

MARCH 2018

Iowa Genealogical Society

Spring is coming. I know because I heard a robin sing and flowers are starting to grow at IGS. Which means the genealogist is dreaming of road trips. Don't lie, I know it's true.

Recently I had a volunteer go through the IGS lost and found. We get lots of stuff. People lose money; I often find pill bottles of quarters. Once I found \$80 on the floor in the reader room. Finders, Keepers! No, they got it back.

People have left computers, cameras, cords, jump drives, cell phones and lots and lots of research. People leave original birth, death and marriage certificates as well as pictures and notebooks.

Sometimes we can return the items but often we can't because we have no idea who they belong to. Before you start that trip put your name and a phone number or email on all folders and notebooks. Put it in your camera case and computer case too. That way if you leave it we can get it back to you. If you are currently a member we have your contact info but that's not the case if you are just visiting for the day.

Completely fill in that sign in sheet we and other libraries have. That way if we need to we can contact you if we think something is yours. If you just sign in as Mary Jones it doesn't help.



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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.

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Kevin Spire

1st Vice President
Lori Meyer

2nd Vice President
Tasha Jackson

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Hawkeye Heritage
Susan Claman

IGS Newsletter
Debi Iseminger Chase

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kevin Spire, IGS President

So many times, I've wanted my family tree to tell me more than names, places and dates. I want to understand more about these people and what was their experience. How do you fill in the gaps and create a better understanding of your ancestor's life? Sometimes we genealogists can get so caught up in the search for a record, that we miss the story. It's these pieces of information that can often help provide a clearer picture to strengthen our connection from present to past.

Have you realized the treasure of insights you can find in newspapers, magazines, periodicals, letters and diaries? Read the sections you might normally look over to get a bigger perspective of your ancestor's world. Photos are another insightful tool in understanding the community and the landscape. Police reports can have some great, juicy details. Editorial, Opinion and Society sections of a newspaper can provide insights to the thoughts and concerns of a community. Below are some topics you might want to take a closer look at.

Government: What was the political temperament like? Consider the feeling towards government and leaders. Be it national or at the local level, government impacted people's lives. Was there a war at the time your ancestor lived? Even if your ancestor did not serve in the military during a war, the stress still impacted everyone in some manner.

Health: How was the health of the public? Even today we are seeing a winter with horrible resurgence of influenza. Maybe your ancestor lived during the influenza pandemic of 1918. I remember my mother telling me about the polio scare of the early 1950's and the concern over not enough iron lungs to keep people alive.

Technology: Imagine the impact a gas-powered tractor had for the farmer that could afford it. And electricity that could bring daylight to an entire town?! When first seen, men dropped to their knees at the sight of these outdoor arc lamps that were mounted 60-100 feet from the ground. It must have seemed incredible!

Agriculture: Many times, weather will impact the success of crop production. But what about plant disease? Insect infestations. Cattle rustling. Remember the farm crisis of the 1980's? Doesn't seem that long ago to me, but there is an entire generation that may not understand how that event changed the lives of many families.

Other: Who remembers the meat shortage of the 1970's? And the fuel shortage occurred around the same time. And the Tylenol scare which resulted in aspirin bottles that no one could open.

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President's message continued from page 2

One word of advice is to always keep in mind the time period that you're thinking about. Years ago, the world seemed to be a much bigger place than it is today; and it seems to get smaller the further back you travel. Television and the media have had a big influence in how our modern society sees the world.

Remember, we are not so different from those that lived generations ago. At our core we all have shared similar wants, needs, fears and concerns.

I hope these suggestions help to spawn some ideas on how to grow your family tree.

Cheers!
Kevin

RootsTech 2018

If you don't know what RootsTech is it's a great conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, every year. It's held every year at the end of February, first part of March. From the people that I talked to that attended it was fantastic. I'm jealous I've never been able to attend. Many of the classes were streamed live but if you missed them you can go to <https://www.rootstech.org/rootstech-2018-videos>.

I've only watched a few but plan to watch more. They have a large collection that you can watch on line.

Keynote speakers like [Scott Hamilton](#) (the skater) and [Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.](#)

Lot's and lots of sessions on DNA. The Friday, [Finding the Right DNA Test for You](#) was very interesting and even my non-techie brain understood it.

Wednesday's session on [The Basics of WWII Research](#) was very good. The speaker mentioned that most of the information was also good for WWI and Korea. Find something you're interested in and take a look.

The logo for RootsTech 2018. It features the word "rootstech" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark red background. To the right of the text is a white icon of a tree with a circuit board-like structure, where the branches and roots are represented by lines ending in small circles, symbolizing the intersection of technology and genealogy.

rootstech 

SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

to be held April 14th in the IGS west wing

Conference fee includes lunch

Early Registration (Through April 6)

_____ IGS Member x \$60 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$75 = _____

Late Registration

_____ IGS Member x \$70 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$85 = _____

_____ 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 _____ CVV _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Complete this form & mail it with your credit card information or check to:

IGS Spring Conference
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Register online: www.iowagenealogy.org
For more information contact IGS:
515 276-0287 igs@iowagenealogy.org

IGS West Wing, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines
IGS Spring Conference Schedule April 14th

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

9:00 a.m. - Announcements

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Connect the Dots with a Migration Study

Using a case study approach, connecting the dots will show how to trace your family's migration to solve your research questions. By starting with what you know and a creative use of traditional and new sources, filling in those blanks often reveal more than just your family's movements.

Break

10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Proof or Consequences: Change How You Approach Evidence

Quantity or quality? Once upon a time, genealogists said three documents that answered the research question was the standard. Now, we know that numbers do not matter. Effective document analysis is the key.

Learn how to interrogate a document, find further information, and weigh and compare evidence. These solid techniques will help you to take your research to the next level.

11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Who is Hiding in Your Drawer?

You will learn how to bring your ancestral images into focus with power combinations of image type, fashions, photographer's marks, family trees and resemblances. These techniques can help you to recover the identity of those intriguing faces from the past.

Break

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Probe Those Probates for Hidden Clues

Probate records document a court's decisions regarding the distribution of an estate. However, there is more to a probate record than meets the eye. Whether or not the records name the heirs, they often contain valuable clues that help to establish likely relationships and recover information about that all-important family.

IGS CALENDAR

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

MARCH 2018

Saturday, March 17

State Census Records: Genealogical Jewels
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG
\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Iowa's State Census Records: Genealogical Jewels

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG
\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

APRIL 2018

Tuesday, April 10

Beginning Genealogy
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Kevin Spire, instructor.
Preregistration required. Cost: FREE

Saturday, April 28

Getting to Know Computer Apps
Google/Evernote/Windows
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Kevin Spire & Lori Meyer, instructors.
\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

**Don't forget to sign
up for the
Spring Conference**



Dr William Iseminger

An early Iowa Doctor

William was a Doctor in Denison and also one of the founders of Denison, Iowa. Dr. Iseminger was a republican. He was county coroner for several terms, a member of the city council and also has been a member of the school board. He was also a member of the board of pension examiners for a number of years.



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

March 2018

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.

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.

GERMAN INTEREST GROUP

April 2 - Wellsburg, Iowa Sources and My 2017 Trip
to Germany

In preparing for her 2017 trip to Germany, the
speaker went through information on both her
parents' families. Her mother's families came from
Ostfriesland and settled in Grundy County, Iowa.
Pam will discuss the library at Wellsburg with the
wealth of information in Ortsippenbucher, as well as
photos from her trip. – Speaker Pam Washington



WOODLAND CEMETERY TOURS FOR 2018

Take a tour of Des Moines's oldest cemetery

Here are the first 2 months of Saturday tour dates and times:

Saturday April 14th from 1:00-3:30 pm

Saturday May 5th from 1:00-3:30 pm

Additional dates will be added later this Spring.

Please email me, Archie Cook, for confirmation and directions/instructions at email address
archiecook@email.com

PRESERVING THE PAST & ENRICHING THE FUTURE