

NOVEMBER 2017

Iowa Genealogical Society

Extended FamilySearch Access now at IGS

Because the Iowa Genealogical Society is a FamilySearch affiliate library we now have access to nearly all of the digitized microfilm images that are viewable in LDS family history centers. IGS is excited to offer this service to our patrons. You do not have access from home. You must be in the IGS library.

Come visit IGS and let us show you how to use the FamilySearch catalog to find these records.

Before becoming available in name-searchable or image-browsable historical record collections, digitized microfilms are first published in the FamilySearch catalog. Currently, 870,000 digitized rolls are available only through the catalog. Patrons need to follow the usual method for finding microfilm rolls. If a roll has been digitized, a camera icon links to the image.



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IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Phone: (515) 276-0287

Email:
igs@iowagenealogy.org

Website:
www.iowagenealogy.org

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m.— 9 p.m.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kevin Spire, IGS President

Memories Worth Preserving

The end of year quickly approaches, and with it the holiday season. A time when many of us gather together to see family and loved ones. Reflect on memories and traditions of the past and make plans for the upcoming new year.

As genealogists, we all hold a role as family historian. Gathering stories of our **ancestor's struggles and joys. And understanding the traditions that have become a part of our family with each holiday.** This role is crucial in maintaining our **family's identity. It defines who we are, where we came from and why we're here.**

I remember being 11 or 12 years old and talking with my grandmother about her childhood Christmas. Her parents were both German immigrants and the family only spoke German in the house until attending country school. My grandmother said her mother would close the front parlor by pulling the pocket doors shut about mid-December. The kids were all curious to know what was going on behind the closed doors, but they dare not peek for fear of punishment. Finally, Christmas eve arrived and while sitting at the table for supper, their father **claimed to hear some loud noise coming from outside.** He'd say, "do you suppose that's Santa?" The kids were excited, as they were all certain Santa had arrived. But they would have to wait till the end of supper to find out more. After a painfully long wait, the front parlor doors were opened to reveal a tree, lit with glowing candles and gifts for the children.

My grandmother has passed many years ago, but what I recall most about this story was how she would recall each detail, as if it occurred just a month ago. And how some of these traditions were carried over so I could experience them as a child. Plus, she told me this story while we were waiting for our Christmas eve supper which was the traditional oyster stew. Not a favorite meal for an 11-year-old. That is one tradition that I was happy to drop!

Memories such as this are so important, and you might not even realize how **important till they're gone. Illness like dementia and Alzheimer's can rob us of our memories.** These afflictions can leave an individual feeling lost, confused, angry, sad and powerless. Last summer I was looking at a photo album with my sister, who has early dementia. We laughed at the old snap shots and when we got to the last page, she hugged the book and said, "I need this. I need to keep this". Yes, I believe she does.

You might think of genealogy as a hobby, but it's really so much more than that. **It's an important part of your family identity. Keep your family traditions alive for those that are with us today and for the generations yet to come.** Who knows, I might even try oyster stew again!

I hope each of you have a wonderful holiday season and a blessed Christmas, filled with love, peace and happiness.

Cheers!

Kevin

THINGS TO DO



Christkindlmarket Des Moines

is a German-inspired Christmas market whose goal is to educate and entertain the community by exposing them to European-style foods, products and activities. We plan on having regional [vendors](#) sell their hand-crafted wares and ethnic foods from traditional wooden stalls, an [entertainment](#) area where polka bands, choirs, and bell ringers can perform, a [kid's area](#) where they can participate in various cultural activities and a beer tent offering European-style beverages.

Any questions call 515-250-6366

As a part of [Christkindlmarket Des Moines 2017](#), we've invited non-profit organizations to decorate a Christmas tree that will be offered during a silent auction at the event.

Organizations will be decorating 6'-8' trees on site that will be sold during the market and via a silent auction. The organization that decorates the tree will receive 100% of the funds earned from the auction from [Des Moines European Heritage Association](#) following the event, and minimum bids will start at \$50. All items used on the tree (including the tree) will be given to the winning bidder.

The Iowa Genealogical Society will be one of the organizations decorating a tree.

Come check it out.



IGS Needs You

Now that November has begun, we need to think about the upcoming Christkindlmarket Des Moines event (December 1-3), and the tree IGS will be decorating for it.

As a part of Christkindlmarket Des Moines, there's a unique fundraising opportunity available to non-profit organizations. IGS has signed up to decorate a six to eight foot tree that will be displayed outside during the market and sold via a silent auction. IGS will receive the funds earned from the auction of this tree following the event. Minimum bids will start at \$50.

The Des Moines European Heritage Association that puts on the event will provide the tree, and IGS will be responsible for all the tree decorations including lights (if we choose to use them.) All items used on the tree will be given to the winning bidder. We need help obtaining decorations for this tree!

Tree decorating will take place the day before the event, Thursday, November 30th.

If you have an idea for a theme that may make someone more likely to bid on our tree, or you have some ornaments or lights you'd like to donate, please let us know! Please make sure decorations are able to withstand the temperamental Iowa weather (snow, sleet, rain, and/or wind). The organizers will do their best to protect what they can, but the trees will remain outside and uncovered for the duration of the event.

While Writing Your Family History...

If you write a family history do a title page.

Title of Genealogy: Always include the state with the county name. – **Always include author's** name and date material was put together. Always, always create an index.

Hopefully one of the children or another family member will want to continue the research, if not save only what will be useful to someone else.

Things that that people forget to do.

Title of Genealogy: Always include the state with the county name. – **Always include author's** name and date material was put together. Always, always create an index.

Use a complete location. Polk County?
Is it Iowa, North Carolina, Texas, Nebraska, Missouri?

Whose work is it? Is there a contact person in the family that is willing to answer questions about the research?

Don't use colored paper that will bleed if it gets wet. Check with your copy store when having copies made too. Some kinds of ink will run when damp or wet.

Libraries have limited space and resources.

Do not donate any notes or work sheets.

Make sure your work is organized.

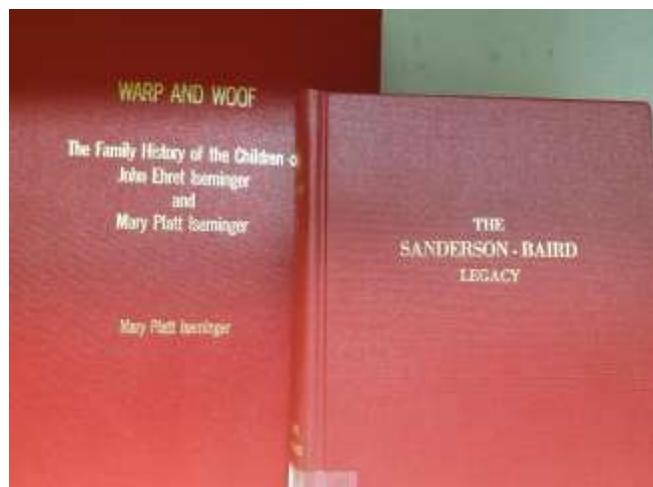
They probably don't want family pictures, but may take scanned pictures on a cd. However, if the family was prominent in an area or the pictures have historic interest they may be of use to a museum or historical society.

IGS has vertical files (file drawers) where we **put folders of research that isn't enough** to create a book, but is still important to be preserved.

If you have a family Bible that has birth, death and marriages written in it make copies of those pages as well as the title page that gives the date of the bible. The date allows you to know if the dates were entered at the time of the event or afterwards. IGS has a file drawer that they keep Bible records and we would love to have any that anyone has. Often when someone dies the family Bible is tossed. **Many people don't see the importance until it's too late.** (I have a Graybeal Bible I've been trying to find for years.)

A published family history doesn't have to be fancy.

It can be as simple as a computer generated report from your genealogy program put in a 3-ring binder, with a title page and hopefully an index. Or a hard bound printed book. **Spiral bindings are cheaper but don't hold up as well** in a library setting. There are many companies out there that will allow you to print a single book instead of having to print dozens.



The National Archives Research Guides

Online collections

If you're looking for people in the UK you might try this site.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?letter&search&research-category=online>

Over 5% of the National Archives' records have so far been digitized and more records are being put online. Browse this section to find out how to search some of our most popular online collections.

This guide lists and provides access to all the record series at The National Archives which are available to view and download for free. These are all digital microfilm records.

The digital microfilm records cover a wide and varied set of subjects, from military and naval records to Foreign Office and Home Office correspondence. They are all listed in the table in this guide.

Many of these records are indexes to other records which may not themselves be viewable online. They are all records which were previously available on microfilm in the reading rooms at The National Archives at Kew.

These documents are free of charge to download and are delivered as large PDF files.

IGS Thanks You

The Iowa Genealogical Society has only 1 full time employee. IGS has only 3 other very part time employees. That means everything else is done by volunteers.

Joyce Brown one of our long time volunteers passed away unexpectedly. Tom Scott another long term volunteer has decided to stop volunteering and Myrt VanDyke has also stopped being a library attendant. However she still assists patrons when she's in the library researching and she's the one we go to when we have a DNA question.

Some of our volunteers have been with us for years others just a few months. We are grateful for them all. What do those volunteers do? They are board members, they give classes, plan and work at conferences. They work as library attendants assisting patrons and assisting the librarians. Volunteers mow the grass, plant and weed the gardens, paint the parking lot, do mailings, work open houses and health fairs. They build and maintain the web site, fix computers, microfilm machines and anything else that breaks down.

IGS has some great volunteers but we always need more. If you have a skill or something you're interested in doing let us know. Throughout the year we ask for volunteers for various projects. Answer the call and make new friends and have some fun.

Federal Military Pension Files

by Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

If your ancestor served in the military prior to World War I, he may have received a pension. Military pensions can provide a wealth of information about your ancestor's life, his family, and his military experience. Acts of Congress determined who was eligible to obtain a pension, and what kinds of benefits your veteran and his surviving family might receive.

Congress passed its first major pension act in 1818, when it authorized a pension for Continental soldiers who had served a minimum of nine months during the Revolutionary War. Subsequent acts modified the rules to include widows and those soldiers who served from state military units. Later wars generated new acts providing benefits for soldiers and their families.

Timeline of Military Pensions

Here are the wars and conflicts for which your ancestor may have received a pension:

- Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783)
- Indian Wars (1817 – 1891)
- Old Wars (all conflicts not covered by other wars, 1784 – 1861)
- War of 1812 (1812 – 1815)
- Mexican War (1846 – 1848)
- Civil War (1861 – 1865)
- Spanish-American War & the Philippine Insurrection (1898 – 1912)

Pension files consist of jacketed loose papers containing the pension application(s) and supporting documentation. It may include a widow's pension application and the applications of other eligible survivors. Supporting documentation is comprised of declarations by the soldier or other applicants confirming the soldier's military service and evidence for survivors' relationships.

Pension categories:

- Invalid—soldier wounded or disabled in the line of duty
- Widow – soldier's legally married spouse, now widowed
- Father or Mother – dependents of the soldier
- Minors – dependents of the soldier

At a minimum, all pension files include:

- Evidence establishing identity of the applicant
- Evidence of the soldier's service
- A record of action taken to approve or reject the application. Rejected applications may be just as informative as those approved.

Pension files are part of Record Group (RG) 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, preserved by the National Archives (NARA) in Washington, D.C. Many are indexed on NARA microfilm; digitized microfilm indexes are available online. These indexes provide the information required to order the complete file.

Continued on page 7

What might you find?

- Soldier's affidavit with details about his service, any injuries or disabilities
- Your ancestor's original signature or "x" mark
- Physical description from time of enlistment and later life
- Medical information from service and subsequent medical examinations
- Death information for soldier, widow or dependents who receive pensions
- Widow's and other dependents' affidavits establishing relationships; may include copies of Bible records, children's birth records, affidavits by family and associates
- Widow's proof of marriage to soldier; evidence of other marriages, spousal deaths or divorces

Clues, Clues, Clues

Use what you find to dig deeper into your soldier's military experience. Additional federal records include compiled service records, carded medical records, court martial case files, military correspondence, unit histories, photographs and more.

Order your soldier's pension file: <https://www.archives.gov/research/order>

Learn more about federal pension files and other military records: <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans>

336,668
ORIGINAL INVALID CLAIM

Soldier, *Nicholas August Heit*

P. O., *Ferry* Rank, *Private*

County, *Mahaska* Company, *6*

State, *Iowa* Regiment, *7 Iowa Inf.*

Rate, \$ *4* per month, commencing *August 10, 1864*

And ending January 6, 1886

Provided for *Dr. discharges resulting files*

Genealogy at a Glance, a series by Genealogical Publishing Company.

The basic concept of this series provides how-to information on a variety of topics in just four laminated pages. Compiled by respected authorities, each At a Glance title provides a distillation of the key ingredients in a given area of genealogical research. This overview of the basic facts will allow you to begin and proceed successfully with your research. The information is provided literally at a glance.

IGS has a collection of these at the librarian's desk. If you would like to see them just ask the librarian. IGS has the following titles:

African American Genealogy Research by Michael Hait

American Cemetery Research by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, MFA

Ellis Island Research by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG

French-Canadian Genealogy Research by Denise R Larson

Immigration Research by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, MFA

Revolutionary War Genealogy Research by Craig R Scott, CG

Scottish Genealogy Research By David Dobson

IGS CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 2017

Saturday, November 4

Google for Genealogy
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Kevin Spire, instructor.
Preregistration required.
Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$15 non-members.

Saturday, November 18

Beginning Genealogy
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Theresa Liewer, instructor.
Preregistration required. Cost: FREE

IT'S GADGET AFTERNOON AT IGS

November 18th, starting at 1:30.

Come and see close-up how all sorts of equipment and apps can help your genealogy research.

Ever wonder how to hook up that second monitor so you can have dual screens - here's your chance to see how it's done.

What about all those various scanners people use? Would you like to try special scanning/camera apps for your smart phone or tablets? See them in action.

Watch demonstrations of genealogy software like Legacy and RootsMagic.

How about low-tech items like security cables or stands for your lap tops?

If you have something you'd like to do a show-and-tell with, bring it along.

We'll have tables set up for hands-on experiences.

AND THE AFTERNOON IS FREE (not the gadgets.).

Get some great ideas for your Christmas list.

DECEMBER 2017

Saturday December 9, 2017

Beginning Genealogy
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Donna Anderson, instructor.
Preregistration required. Cost: FREE

Save the Date
for the
IGS Spring Conference

April 14, 2018

With

Gail Blankenau



For more information about IGS programs and activities, or to register for classes, contact IGS: 515-276-0287; igs@iowagenealogy.org, or visit the IGS website: www.iowagenealogy.org.

Iowa Genealogical Society Membership Application

Membership Benefits:

- Free access to IGS research library
- Bimonthly Newsletter
- Admission discounts to all IGS classes & events
- Discounted hourly research rate

Individual: \$35 Family: \$45

New membership Renewal

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

My company has a matching gift program. Company name:

My gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of

My gift may be best utilized for:

Building Fund \$_____

General Fund \$_____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day phone: _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed.

Please charge my credit card in the amount of
\$_____ (+ \$2.50 credit card handling fee)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Card No. _____ CVV _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Iowa Genealogical Society,
628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines IA 50309-1924



IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2017

The Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter is a publication of the Iowa Genealogical Society. Members receive the newsletter as part of their membership.

Individual members, member chapters, regional representatives and the public are invited to submit articles, reviews, chapter news and program information for publication.

Contact IGS for more information or to submit your article:

Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924
515-276-0287
igs@iowagenealogy.org

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

IGS EVENTS



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 Groups meets the
first Tuesday **of the month,**
at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



IGS HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

November 23 & 24, 2017

&

December 23, 2017

Through January 1, 2018



GIVE THE GIFT OF FAMILY THIS YEAR.
GIVE AN IGS MEMBERSHIP.

PRESERVING THE PAST & ENRICHING THE FUTURE