golden trees. Leaves were starting to drop and did cartwheels across the road. Squirrels scampered here and there to bury their winter supply of nuts.

As he pulled up to the crude cabin, Bertha met him at the door. What a beautiful sight to behold was the tall slender girl with her dark wavy hair and wearing a white high collared blouse and dark skirt!

She said goodbye to her widowed mother and she and Carver headed back toward Booneville.

There they boarded at train, which belching out great puffs of steam, took them to Des Moines where a Justice of the Peace pronounced them man and wife. There would be no honeymoon.

Back at home there was little privacy for the newlyweds. Carver’s mother died when he was nine and he and his father had lived together through some very trying times. His father continued to live with them until his death in 1921.

I would be less than honest if I told you the road ahead was always smooth. Money was extremely scarce. Together they tended their huge garden which supplied most of their food. They scoured the woods surrounding their forty acre farm for mushroom and wild berries. The men hunted wild game, tapped maple trees making maple syrup and were always on the look out for a swarm of bees. There were good times and bad, days of joy and sadness, but that ceremony started a bond which would last sixty two years and produced five children, one having died at birth.

2015 IGS Spring Conference April 18, 2015

Bumps, Breakthroughs, and Detours: Family History Journeys

Featuring: Paula Stuart-Warren

Paula Stuart -Warren works full time in the area of genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting, and writing. She has been a Board-certified genealogist since 1988, passing the every-five-year renewal assessments by the national Board for Certification of Genealogists. She is a firm believer in continuing education in genealogy and strives to keep up-to-date by participating in national and local conferences and reading the publications of many genealogical and historical organizations and individuals both off and online. She completed the week-long U.S. National Institute of Genealogical Research held at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Her website is genealogybypaula.com.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

9 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. **Major Midwestern Archives & Their Records**

10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. **Controlling Chaos: Organizing Your Genealogical Materials**

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Lunch**

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. **Research Rewards in County Courthouses and Town Hall Records**

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Where are those Records They Told Me to Check?**

Spring Conference Registration

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 = _____

_____ I prefer a vegetarian lunch

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 _____

IGS LIBRARY INSIGHTS

Ancestry.com Library Edition is now available at IGS thanks to a generous donation. If you know of something that you would like to make happen, let Jennifer know so that we may work together to keep moving forward.



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.

Ancestry has discontinued the AARP discount. If you choose not to renew your personal Ancestry account, Ancestry Library edition is available to use at the IGS library.

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.

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.

IGS OPEN HOUSE

The IGS Open House will be held, Saturday, March 21, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit with historical, lineage and heritage societies, tour the library and receive volunteer research assistance. The State Historical Library will also be open and have presentations on what is available at their library and how to best access those records. Tours of the State Archives will be at 10:15 and 11:15. Join us for refreshments, research assistance, door prizes and fun!

We are looking for volunteers to help with the IGS Open House on March 21 and several events in April. Please contact Jennifer Ewing (execdir@iowagenealogy.org) for more information. This is a great way to “get your feet wet” as a volunteer at 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, March 9, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **Making and Using GEDCOMS**—Dennis Allen Moderator

Monday, April 13, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **An Evening at the Library**—Come learn what is new at the library and what resources others find helpful and why.

Monday, May 11, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **How We Got Here**—Ellis Island and New York were not the only ports of arrival.

CHALLENGES OF FINDING OBITUARIES by

Dale Gurwell

Finding an obituary can be very simple or very challenging. In general, Iowa obituaries can be found at the State Historical Society Library (SHSL). They are a public library and have hundreds of Iowa newspapers on microfilm from Iowa going back in some cases to the civil war.

Many obituaries for people who died in the Des Moines central Iowa area have been indexed by the Des Moines library and that gives us the date and page number which makes it easy to find the correct roll of microfilm at the SHSL.

Where the deceased was living will have a big influence on whether a not an obit can be found. Iowa has 99 counties and if someone was living in a very rural place, notice of his death may never be found because there is no local paper. Usually the county seat has a paper but may not cover events 20 miles away particularly in the 19th century.

The frequency of the paper is a huge variable. Some rural papers are weekly and you will need to look through 3 or 4 papers. A daily paper increases the number of papers that have to be reviewed. If the town had more than one paper that increases the time for the search. In the early 1900s Des Moines had 5 daily newspapers which are not indexed.

Blake Bell, Historian at the National Homestead Monument will speak about Homestead Records on Saturday, April 11, 2015 @ 1 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

Genealogical Proof Standard: Step 3—Evaluation, Analysis & Correlation—by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

Step 3 of the GPS cycle requires thorough analysis and correlation of information. Understanding some basic terminology is necessary to effectively evaluate your research findings.

Resources

Part of developing your research plan included locating resources where you might conduct your search. Resources are places or media that house sources. Resources include libraries, repositories, courthouses, microfilm, the Internet.

Sources

Sources are the “containers” for the information you are seeking. Your task is to identify the most-likely sources for the information you need, then locate the best possible resources for accessing those sources.

Two broad categories of sources exist:

Records note, describe or document an action or event. Examples: marriage records, land deeds, military records, gravestones.

Authored works are created by someone who draws on multiple sources and presents his own conclusions. Examples: biographies, histories, blogs, etc.

An original source contributes written, oral or visual information not derived from a prior record. Usually (but not always) these are created close to the time of the event. Examples: death certificates, wills, land deeds.

A derivative source contributes information that was copied, abstracted or extracted from an original, previously existing source. These sources should be considered finding aids that lead to the original source. Examples are databases and indexes.

Information

Sources contain information. Information is all the different pieces of data the source provides. Not all of that information may be relevant to answering your research question.

Primary information, usually created close to the time of the event, comes from someone with first-hand knowledge. Generally considered more reliable, it still may be inaccurate. Example: a marriage record, created at the time, is primary information for the names of the couple and their marriage date.

Secondary information is usually created after the fact, by an informant with no first-hand knowledge of the event. Example: a death record may provide the birthdate of the deceased, but the informant may not have been present (or even alive!) at the time of the birth, so would have only second-hand knowledge of the event.

Indeterminable information is just that—you can't tell whether the information is primary or secondary. Example: with the exception of 1940, census records do not specify the informant for data provided to the enumerator. It could be a family member, landlord, or neighbor. Quality of this information cannot be reliably determined.

Evidence

Evidence is comprised of the relevant pieces of data that gleaned from the information contained in the source.

Direct evidence answers your question outright, with no additional evidence needed to support a conclusion. Direct evidence may or may not be correct. Example: A gravestone may directly state a birth date and death date for the deceased. But we know sometimes gravestones are wrong!

Indirect evidence provides clues to answering your question, but more evidence is needed to support a conclusion. Example: no record states the relationship of your ancestor to his parents. But if you can find evidence to support his relationship to his siblings, and then find evidence to connect the siblings to the parents, you can build a case that your ancestor shared those same parents.

Negative evidence occurs when the source does not provide any evidence to answer your question. Negative evidence can be important, too. Example: Your ancestor is found in tax records for 1857 but not for 1858. Why not? The negative evidence may suggest a migration or death, and certainly indicates more research is needed.

Conclusion

Understanding resources, sources, information and evidence provides a solid foundation for the research process. In the next newsletter, we'll examine issues of quality, reliability and accuracy as we explore analysis & correlation of research findings.



IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Saturday March 14, 2015

Basic Irish Research

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Using Irish Websites

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Wednesday March 18, 2015

Kentucky Vital Records

Lunch & Learn Noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Dennis Allen

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

Wednesday March 25, 2015

Beginning Genealogy 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer FREE

Wednesday April 8, 2015

New York Vital Records

Lunch & Learn Noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Linda Greethurst

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

Saturday April 11, 2015

Using Excel for Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Dennis Allen

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

Saturday April 11, 2105

Homestead Records

1—3 pm

Blake Bell, Historian National Homestead

Monument

Free

Thursday April 23, 2015

Civil War Records

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor—Theresa Liewer

Saturday April 25, 2015

Orphan Trains

1:30 pm—3:30 pm

Millie Frese

Donations Accepted

Members ONLY Classes

Classes are available to IGS members only and there is no fee. If you are not a member and wish to attend you can become a member of IGS before the class. All classes start at 6:30 p.m.

Monday March 9, 2015

Making and Using GEDCOMS

Moderator - Dennis Allen

Monday, April 12, 2015

Evening at the Library

Roundtable Discussion

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**

March 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.