

NOVEMBER 2015

# Iowa Genealogical Society

October was busy, which you would expect during Family History Month. In addition to our normal classes and events, we had a very successful conference, received a signed proclamation from the governor (and had a picture taken with him), and started off November with a great program on the Orphan trains. Whew! And the Education Committee has just finalized the schedule for the first part of 2016 with outstanding classes.

I want to thank the board members who finished their terms and did not stand for re-election – Rich Wolfe, Tom Newell and Pat Shaw. They did yeoman service for two years. I want to welcome the new board members – Kevin Spire as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Carol Bowers as Treasurer, Deborah Barker and David Lamb as regional representatives. I also want to thank the regional representatives who agreed to stand for re-election – Pat Border, Ron Gruber, Virgil Carstens and Donna Kelly. In addition, Tasha Jackson and Linda Marek have agreed to be appointed to fill the open positions of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Region 16 Representative, respectively. It's going to be an exciting start to our second 50 years.

As I've said in the past, I enjoy the opportunity to come and talk with local societies. Recently I've given programs in Warren and Madison County as well as at the Waterloo, Johnston and Clive Public Libraries. I've already agreed to teach next spring at the Genealogy Plus series that the Story County Genealogical Society and the Ames Public Library are sponsoring. If I can come see your group, let me know. We have other volunteers who can teach as well. Programs are the lifeblood of local societies.

On a personal note, I had my autosomal DNA tested recently and I've already pushed over two brick walls. DNA is no substitute for basic research but add it in and you can make some amazing progress.

Theresa Liewer  
IGS President



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## **IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

628 E Grand Ave  
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

**Phone:** (515) 276-0287

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[igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)

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

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/  
IowaGenSoc](http://www.facebook.com/IowaGenSoc)

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday & Saturday  
10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m. — 9 p.m.

## Gary Davis Heritage and Legacy Library.

### IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**President**

Theresa Liewer

**1st Vice President**

Kevin Spire

**2nd Vice President**

Tasha Jackson

**Secretary**

Marieta Grissom

**Treasurer**

Carol Bowers

### IGS STAFF

---

**Administrative Assistant**

Debi Iseminger Chase

**Assistant Librarians**

Susan Claman

Judy McClain

**Executive Director**

Jennifer Ewing

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### IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

***Hawkeye Heritage***

Susan Claman

***IGS Newsletter***

[Jennifer Ewing](#)

I visited Hamilton's Funeral Home, (605 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA), and met the staff for the Gary Davis Heritage and Legacy Library. This library has been made available for genealogical research on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

There are however, some caveats:

1) Call ahead, 515-243-5221, to confirm the library is available as it's used occasionally as a funeral overflow area.

2) There are NO options for photo copying the books as there are VERY fragile; however, you are welcome to take pictures with your camera/phone.

Also the funeral home has a printed form available for your use if you just wish to transcribe the information.

3) The first set of books is funeral home records for all funerals conducted by Hamilton's Funeral Home. These records start with 1913, and one earlier book that is in closed stacks. Records from 1987 and before have to be requested as they're stored in another area. There may be multiple books for a designated year, however, the indexes for the specific year is in the first book in a semi-alphabetical format with a reference page number for your chosen document.

4) The second set of books is three ring binders and contains obituary copies from the Des Moines Register. These start with 1957 to current date. If not found, ask the staff for assistance.

This room has several tables and chairs in a very workable space. There are many historical pictures of this business that make for interesting viewing. Happy Research!!

Helen Phillips

IGS Library Volunteer

Have you recently visited a local repository or library? We would love to have your thoughts. Please submit a short description of your visit and things that we would need to know before traveling to the spot, to Jennifer, [execdir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:execdir@iowagenealogy.org).

## ***The Log Book by Kathy Gourley***

### ***1st place in the IGS Soldier's Story Contest***

At 22, you suddenly find your freedom taken away. How do you cope? You resolve to keep your mind active. You use your skills and develop new ones, you capitalize on what little resources are available. You stay busy, you stay hopeful, and you stay true to the job you were sent to do: to serve your country. That is how my Uncle Ted survived 22 months in a German P.O.W. camp during World War II. Ted was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force, serving as Navigator on a B-17 bomber when his plane was shot down over Germany on July 26th, 1943. There were ten crew members on board; one died in the crash, the other nine were taken prisoner.

Ted enlisted as an Air Cadet in September 1941. Upon earning his wings at the Army Air Force Navigation School in Hondo, Texas, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to a regular Army Air Force unit.

He was on his third bombing mission when his plane was shot down. Ted was captured, interrogated, and taken to Stalag Luft III, the prisoner of war camp at Sagan, Germany (now Zagan, Poland).

Life as a P.O.W. could be described as barren. Bereft of meaningful opportunities for engagement, Ted knew if he was going to make it through prison camp, he had to keep his mind sharp. He did so by assigning himself various tasks and mental puzzles. He decided, for example, to calculate the value of 99 to the 99<sup>th</sup> power. With pencil and paper, he worked on this problem daily and at the end of four months, he had the answer.

With art supplies provided by the American Red Cross, he produced a watercolor plan of the South Camp (where the Americans were held), sketched the interior of his barracks, drew cartoons, and copied a propaganda pamphlet the Germans had posted at the camp. He participated in the prisoners' band—*The Luft Bandsters*—and made a chart showing the makeup of the band. Each band member signed the chart, noting his hometown and the instrument he played.

He graphed his morale through 1944 and 1945, depicting with a chart his days of good humor and deep despair.

These items and others are included in the log book he created while in P.O.W. camp. He gives his reason for writing:

THIS BOOK IS AN EFFORT ON  
MY PART TO PORTRAY SOME  
OF THE MORE PLEASANT ASPECTS  
OF MY VACATION AT STALAG LUFT  
III, SAGAN, GERMANY.

## *The Log Book by Kathy Gourley*

### *1st place in the IGS Soldier's Story Contest (cont.)*

The book's cover is wood that Ted salvaged from a Red Cross carton. He carved hinges along the front cover, allowing the book to open flat, and then bound the pages in place with a leather lace. He created a wood inlay on the cover: a border and within it, the words "MEMOS OF A P.O.W." and a pilot's wing insignia. The insignia is composed of a missing part of a wing (representing the plane crash), held down with a ball and chain. The ball has a swastika on it.

The worst part of his incarceration came in January and February 1945. The Germans feared the Russians were nearing P.O.W. camps and would free the prisoners. Late on January 27, 1945, the prisoners at Stalag III were ordered to march to another camp, Stalag VII A at Moosburg, Germany. About 10,000 prisoners began this long trek at midnight, during a blizzard. After marching for more than 24 hours, the prisoners sheltered in the ruins of a glass factory. It was bitterly cold and they started a fire to keep warm, using any available fuel they could find. Ted thought about tossing his log book onto the fire, but knew he might need it to survive the coming weeks, months, or years. The prisoners stayed at the factory about 30 hours, then marched another 15 miles where they were herded into crowded train box-cars and sent on to Moosburg.

Life there was horrific because of overcrowding. Built for about 10,000 people, the facility housed more than 110,000 individuals by the time U.S. troops arrived to free the prisoners on April 29, 1945. One of the prisoners liberated was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant named Ted, with a log book in his pack.

#### **Holiday Hours**

The State Historical Society of Iowa has announced special holiday hours in Des Moines and Iowa City. These changes are for these weeks ONLY. Questions? Call 515-281-5111.

**Thanksgiving Week:** Open Monday, 11/23, Tuesday, 11/24 and Wednesday, 11/25 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Sunday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**Christmas Week:** Open Tuesday, 12/22, Wednesday, 12/23, and Thursday, 12/24 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday.

**New Years Week:** Open Tuesday, 12/29, Wednesday, 12/30, and Thursday, 12/31 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, Friday and Saturday.

IGS will be closed, Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, 11/26 but will be open regular hours Friday and Saturday. We will be closing at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, 12/24, and will remain closed until Saturday, 1/2/2016. The library will be open for Members Only on New Years Day, 1/1/2016 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



The IGS Library will be open for Members Only, New Years Day, Friday, January 1, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a snack to share and settle in

for a relaxing afternoon to research and network with fellow members.

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.

Upcoming Members Only Sessions:

Mon. 11/9 6:30 p.m. Find My Past

Mon. 12/14 6:30 p.m. Resolutions for 2016-Do Overs, Research Plans and Brick Wall Busting.

Mon. 1/11 6:30 p.m. Source Citation



#### 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.

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

Don't miss out on important communication from IGS.

**Did you know that IGS is now an LDS Affiliated Library? You can order microfilm rolls from [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and have them 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.**

**If you are a member of IGS, you can receive a discount to "FindMyPast". Contact the [IGS office](#) to find out how.**

Would you like to volunteer for IGS? We have several opportunities for you to work from home doing data entry. Contact Jennifer at [exedir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:exedir@iowagenealogy.org).

You've asked a focused question, conducted a "reasonably exhaustive search," analyzed, correlated and resolved all the evidence. Now share what you know! At its most basic, a written genealogical conclusion is simply a statement of fact connected to its source by way of a source citation.

**Example:** Emma Blanche Martin was the daughter of William Henry Martin and Mary Elizabeth Turner

Rarely are genealogical conclusions without a few complications, however, and sometimes a bit of explanation is called for. A brief paragraph, or summary, of the evidence may be sufficient to explain a conclusion reached through evidence from more than one source.

**Example:** Emma Blanche Martin's birthdate predates state-level vital records. She is, however, identified in William Henry Martin's obituary as his daughter with Mary E. Turner, and is also identified as William's daughter in the 1880 census. Emma's 1893 marriage record confirms the relationship, stating her parents were "Wm. Martin and Mary Turner."

### Proof Summary

When direct evidence must be combined with indirect evidence to reach a solution, a "proof summary" provides a clear explanation. Proof summaries include four components:

1. State the problem to be resolved
2. List specific, relevant evidence
3. State your conclusion
4. Include source citations

Work through the process step by step before writing your solution in paragraph form. Let's try an example.

#### State the problem to be resolved.

Who were the parents of William Henry Martin of Jefferson County, Iowa, born 24 April 1843 in Ohio; died 9 June 1917 in Van Buren County, Iowa? William's birth predates Ohio vital records.

**List specific, relevant evidence.** Tie each piece of evidence to its source.

William's obituary states he was born in Fayette Co., Ohio

William's obituary names siblings: Cyrus, George, Harriet, Jane, Sarah, Mary  
1900 census names Nancy Martin as William's widowed mother in his household

1901 Nancy Kneeder obituary states her husband was John Martin

1841 Fayette Co., Ohio, Marriages Records verify the union of Nancy Kleadler [*sic*] and John Martin

1850 Clinton Co., Ohio, census enumerates William Martin in John Martin's household. Minors include George & Harriet

1856 Wapello Co., Iowa, census enumerates William in John Martin's household. Minors include George, Harriet, Jane & Mary

William Martin is named as co-executor of John Martin's will

"W.H. Martin" is identified as John's son in John's probated estate

## Genealogical Proof Standard: Writing Your Conclusions *by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG (cont.)*

**List specific, relevant evidence.** Tie each piece of evidence to its source.

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**State your conclusion.**

William Martin was the son of Nancy Kneeder and John Martin.

**Source notes included as footnotes or endnotes.**

Listing the evidence point-by-point makes it easier to organize sentences and paragraphs into a concise proof summary.

**Proof Argument**

If your conclusions have been wrestled from conflicting evidence, or a combination of conflicting, indirect and/or negative evidence, you'll need to explain your reasoning in greater detail and persuasively "make your case" with what's known as a "proof argument." This type of complex case can still be deconstructed into manageable steps.

- State the problem to be resolved.

- Identify the conflicting evidence

- Discuss the evidence supporting each side of the conflict

- Use charts, tables, maps, figures—any visual aids to explaining the case

- Demonstrate why/how the conflict has been resolved

- State your conclusions

- Include source citations

Sound complicated and confusing? You'll find excellent examples of well-written proof arguments in any issue of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, NGS's scholarly publication. Study these for inspiration & ideas. Try writing simple types of "proofs" first then practice constructing more complex solutions. With practice, experience and good organization, anyone can present genealogical conclusions clearly and concisely.

## Genealogical Proof Standard: Writing Your Conclusions *by Alice Hoyt Veen, CG (cont.)*

Van Buren Co., Iowa, Marriage Register, 1:138, no. 1767, Dooley-Martin (1893); Clerk of Court's Office, Keosauqua; FHL microfilm 967,645 item 1.

*Acts and Resolutions Passed At the Regular Session of the Eighteenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa: Begun January 12, and Ended March 27, 1880* (Des Moines: F.M. Mills, State Printer, 1880), pp. 142–7, chap. 151, “An Act to Establish a State Board of Health in the State of Iowa, to Provide for Collecting Vital Statistics, and to Assign Certain Duties to Local Boards of Health, and to Punish Neglect of Duties.”

“Death of William Henry Martin,” obituary, *Birmingham (Iowa) Enterprise*, 14 June 1917, p. 1, col. 4; SHSI microfilm 57-K.

1880 U.S. census, Jefferson Co., Iowa, population schedule, Des Moines Township, ED 83, p. 440A, dwelling 145, family 153, line 9, Emma Martin in William Martin household; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 347.

Van Buren Co., Iowa, Marriage Register, 1:138.

“Death of William Henry Martin,” *Birmingham (Iowa) Enterprise*, 14 June 1917.

Ibid.

1900 U.S. census, Van Buren County, Iowa, population schedule, Lick Creek Township, Enumeration District (ED) 99, page 9B, dwelling 183, family 183, William Martin; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 462.

Nancy Kneeder Martin obituary, *Birmingham (Iowa) Enterprise*, 14 November 1904, page 3, column 8; SHSI microfilm 949-J.

Fayette Co., Ohio, Marriage Records, B:184, no. 1684, Martin-Kleider (1841); FHL microfilm 292,630.

1850 U.S. census, Clinton County, Ohio, population schedule, Richland Township, page 335B, dwelling 252, family 252, John Martin; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 668.

1856 Iowa state census, Wapello County, population schedule, Washington Township, page 529, dwelling 36, family 36, John Martin; State Historical Society, Des Moines; SHSI microfilm roll 67.

Van Buren County, Iowa, Will Record, D:127, John H. Martin, 1888; FHL microfilm 967,632, item 2.

Van Buren Co., Iowa, Probate case files, no. 1843, John H. Martin; Clerk of Court's Office, Keosauqua.

“Mrs. Harriet Stump,” obituary, *Birmingham (Iowa) Enterprise*, 2 August 1934, p. 1, col. 5; SHSI microfilm 28. “Mrs. Sarah Reneker,” obituary, *Record-Republican*, Bonaparte, Iowa, 13 January 1949, p. 1, col. 6; SHSI microfilm 123-D.

Alice Hoyt Veen will be teaching two series of classes; one on land records and one on Iowa. These classes will start on Saturday, January 16. You do not need to attend the entire series of classes to participate. Check the class schedule on page 9 to see what is being offered.

## IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**

**Genealogy and the Law**

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**

**Beginning Swedish Research**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Donna Anderson

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

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

**Illinois Vital Records**

Noon to 1 p.m.

Lunch and Learn—bring your lunch!

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

**Beginning Genealogy**

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

Free

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

**Beginning Internet Genealogy**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

\*\*\*All Classes are subject to change

**Saturday, January 9, 2016**

**Beginning Genealogy**

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Donna Anderson

FREE

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**

**Basics of Land Records Research: On Solid Ground**

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen

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

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**

**Between Two Rivers: Territorial Iowa to Statehood**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen

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

**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](mailto: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—money, paper, ink and volunteer hours!

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](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**

**November 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  
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[igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)

**NOTE: Please check  
the mailing label for  
your membership  
expiration date.**