

SEPTEMBER 2015

# Iowa Genealogical Society

September 2015

Fall is always a busy time at IGS. Our Fall Conference registration is well underway. John Philip Colletta is our keynote speaker on October 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> at Toad Valley Country Club in Pleasant Hill. Due to limited seating, please get your registration in as soon as possible. On Friday evening, Oct. 9, we hope that you will join us for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. Reservation requests are on the registration form for the Fall Conference. (pg. 8)

Between our regular class offerings and the Fall Conference, we have two additional opportunities. We will be hosting a presentation on Orphan Trains with Colleen Bradford-Krantz on Sunday, November 1 @ 1:30 p.m. Colleen Bradford-Krantz is an independent journalist, author and documentary filmmaker. Most recently, she directed, co-produced and co-wrote the award-winning documentary, West by Orphan Train, which was released late in 2014 and first broadcast on Iowa Public Television. This program is free and open to the public.

The second opportunity is Swedish Day on Nov. 14, 2015. Our speaker is Kathy Meade. Kathy has been assisting people with Swedish research for more than ten years. She is the North American representative for ArkivDigital. She has given many presentations on Swedish genealogy throughout the country as well as written genealogy articles for the Nordstjernen newspaper. Kathy serves on the advisory board for the Nordic Family Genealogy Center at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago and volunteers at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library helping patrons with their Swedish research.

go to <http://www.shop.iowapioneers.com/Swedish-Day-sweday.htm> for more information.

We hope that you can join us for all of these great programs. They are great opportunities to gain knowledge and network with fellow genealogists.—Jennifer Ewing



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## **IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

628 E Grand Ave  
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

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

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

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

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

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

Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m.— 9 p.m.

## 50th Anniversary Quilt

### IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

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IGS will raffle the 50th Anniversary Quilt at the Annual Conference, October 9 & 10, 2015. The couch quilt is made from 100% cotton with a cotton/poly batting and is machine washable. It is a 56 ½ by 70 ½ inch original design picture quilt with all 99 county names embroidered into the quilt. Drawing for the quilt will be at the end of the conference. You need not be present to win, but must pick up the quilt at the Iowa Genealogical Society Library, as shipping is not included. Tickets are \$2.00 each, or 6 tickets for \$10.00.

Historic Sites included are:

*Sharon House, Davenport, Scott Co., Iowa*

*Freedom Rock, The Sullivan Brothers, Guthrie Co., Iowa*

*Amana Colonies, Amana, Iowa Co., Iowa*

*Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, Boone, Boone Co., Iowa*

*Church at United Brethren Cemetery, Jefferson Township, Madison Co., Iowa*

*Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa*

*Brucemore Mansion, Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., Iowa*

*Arnold's Park, Dickinson Co., Iowa*

*American Gothic House, Eldon, Wapello Co., Iowa*

*The Stockman House by Frank Lloyd Wright, Mason City, Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa*

*The Danish Windmill, Elk Horn, Shelby Co., Iowa*

*The French Icarian Village, Corning, Adams Co., Iowa*

*Butter Cow, Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa*

*Elkader Motor Mill, Elkadar, Clayton Co., Iowa*

*The Iowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, Polk Co., Iowa*

Contact [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) for more information or to purchase tickets.

We need help with decorations for the 2015 Fall Conference! We are celebrating 50 years of Sharing Family History on Oct. 9th and 10th. If you have skills in this area, please contact Jennifer, [execdir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:execdir@iowagenealogy.org) to find out more. This would be a wonderful short term commitment.

## George O. Smith -- My Tree's Ancestral Teacher

by George Glenn

*First Place Winner in the "Teacher in My Tree" Story Contest*

My tree is full of teachers, including my mother, my sister, my wife, my son, a niece, a few cousins and myself, but the one who started the tradition is my maternal grandfather, George Owen Smith (1875-1951). The son of a German immigrant and Civil War Veteran and a woman who'd been born in the gold fields of California, George grew up in the Village of Depue, Selby Township, Bureau County, Illinois (population at the time of about 400), where until the age of 15 or so he attended the 2-room school.) He also worked in the winter with the ice harvest on Lake Depue and in the local coal mines as well as various odd jobs as they came along. In his later teens he attended school sporadically whenever he was out of a job.

George, as the oldest of 7 children, felt it was his obligation to augment the family's finances whenever he could, but the available work tended to be seasonal and sporadic.

It was during what turned out to be his last bit of local schooling in the spring of 1895 that his teacher suggested to him that he might consider teaching himself. George protested that he didn't really want to be a teacher and that he didn't have the education. The teacher argued that taking the county's teacher certification would be a learning experience in itself, so he traveled the 10 miles to Princeton, the county seat, where the superintendent encouraged him to try the exam. He later reported that "as I was leaving . . . he said, 'George, one of the first requirements of a teacher is his ability to use good English. It might be all right for you to say "this here" and "that there," "them things" and "he don't" in the coal mine, but it won't do in the school room.' This was, indeed, my first practical lesson in grammar." He had never before associated the grammar lessons in the Sixth Reader with any practical application. It was also his first clue that a good teacher taught children and not subjects.

He failed the exam. He realized that he needed more education if he were to gain a teacher's certificate, so, borrowing the \$50.00 tuition, he attended the 1895 and 1896 10-week summer sessions at the Northern Illinois Normal School in Dixon. At the end of the first session he again took the exam, but again failed, having passed in all subjects but grammar. So it was back to the mines for another year.

At the end of the 1896 session he again took the exam -- and this time he passed. However, having a teacher's certificate doesn't guarantee a job, and all the county's teaching positions were filled. It was back to mine for another year. Now he realized that his experiences could influence his teaching methodology: "While driving a stubborn and deaf mule in a mine (hauling ore cars to be unloaded) could hardly be classed as educative, particularly as a preparation for teaching boys and girls, it was not without its value. . . . There's a great deal of psychology in 'muleology.'"

His first teaching job was in a small school in Hollowayville, after which he taught for two years in similar schools in Ottville and at his "home" school in Depue. In the meantime (1898) he worked as a laborer on the gang building the Illinois-Mississippi Canal.

Deciding to attend Valparaiso University he worked the 1900 US census for Shelby Township to earn tuition money and spent the next year in Indiana, obtaining his BA in 1901.

More teaching positions followed in Putnam, Malden (where he met and married my grandmother) and Ladd. In 1910 he was persuaded to run for county in 1943.

As a teacher and administrator he was always progressive in his ideals and methodology. From an ignorant village kid he overcame an inadequate early education to become an erudite teacher, innovative administrator, and scholar, turning to the study of local history in his retirement. He published a monograph on the Owen Lovejoy Home/Underground Railroad in Princeton, a history of Princeton, a history of Bureau County, and a number of self-published volumes of poetry, as well as his autobiography, as yet unpublished.

## The Geographic Files: A Hidden Resource Gem

by Tasha Jackson, IGS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

While visiting our library, have you ever stopped to look through the Geographic Files? The bottom two drawers of the filing cabinet adjacent to the computer area house a treasure trove of resources just waiting to help you with your research! The Geographic Files are pages, pamphlets, and booklets of resources from locations all over the world, not just Iowa. Some of the unique Iowa-specific resources include information about different breweries in the state, the history of Camp Dodge, details about the state's mental hospitals, maps of Des Moines cemeteries, and a booklet listing the pardons and suspensions of sentence that were granted by the Governor between 1900 and 1902.

For other areas of the country, we have lists of wagon trains that traveled to California, railroad maps, and details about early U.S. forts. We have an article from an 1873 edition of Harper's Weekly about New York's Castle Garden immigration center, and records from Old Plymouth Cemetery in Massachusetts. We have descriptions of major 19th century epidemics in North America, to help put causes of death during that time period into context, and maps of the country as it existed in 1718.

For those researching their European ancestors, the Geographic Files contain a guide to Norwegian Farm and Family History books currently housed in the special collections at the University of North Dakota's library. We have guides for African-American, Welsh, and Italian research, and information from the Czech embassy to assist researchers in ordering copies of vital certificates for their family members that were born in Bohemia and Moravia. There are lists of Danish immigrants that landed in Baltimore between 1890 and 1899, and even someone's personal genealogy written entirely in German.

Next time you visit the library, consider checking out these files. You may find something there that can help you get over that brick wall in your research!

### **Congratulations to our winners in the "A Teacher in Your Tree!" Story Contest!**

Glenn George 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Juanita Ott 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Gerald Graves 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

The first place story is on page 3. You can read all the stories online at [http://iowagenealogy.org/?page\\_id=7434](http://iowagenealogy.org/?page_id=7434)

Get ready to submit "A Soldier's Story" . Perhaps it is your father's experience in World War II, or even yours. Maybe you have been lucky enough to reconstruct an ancestor's civil war story. Deadline is October 15, 2015. Please submit your story to Jennifer, [execdir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:execdir@iowagenealogy.org).

## Everywhere an Intern

Please join us in welcoming David Simpson. He is completing a practicum through the College of DuPage Library Technology Program. He will be helping in several areas including inventory of the Vertical Files, cataloging, non-profit management and communication. He will be with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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.



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.

**Widow Smith—Finding that elusive female ancestor, Monday, Sept. 21 @ 6:30.**

**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.

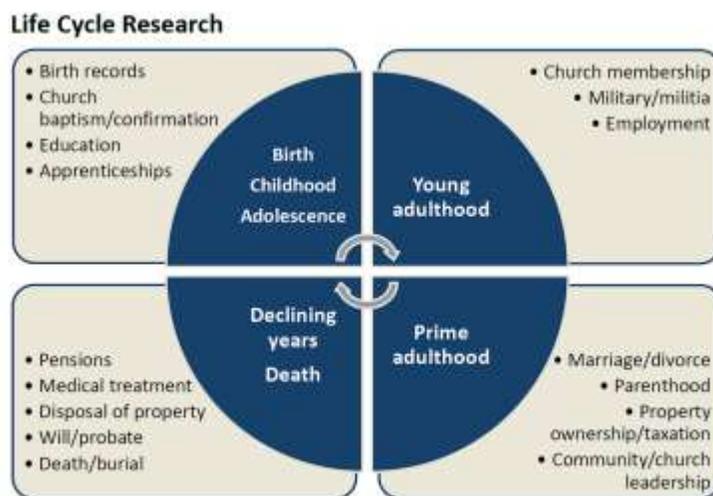
**Did you know that IGS is now an LDS Affiliated Library? You can order microfilm rolls from [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and have them delivered to IGS to view! We are open six days a week with extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday. That means just one trip to IGS to research and view microfilm.**

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

## Genealogical Proof Standard Step 4: Resolving Conflicts: Therapy for Problematic Evidence

By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

You've crafted a focused research question, conducted a thorough search of relevant sources, pulled out the evidence that might answer your question, and correlated your findings. Now what? If the evidence is clear, uncontested & reliable, hooray! You can skip Step 4 and go right to Step 5: writing your conclusions. But if the data includes major inconsistencies or disagreements that impact your ability to arrive at a confident solution, it's time to put your evidence on the analyst's couch and provide some therapeutic intervention for those troubled sources.



What types of conflicts require resolution?

Serious problems affecting kinship, family structure, generational connections, or major life events require remedial action. Good news: the GPS techniques you've already learned provide the tools to successfully address these issues. So begin with a thorough review of the research you've completed. Have you missed or misunderstood anything that would impact the findings? Have you consulted as many original, independent sources as possible? Do you truly understand the historical or legal context of each source? Double check for quality—unreliable informants or secondary information may be leading you astray. If your research and analysis are solid but issues remain unresolved, you'll need to expand your search to new records, and get "outside the box" in pursuit of new evidence from a diverse range of sources.

Investigate collateral family lines, including those generations preceding and succeeding your ancestor. Go after your ancestor's "FAN Club" (Friends, Associates, Neighbors). Delve into neighbors and neighborhoods—look for patterns of association. Who witnessed major documents for your ancestor? When does he appear as a witness? You may need to conduct some page-by-page surveys of records such as census, land transactions, vital records, or court records. Identify and access the variety of sources generated at different phases of your ancestor's life—childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and end of life.

Collection of more data requires additional "analysis & correlation"—so stay organized. Tables, charts & timelines are great correlation tools, but as your source list grows, you may need more robust methods such as databases, spreadsheets or mind maps to organize and visualize large bodies of evidence. Be sure to keep your research log up-to-date with full citations of all sources consulted.

At the end of the day, resolution of your problem may require a process of elimination, one possibility at a time. Or you may need to (temporarily) concede defeat. If your best efforts remain unrewarded, consider setting the work aside for a time; coming back to a problem after you've had a break is sometimes the best strategy. Whatever the outcome, well-organized source-cited research will provide long-lasting benefits to your overall genealogical project and provide a solid foundation for future discoveries.

## 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://www.shop.iowapioneers.com/Conventions-Events-Training\\_c6.htm](http://www.shop.iowapioneers.com/Conventions-Events-Training_c6.htm)

After October 3rd No Refund

For more information contact IGS: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)  
515-276-0287

**Cancellation Policy:**

Before October 3rd Full 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 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.

Driving directions:

[http://iowagenealogy.org/?page\\_id=7701](http://iowagenealogy.org/?page_id=7701)



## IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

### Thursday September 17, 2015

#### Iowa Vital Records

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

### Monday, September 21, 2015

6:30 pm

Widow Smith? Finding that elusive woman ancestor

Jennifer Ewing

### Saturday September 19, 2015

#### Special Federal Schedules: Beyond Population

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

### Monday November 9, 2015

6:30 pm

Roundtable—Holiday Traditions—Bring your family favorite recipe to share.

### Monday December 14, 2015

6:30 pm

Resolutions for 2016 - Do Overs, Research Plans & Brick Wall Busting

### Saturday October 3, 2015

#### Beginning Genealogy

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Donna Anderson

### Saturday October 17, 2015

#### State Census Records: Genealogical Jewels

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

\$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!

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

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**

**September 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](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)

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