

MAY 2015

Iowa Genealogical Society

It was really a good thing that we had new-to-us padded chairs for the Spring Conference because it was a full house. Paula Stuart-Warren shared her wealth of knowledge and everyone had a great time. The chairs were made possible by a very generous donation and the conference would have never happened without all of the great volunteers.

The winning Mother's Story is on page 4. The rest of the stories are available on our website. I know you all have at least one father in your tree that was a character or a scalawag. Don't miss the deadline for the Father's Story, May 15th.

Plans are being made for our 2015 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting (save the dates, Oct. 9 & 10) at Toad Valley Country Club in Pleasant Hill, Iowa. Our speaker will be John Philip Colletta, author of *They Came in Ships*, 3rd ed., *Only a Few Bones*, and *Finding Italian Roots*, 2nd ed. To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, there will be a banquet on Friday night. Details are still being worked out but if you would like to volunteer to help plan this event, contact me. (execdir@iowagenealogy.org)

The internship program at IGS has grown exponentially. Last summer, we had one. Last semester, we had 2. This semester, we have had five! They are amazing people and have done a lot of hard work in the library. Including loading and moving the new-to us padded chairs for the west wing.

Our next event is "Nancy Drew—Iowa's Heroine to the World" presented by Barbara Lounsberry and made possible by a grant from Humanities Iowa. Join us on Sunday, May 31, 2015 at 1 p.m. There will be an ice cream social following the presentation.

Now that it looks like the weather is cooperating, safe travels as you visit courthouses, repositories and cemeteries. Stop in to IGS and find out what is new in our collection. You might just find that one piece of information that will bust that brick wall.

Jennifer Ewing
Executive Director



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cemetery Safety	2
Winning Mother's Story	3
Library Insights	5
Library/Nancy Drew	6
GPS Step 3-Part 2	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.

Cemetery Safety 101

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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IGS Newsletter

Jennifer Ewing

Cemeteries are a place for retreat and grieving of those who have lost loved ones or a source of genealogical exploration for those tracking their family history. However, cemeteries don't come without lack of hazards and safety concerns. Reports of deaths caused from crumbling headstones and fallen memorials bring a different level of concern to discovering cemeteries.

To ensure you arrive alive and leave the same, try some basic advice in a guide to cemetery safety. First, before you ever step foot in a cemetery consider the type of shoe you will choose to explore. Different shoes may be more appropriate based on climate, the terrain, and the condition of the cemetery. Athletic all-purpose tennis shoes are always a good choice, with low-heeled work boots as another alternative in winter weather.

While strolling through a cemetery always remain aware of your surroundings. Many cemeteries are still operational and funerals could be taking place any day. Be aware of open graves or uneven ground caused by fresh burials or uprooted trees. If you are gravestone close to dusk consider bringing a flashlight to ensure you do not trip over smaller memorials, tree limbs, or even headstone décor. Older headstones could be prone to crumbling and unstable on the ever changing terrain. It is never safe to climb, lean on, or lie beside monuments. Even the smaller stones are still extremely heavy and could cause serious injury if they were to fall.

Be respectful toward cemetery management. If you are visiting an older cemetery, it is not uncommon to find these smaller cemeteries located on private property. It is important to get permission and not trespass on the owner's land in order to explore the cemetery. Many times these cemeteries began as family graveyards. Also, be mindful of all public cemeteries visiting hours to ensure you do not stay long after hours.

Environmental concerns should also be measured when it comes to cemetery safety. Many cemeteries come with an abundance of trees, shrubs, and fresh open grassed land for different critters to inhabit. It's a good idea to understand the type of animals you may come across while walking through the grassier areas of cemeteries. Being knowledgeable of snakes and reptiles in the area or territorial birds that could be living within the cemetery will be helpful in ensuring your safety and the animal's safety. This concern also stretches out to concerns on harmful or poisonous insects or plants. Watch out for Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Stinging Nettles and Wild Parsnip.

Above all always be mindful and attentive when exploring cemeteries to ensure your visit is peaceful and safe!

Emily Klookwyk
IGS Intern

A Mother in Your Tree—Winning Story by Bob McGinnis

Today we expect people to do everything. But three generations ago, women were to be housewives. Period. But my mother not only was a devoted wife and full-time homemaker, she did it all.

She was a pediatric specialist, loving caregiver, a gainful gardener, poultry keeper, skillful butcher, master chef, talented tailor, and an independent and resourceful “Jill-of-all-trades.” She was truly amazing!

Dorothea Mae Swisher was born July 29, 1911, on her grandma and grandpa’s farm near Providence, Illinois. A month after she was born, her dad Jacob and mother Nora moved to Corning, Iowa. He was the schoolmaster. In following years, they lived in North Liberty, Iowa City, Grinnell, Webb, and Lynn Grove where they lived above the schoolhouse. Six brothers and sisters were born during this period. As the eldest, my mother helped take care of them all. Her exceptional nurturing remained a primary characteristic throughout her life.

When she graduated from Iowa City High School in 1929, her yearbook described her as “a maid with quiet disposition”—another of her main traits. She worked at the State University of Iowa Library and graduated with a B.S. degree. In 1934 she married my father. The next year, shortly after my sister was born, they moved to Ridgway, Pennsylvania. There Dad worked as an electrical engineer. Four years later, they settled in Kansas City where I was born.

Dad had gone through ROTC and was a U.S. Army officer when World War II broke out. He was stationed at various posts throughout the country. For a couple of years, my mother, sister, and I moved with him to Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Colorado, and Washington. Then Dad received orders to report far out on Alaska’s Aleutian Island chain. Mom and we children went back to Kansas City. Mother carried the responsibilities of parenting, home repairs, and all else, showing her strong, independent spirit. This served her well in the coming years as Dad traveled constantly with his job.

After the war, our family again returned to Pennsylvania. In addition to being a full-time mom, she was a skilled seamstress, making clothes for my sister and me. She tended a one-acre garden, canning and freezing mountains of produce. Every year she raised over two hundred chickens, maintaining an egg-delivery route, butchering and selling fryers to earn extra family income. She was an incredibly hard worker.

During the 1950s, she gave inspiring leadership as a Cub Scout den mother, and in the P.T.A. She was actively involved in United Methodist Women, the American Association of University Women, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. In fact, she was a past regent and fifty-year member of the D.A.R.

Mother was a superb cook. She was a gracious hostess as she often prepared meals for and entertained scores of businessmen Dad brought home from the company, as well as other guests. After my sister and I left for college, Mother continued as major helpmate to my dad in his career and frequently was able to travel with him. Through the years, she welcomed eight grandchildren and then another generation with seven great-grandchildren.

As my parents worked together completing plans for their retirement home on the Lake of the Ozarks, Dad was diagnosed with cancer. She cared for him through his final days. After he died, again Mother’s autonomous and most capable abilities served her well through the next thirty years as a widow. She remained in that special lake home for seven years before relocating to Florida. There she made new friends and enjoyed treating visiting family. She knitted, crocheted, did other needle work, and enjoyed playing the organ. Mother became a skilled ceramic crafter, played bridge frequently and took trips to Hawaii, Alaska, and other places.

A Mother in Your Tree—Winning Story by Bob McGinnis (cont.)

In her later retirement years, Mom came to Texas to be near my wife and me. She was blessed to have ninety wonderful years on earth and was a blessing to all whose lives she touched and helped mold. Even in her final years in the retirement complex, all remarked about her cheery disposition and constant bright, shining smile. As an anonymous author penned:

“It was only a sunny smile,
And little it cost in the giving.
But like morning light,
It scattered the night
And made the day worth living.”



Special Thanks to our Judges:

Kevin Spire

Steve Griffith

Lisa Bluder

Congratulations to:

Bob McGinnis 1st Place

Peggy Eichner 2nd Place

Marilyn Peterson 3rd Place

You can read all the stories online at
www.iowagenealogy.org.

Since you can only win twice in the year, Bob McGinnis (who won 2nd in the Love Story Contest) and Peggy Eichner (who won first in the Love Story contest) can't win again. But it doesn't mean that they can't submit stories to share! The next deadline for the Father's Day story is May 15. Honor those fathers in your tree by submitting a story!

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.

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.

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

Benefits of Membership

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

- 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.

Everywhere an Intern(s)

We have had five awesome interns for this semester who have worked so hard for IGS. A big thank you to Ryan Willoughby, Emilie Olson, Emily Klootwyk, Brooksany Jobes, and Jeanette Stonebraker. Several plan to continue to volunteer with IGS after the term is over.

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, May 11, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **How We Got Here**—Ellis Island and New York were not the only ports of arrival. Learning about other ports of entry might help you break down that brick wall.

Monday, June 8, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m. **Road Trip Experiences**—Come share your road trip experiences, trips, tricks and total fails in a roundtable discussion.

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.

Celebrate Nancy Drew's Birthday, May 31, 2015 @ 1 p.m. @ the IGS Library

Barb Lounsberry from UNI will present "**Nancy Drew: Iowa's Heroine to the World**"

Nancy Drew is the most popular female detective in fiction. Few know, however, that Nancy is an Iowa heroine and that her creator was Mildred Augustine of Ladora. Because of this secrecy and neglect, 85th and 110th birthday parties for Nancy and her creator are in order throughout 2015. Nancy Drew and Mildred Augustine are extraordinary role models for Iowa girls and boys, women and men. An academic pioneer (the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Iowa's School of Journalism), Augustine earned 6 airplane pilots' licenses, including one for seaplaning; wrote 130 stories for young people; and continued her newspaper column "On the Go" through her 98th and last year of her life. Augustine wrote in the first Nancy Drew volume, *The Secret of the Old Clock* published in 1930, "Nancy Drew took pride in the fertility of her state and saw beauty in a crop of waving green corn as well as in the rolling hills and the expanse of prairie land." Celebrate the 85th anniversary of the first Nancy Drew mystery and Mildred Augustine's birth with Barbara Lounsberry's multi-media presentation.

And it is not a birthday without ice cream! Join us following the presentation for an ice cream social.

This program is free and open to the public. It is made possible by a grant from Humanities Iowa.

Genealogical Proof Standard: Step 3—Evaluation, Analysis & Correlation, Part 2—by Alice Hoyt

Our March article explored basics of source analysis by defining the differences between resources, sources, information and evidence. Now let's analyze those sources in the context of their value and reliability for answering research questions.

We access many sources in our quest for information that produces evidence. Good news: any source can be right! Bad news: any source can be wrong! Confusing news: some sources can be both right and wrong!

How can this be? Let's work through an example step-by-step with this death certificate for Martha Lydia Wilson. [1]

Step 1. Type of source: original or derivative?

This is an image of an **original** government record. The information does not appear to have been copied or abstracted from an earlier document. An original source, created close to the time of the event, is usually preferable to a derivative which may be subject to error during the transcription or abstracting process.

FORM V. S. No. 5-25 M. 1-19. State of Idaho
BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Ada Registration District No. 2
 County of Boise City Registration District No. 1004 File No. 47176
 City of Boise No. 1122 Washington St. Registered No. 241

2. FULL NAME: Martha Lydia Wilson

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3. SEX: <u>M</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE: <u>White</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED: <u>Widow</u>	16. DATE OF DEATH: <u>10</u> / <u>14</u> / <u>1924</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)		
6. DATE OF BIRTH: <u>Nov. 18-1832</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)			17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>10/10</u> 19 <u>24</u> to <u>10/14</u> 19 <u>24</u> that I last saw h. <u>ex</u> alive on <u>10/13</u> 19 <u>24</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above, at <u>M.</u> The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Spontaneous Myocardial Infarction</u> (Duration) <u>1</u> Yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> da. Contributory (Secondary) <u>Senility</u> (Duration) <u>17</u> Yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> da. (Signed) <u>Stuart G. Peterson, D.</u> <u>10/14 1924</u> (Address) <u>Boise, Id.</u>		
7. AGE: <u>91</u> Yrs. <u>10</u> Mos. <u>26</u> da. IF LESS than 1 day how many hrs. or min.?			18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents.) At place of death <u>7</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> days. In the State <u>7</u> yrs. <u>0</u> mos. <u>0</u> days. Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? Former or usual residence		
8. OCCUPATION: (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work: <u>At Home</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer):			19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: <u>Emmett Idaho</u> DATE OF BURIAL: <u>Oct 15 1924</u>		
9. BIRTHPLACE: <u>Ohio</u>			20. UNDERTAKER: <u>Summers & Krebs</u> ADDRESS: <u>Boise, Idaho</u>		
10. NAME OF FATHER: <u>Jessiah Martin</u>					
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER: <u>Pennsylvania</u>					
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: <u>Susannah Love</u>					
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER: <u>Virginia</u>					
14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Chas. E. Summers</u> (Address) <u>906 Barnhart St. Boise</u>					
15. Filed <u>Oct 14 1924</u> <u>P. H. Pratt</u> Local Registrar					

*State the Disease Causing Death; or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

Genealogical Proof Standard: Step 3—by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG (cont.)

Step 2. Type of information: primary, secondary or indeterminable?

This is not so clear-cut, and here's where careful analysis is necessary. Notice the differences in handwriting on this document—two individuals contributed information.

The "Medical Certificate of Death" (right side) states Martha's death, 14 October 1924, and includes the cause. This was provided by the attending physician on the same date. Is he a reliable informant? Yes—and he wasted no time in reporting, which mitigates the chance for error. The date and cause of death are **primary** information.

What about the information at the top of the certificate, and the "Personal and Statistical Particulars" on the left? Here's a gold mine of genealogical data: Martha's full name, her residence and place of death, marital status, birth date, age at time of death, father's name and birthplace, and mother's maiden name and birthplace.

But wait—who provided all this wonderful "gold"? The informant is listed on line 14: Clyde E. Summers. Who?? I don't remember any Clyde Summers on my family tree. Look at the burial information on the right at the bottom. Line 19 provides the date and place of burial; line 20 identifies the undertaker: *Summers & Krebs*. Further investigation confirms the informant for all this marvelous family treasure is the undertaker, not a family member. Worthless? Not at all. But the genealogical data for Martha and her parents must be considered **secondary**—second-hand information, and as such, less reliable. We will be wise to seek corroboration from other records.

The undertaker would be in a good position to report on the burial date/location—this would qualify as **primary** information.

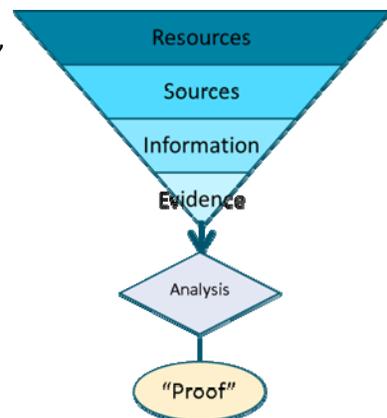
Step 3. The Evidence: Direct, indirect or negative?

This death certificate provides lots of **direct evidence**: clear answers for Martha's birth/death/burial and for her parents and their origins. But now we know that the *quality* of this evidence is mixed. We can have confidence in the physician's report, and the undertaker's burial information. But the personal data is questionable. There's more work to do before we can accept this evidence as "proof."

Conclusion

Never accept any source at face value. Careful analysis should address questions of reliability and accuracy for every piece of evidence a source provides.

"Idaho, Death Certificates, 1911–1937," digital images, *FamilySearch*, (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 8 May 2012), entry for Martha Lydia Wilson (1924); citing Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Boise, file no. 47176, register no. 241; FHL microfilm 1,530,842.



IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday May 27, 2015

Newspapers in Genealogical Research

Lunch & Learn Noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Mary Lohr

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

Saturday May 30, 2015

Documentation & Source Citation

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Veen, CG

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

Wednesday June 10, 2015

Using Facebook for Genealogy

Lunch & Learn Noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Mary Lohr

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

Saturday June 13, 2015

Mind Mapping for Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Sheri Snodgrass

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

Saturday June 20, 2015

Beginning Genealogy

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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

*****Classes subject to change*****

Interested in teaching a class? We are looking for instructors. Contact Theresa Liewer at tliewer@aol.com if you are interested.

IGS is again offering the Genealogical Proof Standard class series. You must complete the Source Citation class on Saturday, May 30, 2015 before you can sign up for this series of classes.

What is GPS? The GPS is a TOOL, comprised of fundamentally sound research STANDARDS, that can be applied to any genealogical question. The application PROCESS involves five basic STEPS. Completion of those five steps helps you reach a well-reasoned CONCLUSION about your research question.

The 5 part GPS series is comprised of one 2-hour class per month beginning in June and running through October 2015. Sessions meet on Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., IGS meeting room.

June 20: Introduction to the GPS-Constructing a Research Plan

July 18: Analysis & Correlation

August 15: Resolution of Conflicting Evidence

September 19: Writing a Well-reasoned Conclusion

October 17: Final Class wrap-up and sharing

Preregistration for Source Citation and the GPS class series is required. Contact IGS (igs@iowagenealogy.org) for further information.

You must complete the Source Citation class on Saturday, May 30, 2015 before you can sign up for this series of classes.

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**

May 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.