



**Kevin Spire, 1st Vice President**

I know a secret that I'll share with you. It's Iowa. Now don't tell anyone, or they'll all want to come here. Living here long enough gives us all a "badge of honor" by surviving arctic wind chills in the winter, historic flood levels and insanity of potential US presidential candidates that seem to over stay their welcome every 4 years.

I am born and raised in Iowa and I think having that connection with the area, fosters some of my interest in genealogy. Both my parents are from small towns in Tama County. But after my parents divorced in the late 1960's, my mom, sister, and I moved to Iowa City. I grew up in Iowa City, but after high school I felt that need to become more independent and lived in Cedar Rapids for a few years. Eventually I took a job in Des Moines, which has been my home for the last 30 years. Living a distance from my extended family, I always wanted to find a way to strengthen that family connection.

After living in Des Moines a few years, somewhere I heard of the Iowa Genealogical Society and their location on Douglas Avenue across from the Merle Hay Mall. Having a bit of an independent streak, I walked in and started researching. I was too shy to ask for help, I just pretended to know what I was doing. I certainly don't claim to be an expert at this stuff, but I've learned through the "school of hard knocks". But through all of this, I have learned some very valuable lessons that I don't think I could have found out any other way. No matter what century or place I'm researching, there are always constants: Family is important. Love is eternal. I know it sounds kind of corny and you hear those things all the time. But it's true, at least for me.

Last year (2015) I became involved with a committee at the IGS to plan activities for celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was looking for a way to give back to my community and felt it might as well be with something that holds my interest. At the end of the year, I was approached to be involved with the board, and agreed. Being in the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, I am also involved with the Education Committee. (cont. page 2)

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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.

## IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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### President

Theresa Liewer

### 1st Vice President

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### 2nd Vice President

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## IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

### *Hawkeye Heritage*

Susan Claman

### *IGS Newsletter*

[Jennifer Ewing](#)

## Kevin Spire, 1st Vice President (cont.)

A challenge the board faces is how to increase membership and interest in the topic of Genealogy. A close friend of mine works as a volunteer at the Adel Public Library and I talked with her about it. She, in turn, spoke with her supervisor who put me in contact with a group that handles communications with all libraries within Iowa. What a great connection!!

I proposed to our President (Theresa Liewer) and the board that we send out a communication to all the libraries in the state of Iowa via my contact. The communication would advertise that we will present a free Beginning Genealogy class at your location. They would need to provide the location and advertise to their patrons, we would show up and present the class. It was a hit! After the email communication was sent across the state, there were phone calls being received at the IGS library about 15 minutes later. In total, we've received responses from about 50 libraries around the state. We've divided the list amongst many of us (myself included) and we'll all be taking some road trips around the state this spring and summer.

My hopes are that we increase some awareness and interest, and that they take advantage of their local resources. And that they reach out to us at the Iowa Genealogical Society for help, or visit, and they consider becoming a member to support our organization. After all, that's what I did...and I'm still here.

Kevin Spire, 1st Vice President

## Here an Intern, There an Intern

My name is Allyson Zarr I am from a small town in northwestern Iowa. I am currently a senior at Simpson College double majoring in History and German. Throughout my years at Simpson I have taken advantage of their study abroad programs and various extra-curricular activities. During the month of May 2013, I took a trip abroad throughout the British Isles. The spring semester of 2015 I studied abroad in Germany while also traveling to various surrounding countries. A few of the extra-curricular activities I am involved in are the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, Rotaract Club, Wesley Service Scholar program, and the Phi Alpha Theta history honors fraternity.

I have also had a couple internship opportunities and a steady summer job. For the past four summers I have had the privilege of working at the Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa. While this past summer I interned at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society in Waukee, and currently am an intern for the Iowa Genealogical Society in Des Moines, Iowa.

Currently at the Iowa Genealogical Society I have been working on entering data from Camp Dodge records into Excel spreadsheets, researching my own family history, re-designing IGS pamphlets, and learning about the inner workings of IGS from the mailing list serve to different sorts of marketing projects. I have been enjoying my time here at IGS, interacting with other individuals and learning about the past.

## Public Domain: Federal Land Distribution By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

After establishment of the United States, lands in new territories and states were considered **public domain** and distributed by the federal government. Acts of Congress determined policies for transferring public domain lands to individuals, states, companies & corporations.

### Types of federal distributions:

**Military bounties, 1775 – 1863.** Free land was granted as an inducement or reward for service.

**Donation lands.** Free land was granted to individuals who would settle and offer a buffer of protection in dangerous frontier areas: primarily in the territories of Florida, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

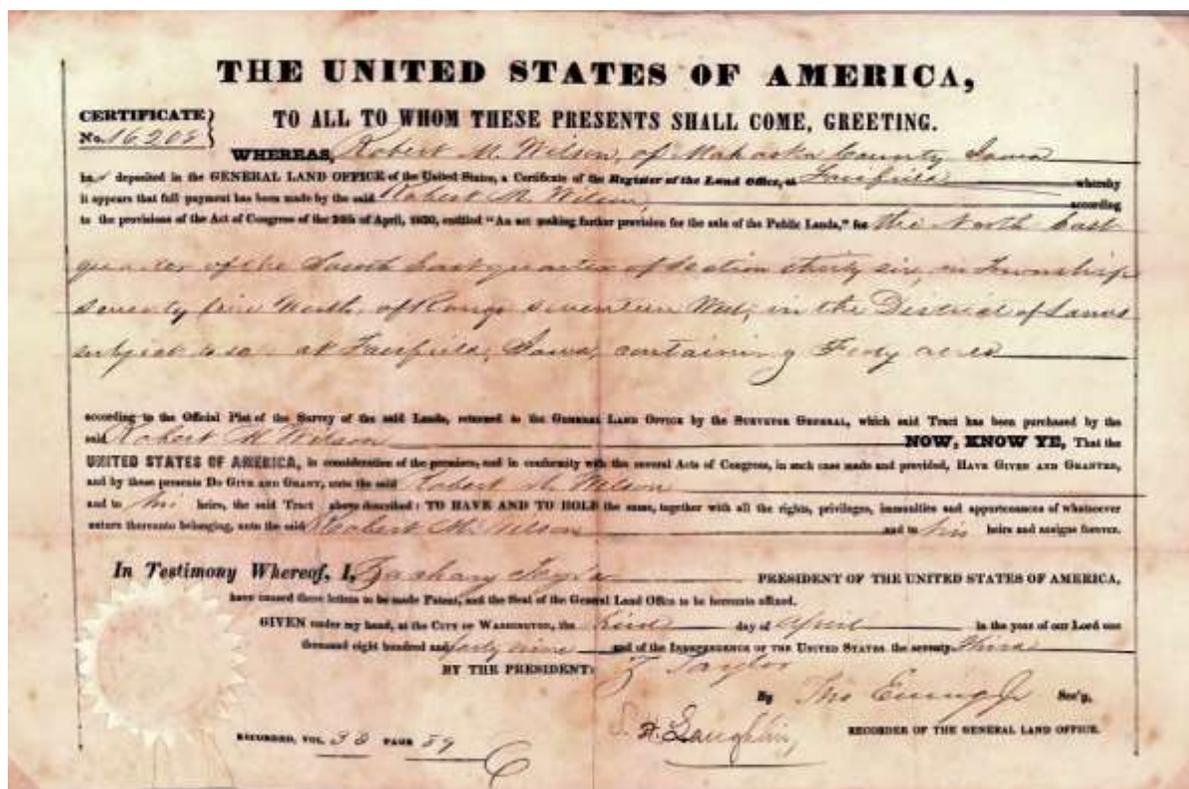
**Credit sales, 1798 – 1820.** Land was sold on a credit basis, paid by installments.

**Cash sales, after 1820.** Most land after 1820 was sold on a cash basis, with the price set at not less than \$1.20/acre.

**Preemption claims.** Beginning in 1830, Congressional acts forgave individuals who settled on lands before they officially opened (squatters), and allowed them to purchase their land at a minimum price.

**1862 Homestead Act.** This replaced most cash sales and preemptions. Free land was granted to settlers who would establish residency, improve, and cultivate western lands.

**Private land claims.** Title was granted by the federal government to individuals and their descendants who had received grants from foreign governments in territories later acquired by the United States.



## Public Domain: Federal Land Distribution By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG (cont.)

### LAND GRANT PROCESS

A land grant is not a single document, but rather a *process* each applicant followed. Although it varied over time and from place to place, the process of obtaining colonial, state or federal land usually involved several steps:

- 1. Application or "land entry."** An individual selected a tract of uninhabited land then submitted an application to the appropriate government jurisdiction.
- 2. Warrant.** Authorization was granted to the individual for a survey of the tract by a government-approved surveyor; includes the warrantee's name, date of issuance and number of acres.
- 3. Survey.** The surveyor submitted to the government a "plat" or map of the tract with a written description in the approved survey method. For many areas, field notes, survey plats and/or tract books have survived.
- 4. Land grant or patent.** The official paper transferring ownership from the government to the individual; includes the name of the patentee (grantee), county where land is located, number & description of acreage, and date of issuance. Federal grants usually include a patent number.

Each step of the process created paperwork. Grant applications, warrants, surveys and patents along with associated documents such as receipts for cash purchases and proof of eligibility were bundled together and stored as land entry files. Accessing these files is an essential component of any land research project. We'll look at where and how to locate original land entry files in the next IGS newsletter.

*Alice Hoyt Veen, Certified Genealogist (SM), is the founder of Prairie Roots Research, providing professional genealogical and historical research services to clients who seek superior research solutions. She specializes in solving genealogical "brick walls."*

## 2016 IGS Spring Conference DNA: Unlocking the Code

IGS is pleased to announce that Bryant F McAllister, who is an Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Biology at The University of Iowa, will lead the 2016 Spring Conference—DNA Unlocking the Code.

Dr. McAllister's research program primarily focuses on investigating principles governing the organization of genes within chromosomes. Aside from academic research, he actively uses the tools available in the direct-to-consumer genetic testing marketplace (e.g., 23andMe, AncestryDNA, and Family Tree DNA) to investigate the intersection between biological and historical inferences of family history - a pursuit commonly known as genetic genealogy.

The Registration form is available on page 9.

## The State Historical Building

*Jennifer Ewing, Executive Director*

The Department of Cultural Affairs, which oversees the State Historical building and the state archives, has a plan to renovate the existing building at the cost of \$79 million dollars. They are requesting \$65 million from the RIF funds (Revitalizing Iowa Infrastructure Fund) and plan on raising the rest of the money through private donations. DCA has requested \$7 million for this year and if it passes the legislature this session, the rest of the funding becomes automatic over the next five years. The DCA believes that this is the most cost effective solution to continued facility issues.

Theresa Liewer and I have had several meetings with the staff at the State Historical Building. It has been a story on all the local channels and in the Des Moines Register. The plan calls for the demolition of the State Historical Library and for the west building to be “dark” for three years. Once, the renovation is complete, the research center and archives would be moved to the west building and the museum space would be reduced. The research center at Iowa City is not included in this plan.

If the DCA does not receive the funds, then \$40 million will be required to complete needed repairs and maintenance on the building. This includes new mechanicals and electrical systems along with addressing water issues throughout the building. With the continued water issues, the collection; both the object and the archives, is at risk.

One question we had regarded the closure of the Research Center on the Saturdays before a Monday holiday. This is a state rule in their labor contract and the management has no control over this.

Our major concern and questions were in regard to the availability of the collection during the renovation. We expressed that due to the positive economic impact family history research has on the state of Iowa, that the collection needs to be accessible and located in one place during the renovation. Iowa Code requires that the collection and archives be accessible to everyone for a minimum of 30 hours per week. We were told that the plan was to keep the collection together and accessible but no firm details had been made. We would like firm assurances on the management of the collection during this time.

Our other concerns include adequate staffing of the facility and continued acquisition of material for the collection.

The DCA’s plan is available at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/SD/766218.pdf>. I encourage every one to ask questions of their representatives and of the DCA staff.

To reach your legislators, go to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>.

To reach the Department of Cultural Affairs, call 515-281-5111.

## German Interest Group Topics for Spring 2016

**March 7, 2016 @ 7 p.m. IGS is now a Family History Library**, which means you can order films from Salt Lake City and have them sent to IGS. We will explain how this works and well as point out some behind the front page items of the IGS website and FamilySearch websites.

**April 4, 2016 @ 7 p.m. Research in Mecklenburg**—History and tips for research, led by David Bartholmy

**May 2, 2016 @ 7 p.m. To be Announced**

**June 6, 2016 Research in Hanover**—History and tips for research, led by Diane Green

For more information on the German Interest Group, contact Diane Green at [dkg1300@aol.com](mailto:dkg1300@aol.com).

There has been a lot of change in genealogical software programs. IGS offers three software Interest Groups. Ancestry.com meets on the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Legacy Family Tree Interest Group meets on the third Thursday of the month @ 1 p.m. and RootsMagic meets on the fourth Saturday of the month @ 10 a.m. If you are thinking of purchasing one of these programs, this is a great way to learn what each program offers.

### Library Acquisitions

We are always receiving donations of items for the library. Some of the more recent include:

Thompson Journals 6 Volumes

Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania by Jordan, 3 volumes

Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany, NY 1683-1809

Registers of the Dutch Church of Kingston, NY 1660-1809

Check the bookshelf behind the librarians desk to view all of the recent additions to the library.

### 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 Weekly Update 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!

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 area, to Jennifer, [execdir@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:execdir@iowagenealogy.org).



Members Only Sessions are a round-table sharing format and are open only to members of IGS. There is no fee for these sessions other than being a member of the Society. The sessions are held on Monday evenings. Join us for an informative, fun evening.

Upcoming Members Only Sessions:

Mon. 3/14 6:30 p.m. Finding Family in Institutional Records with Jennifer Ewing

Mon. 4/11 6:30 p.m. Alternatives to Family Tree Maker

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 Updates via email, you can sign up on our home page: [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org).

Don't miss out on important communication from IGS.

**If you are a member of IGS**, FGS has partnered with Dell Computers to give IGS Member Societies and their members discounts on products sold through the Dell website. You can also receive a discount to FindMyPast.



#### 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.

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).

IGS is an Family History Library Affiliate! 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.

## IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

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

### Saturday, March 12, 2016

#### Beginning Genealogy

10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Donna Anderson

FREE

#### How They Got Here: Ports & Passenger Lists

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

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

### Saturday, March 19, 2016

#### Land Research: Rectangular Survey System-- Fair & Square

10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

#### Iowans Go to War

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

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

### Saturday, April 9 2016

#### 2016 IGS Spring Conference

9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IGS West Wing

Registration form available on pg. 9

### Wednesday, April 13, 2016

#### Indiana, Ohio and Michigan Vital Records

#### Lunch & Learn

Noon—1 p.m.

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

### Thursday, April 21, 2016

#### Beginning Genealogy

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Instructor - Jennifer Bersetti

FREE

### Saturday, April 23, 2016

#### Military Pensions

1:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Instructor-Theresa Liewer

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

The March Members Only Class will be held on March 14, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m. Finding Ancestors in Institutional Records will cover how to learn if you ancestor was in an institution, what kinds of records are available and how to access them. Not a member? You can join that evening.

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).

# DNA UNLOCKING THE CODE

With Dr. Bryant F McAllister

IGS 2016 Spring Conference—Saturday, April 9, 2016

## Conference Schedule

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Registration

9:00 a.m. - Announcements

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. - **Introduction to Genetics for Genealogy**

Break

10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. - **Autosomal Matching to Support Family Relationships**

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. - Lunch

12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Break Out Sessions

**Advanced uses of Genome-wide SNP tests**

or

**Small Group Tutorials**

Break

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - **Other Uses of DNA**

**Seating is Limited**

## SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Conference fee includes lunch)

### Early Registration (Before March 28)

\_\_\_\_\_ IGS Member x \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-member x \$65 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Late Registration (after March 28)

\_\_\_\_\_ IGS Member x \$65 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-member x \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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:**

- Mortgage 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 2016**

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.**