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**There are a few spaces left for the IGS Fall Conference. See page 8 for information.**

**From the President**

This is my last letter as president and I want to say a very sincere thank you to all the board members and volunteers as well as our staff, Diane Green, Sue Claman, Judy McLain, Jennifer Ewing and Debi Chase. Their work makes the job of president so much easier. I truly enjoyed coming into the library and seeing members there, researching and going to classes and sharing their genealogical adventures. I'll still be around, teaching classes and volunteering in the library and even doing some of my own research. Hopefully I'll see you there.

As the board was discussing the current capital campaign, we realized that some of the board members didn't know the history of the purchase of our building and the underlying mortgage. And we thought that the members of the Society would value having the same information.

We took ownership of our building at 628 E Grand Ave on May 30, 2003 for the price of \$853,712. The building had been remodeled to our specifications for use as a library and administrative offices. A down payment of \$160,000 was made and after fees and expenses, a commercial real estate mortgage was taken out with State Savings Bank for \$704,186. The length of the loan was 20 years, with a maturity in 2023.

Since the origination of the loan, we have renegotiated the interest rate twice to take advantage of lower rates. In 2006, we made a major principal payment against the bank loan when IGS received interest free loans of \$68,000 from members. Those loans are to be paid back when the bank loan is paid off.

In 2012, the mortgage was refinanced to pay for repairs to the front of the building and \$96,000 was added to the balance. The length of this refinanced loan was 20 years, with a new maturity in 2032.

We are pleased to report that as of the writing of this article, the mortgage balance is \$473,512. There was much rejoicing when the balance dropped below the \$500,000 amount. We have received funds since the capital campaign brochure was sent to the members and we will use that money to make additional principal payments.

Theresa Liewer, President

**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)

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/iowaGenSoc/>

**LIBRARY HOURS**

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

Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m.— 9 p.m.

## Iowa Marriage Records by Theresa Liewer

### IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### President

Theresa Liewer

#### 1st Vice President

Kevin Spire

#### 2nd Vice President

Tasha Jackson

#### Secretary

Marieta Grissom

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[Debi Iseminger Chase](#)

#### Assistant Librarians

Susan Claman

Diane Green

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[Jennifer Ewing](#)

### IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

#### Hawkeye Heritage

Susan Claman

#### IGS Newsletter

[Jennifer Ewing](#)

Vital records for every state have different starting dates, information and rules about access. We are very fortunate that Iowa's marriage records start early and beginning in 1880, include wonderful information about the bride and groom. Plus we now have much greater online access to the records.

**First, the history of the records.** Marriage records in Iowa began as soon as a county was formed, even before statehood. The records of the very earliest marriages may be included with miscellaneous court records rather than in separate books. If you have early Iowa ancestors, be sure to check when the county of their residence was created; you may need to go to the records of the parent county.

Marriage records were kept by the county clerk of court until 1997, when the duties and records were transferred to the county recorder's office. Beginning July 1, 1880, counties were required to send copies of marriage information to the State of Iowa. **This means any marriage before that July 1 date is found only at the county level.** After July 1, 1880, the records are theoretically found at both the county and state level. There is always a hiccup when you are working with Iowa records and in this case, it's the fact that there was a state law saying that the counties did not have authority to keep their own copies of vital records from 1921 to 1941. Some counties complied, others did not, so there is a checkerboard of records across the state.

**What's in the records.** You will always find the names of the bride and the groom and the date of marriage. Early records may not contain much more than that. Beginning July 1, 1880, the information became much more detailed: names and ages of the bride and groom, their residence as well as their birthplace, the parents' names and the number of the marriage if they had been married before. You also see the names of the witnesses and the name of the officiant.

**Next, legal access to the records.** Under the Iowa Code, the public may have access to **state** marriage records that are at least 75 years old. Records less than 75 years old may only be accessed by entitled persons, i.e., spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and siblings. The Code allows unlimited public access to records in the custody of the **county** registrar. Some county recorders may want to limit your access but I have gotten copies of post-1941 marriage records from the Polk County recorder for a \$5 fee. (Certified copies will cost you \$20.)

## Iowa Marriage Records By Theresa Liewer (cont.)

**County records** Several decades ago, the Genealogical Society of Utah (now FamilySearch.org) micro-filmed the vital records of all 99 Iowa counties. Copies of those films are available at the IGS library as well as the State Historical Library in Des Moines. They can also be ordered out to a local LDS Family History Center for a fee. The films start with the earliest marriage records but stop at various dates, depending on the county. For example, the film with Boone marriages stops in 1928, the film of Lee County/Fort Madison stops in 1940. One warning – there can be two types of marriage records, one called the marriage record and the other the marriage register and occasionally one but not the other was filmed. The record reports that a marriage took place, date and who officiated. The register contains more information and this is where you find the expanded information in the post-1880 records.

The good news is that these films have been indexed and abstracted and appear on FamilySearch.org. (There are two databases of marriages in the Iowa records – be sure to check them both.) You will see the basic information but not the images. The indexes include the names of the bride and groom as well as the parents in post-1880 marriages. In some cases, the information in the county records is not as complete as that on the state records. You are always encouraged to look at the actual image on film since it may contain extra information.

**Finding post July 1, 1880 records - the state copies.** The really good news is that these records have been scanned and indexed from 1880 through 1937 in a cooperative effort by the Iowa State Archives, Ancestry and FamilySearch. Right now they are only available on Ancestry.com but eventually (probably several years) they will be available on FamilySearch.org. The database on Ancestry.com is called *Iowa, Marriage Records 1880-1937*. The index includes not only the bride and groom's names but the parents' names as well. You have access to Ancestry library edition at IGS and the State Historical Library as well as at some local public libraries. You see the image of the actual register which is something you always want. The records for 1938-1940 are in the process of being scanned and indexed and will be available next year.

## New Programs at IGS

We are starting a DNA Interest Group. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 4th, at 6:30 p.m. If you are considering having your DNA tested or have questions about your results and how to proceed, joining this monthly group might be the answer. The group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in attending the first meeting, please call our office at 515-276-0287 so that we can make arrangements for space. Additional meeting dates for the DNA Interest Group will be Tuesday, Nov. 1st, and Tuesday, December 6th. All meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. at the IGS Library.

Life is busy. Especially if you are still working. For our Members Only, we will be open one Sunday a month. The first Sunday will be Oct. 16th and we will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to spend some time doing research, especially as the weather turns colder. We will be open Sunday, Nov. 20th and Dec. 18th as well, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

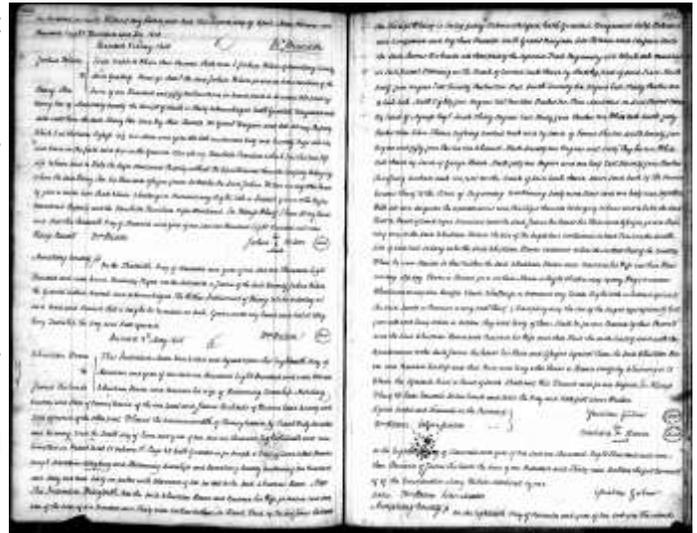
## Anatomy of a Land Deed By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG<sup>SM</sup>

Private land sales generate records that are valuable to genealogical research. Although phraseology and formats vary for locations and times, the basic information remains much the same. By dissecting your ancestor's property transactions, you unlock a wealth of information about his life, his family, and his economic substance.

Let's look at a typical land deed and see what it can tell us. Keep in mind the recorded copy from the courthouse is just that—a copy of the original deed entered for record. For many of us, this is as close as we will get to the original deeds, which may no longer exist.

This is an abstract of key information from an 1809 Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, land transaction between Christian Hoover and James Richards.

**Source citation:** Armstrong Co., Pennsylvania, Deed Book 1:446–8, Christian Hoover to James Richards, 18 November 1809; Recorder's Office, Kittanning; FHL microfilm 861, 224.



1. The document begins by naming the parties involved, the county where property is located, and the date of the transaction. It often states residency for both grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer), which may differ from the property's location, and help trace your ancestor to a previously unknown home. The grantor's wife possesses "dower rights" (interest in her husband's property) and is a seller with her husband. If this were a sale to settle an estate, grantors would include all the property heirs and their spouses. These are often children of the deceased.

### Christian Hoover to James Richards

**This Indenture [transaction] made 18 November 1809 between Christian Hoover and Barbara his wife of Kittanning Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania and James Richards of Westmorland County [Pennsylvania]...**

2. Many older deeds include particulars about the original land grant, or how the grantor came to possess the property. You can use this information to find original entry or purchase records. These may be clues to migrations or military service.

**Whereas the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Patent Duly Executed and Bearing date 10 June 1809, enrolled in Patent Book H Volume 1st Page 85 hath Granted for Simple a Tract of Land Called Hooversburgh situate in Allegheny and Kittanning Townships and Armstrong County containing one hundred and sixty two acres ... to Christian Hoover...**

3. Financial details of the agreement are stated: amount paid and if this is a cash transaction.

**Christian Hoover and Barbara his wife for the sum of one Hundred and Thirty nine Dollars to them in Hand Paid [cash]... convey to James Richards, his heirs and assigns forever....**

## Anatomy of a Land Deed By Alice Hoyt Veen, CG<sup>SM</sup> (cont)

4. A legal description of the property is provided using the accepted survey method. Be sure to compare the acreage sold with the amount originally purchased; the parcel may be divided, and additional land records created. You'll want to account for every acre your ancestor owned.

**Tract Beginning at a Black Oak mentioned in said patent Standing on the Bank of Crooked Creek thence by the other part of said Tract North sixty four degrees East Twenty Perches to a Post South Seventy six degrees East Ninety Perches to a Black Oak North Eighty five Degrees East Nineteen Perches to a Pine Mentioned in Said Patent therein.... to the Place of Beginning Containing sixty nine and one half acres...**

5. Any special conditions are noted.

**Reserving to Christian Hoover the rise of the sugar trees contained in said Tract on the south side of said Creek so long as [he] continues to reside in that part of the country.**

6. Grantor signatures finalize the sale. Note how your ancestor spelled his name. Although the county recorder may have changed the spelling, this is still a great clue to your ancestor's origins. In this case, further research revealed German origins for Christian Hübner.

**Christian Hübner SEAL**

**Barbara x [her mark] Hoover SEAL**

7. Witnesses may be relatives, neighbors, or associates. Investigate these individuals to learn what role, if any, they played in your ancestor's life.

**Witnesses: Wm Watson, John Martin**

8. Christian and Barbara were interviewed by a Justice of the Peace to ensure they understood their actions. Barbara was interviewed separately to protect her from any "coercion" by her husband. Her agreement to release dower rights assured a clear title.

On 18 November 1809 I came personally before me a Justice of the Peace Christian Hoover and Barbara his wife, Grantors and acknowledged the written indenture to be their voluntary act and deed, Barbara being separate and apart from her husband examined and the contents of the Indenture by me to her fully made known.

Wm Watson, SEAL

Information and clues abound in land deed records. By locating all the property records associated with your ancestor, you gain valuable insights into your ancestor's family and life experiences.

*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."*



Is there something specific that you would like to learn? If so, let Jennifer (execdir@iowagenealogy.org) know so that we can develop a program!

Class fees for **non-members** will be going up to \$15 effective January 1, 2017. Class fees for members will remain at \$5.

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.

### Software User Groups

There has been a lot of change in genealogical software programs. IGS offers two software Interest Groups and an Ancestry.com group. Ancestry.com meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Legacy Family Tree Interest Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month @ 1 p.m. and RootsMagic meets on the 4th 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.



### 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.

**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.

**DNA Interest Group** meets the **first Tuesday** of the month, at 6:30 p.m. Beginning Oct 4th.

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 a 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

### Wednesday September 14, 2016

#### **Using Lulu to Self Publish Lunch & Learn**

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

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

### Saturday September 17, 2016

#### **Beginning Genealogy**

11:30 pm - 1:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Jennifer Barsetti

### Monday September 19, 2016

#### **Beginning Genealogy**

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

### Saturday September 24, 2016

#### **Beginning Swedish Research**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Donna Anderson

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

### Saturday October 15, 2016

#### **Italian Research**

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Kathy Foggia

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

### Saturday October 29, 2016

#### **Cemetery Symbols**

10:30 pm - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Kevin Spire

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

#### **Beginning Genealogy**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Donna Anderson

### Sunday October 30, 2016

#### **Adoption Research**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Michelle Spear

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

### Saturday November 5, 2016

#### **Beginning German Research**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Diane Green

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

### Wednesday November 9, 2016

#### **FamilySearch Part 1 - Records—Lunch & Learn**

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

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

### Wednesday November 16, 2016

#### **Find A Grave—Lunch & Learn**

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Linda Greethurst

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

### Saturday November 19, 2016

#### **Beginning Genealogy**

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Donna Anderson

#### **Beginning Czech Research**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Curt & Tasha Jackson

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

**All programs are held at IGS, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA. For more information about IGS programs and activities, or to register for classes, contact us at 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 Fall Conference 2016**  
**Expanding Your Research Horizons**  
**Featuring D. Joshua Taylor**

**Friday October 7**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 a.m. **New Tools and Ideas in Research** - Learn technological developments (including gadgets and gizmos); newly discovered resources for genealogical research, and more..
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States Between 1780 & 1830** –Learn how to employ probate, land, census, tax, and other compiled records to help bridge
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. **Camp Dodge—History and Records**·Michael Vogt , Director of the Iowa Gold Star Museum
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. **Online Library Catalogs: A Genealogist’s Best Kept Secret**—Go inside the pathway to a library’s materials during this in-depth review of library catalogs.
- 3:45 p.m. Break
- 4:15 p.m. **Annual Meeting**

**Saturday October 8**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 a.m. **The Modern Genealogist: Timesaving Tips for Every Researcher** - Learn time-saving techniques to make the most of every minute (or hour) you are researching.
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **Lawyers, Judges and Trials: Using the Law in Genealogy** - Learn how to find new records and information through a “legal approach” to genealogy.
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Land Records to the Rescue! - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG– Learn techniques for getting the most from land records research and see how they contribute to the breakthrough of a typical genealogical “brick wall.”
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. **Essential Technology for Genealogists**·Come see the list of technology every genealogist should own.

**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 IA 50309-1924

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

**Cancellation Policy:** By October 3rd Full Refund After October 3rd No Refund

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

## 2016 IGS Fall Conference Registration

October 7 & 8 2016

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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)



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
- Free WiFi

- 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**

**September 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.**