

FEBRUARY 2020

# Iowa Genealogical Society

You may be wondering why this newsletter says February instead of January. Well the reason is because I made an executive decision to change it. No, I had permission.

Because IGS is closed for a week or more in December getting the January newsletter out on time is extremely difficult. I had considered making the change last year but didn't. But this year decided to take the plunge. So starting this year the IGS newsletters will be February, April, June, August, October and December.

Since the topic is the newsletter I would love to know if there is anything you would like to see included in the newsletter. I try to add things that will be useful for our members but I'm always happy to get suggestions.



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IOWA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
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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  
Tasha Jackson

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary  
Debbie Jorgenson

Treasurer  
Sheri Snodgrass

IGS STAFF

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Administrative Assistant  
Debi Iseminger Chase

Librarian  
Debi Iseminger Chase

Assistant Librarian  
Susan Claman

Assistant Librarian  
Tony Cupp

Assistant Librarian  
Karen Voss

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IGS EDITORIAL STAFF

*Hawkeye Heritage*  
Susan Claman

*IGS Newsletter*  
Debi Iseminger Chase

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Tasha Jackson, IGS President*

Welcome to 2020! It's now January, and I'm hoping this will be a better year for me than 2019 turned out to be. Unfortunately, my holiday season began with the passing of my genealogy friend, IGS member Delores Lewis, in November. Our ancestors were from the same Norwegian village of Skånevik, so we enjoyed exploring our possible familial connections, and I always enjoyed seeing her at our monthly Norwegian Interest Group meetings. I then started December, as my family and I worked on our fourth *Christkindlmarkt Des Moines* event at Principal Park, with a nasty case of bronchitis, followed by having to spend my birthday in the emergency room with unbearable lower back pain. While at the hospital, I learned I had to have surgery to remove a surprise kidney stone **I didn't know I had. I had surgery the following day, and before I could fully recover from that, I lost another genealogy friend (and distant cousin), longtime IGS member and volunteer Myrt Van Dyke, on December 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Here at IGS, we're still recovering from the loss of both of our longtime members as we ease into the new year, but are working on looking ahead to our Spring Conference. This year, our education theme is all about embracing your cultural heritage. Our Education Committee is working to plan classes that will help us explore the different cultures and ethnicities that have helped make Iowa what it is today. We always need help on our Education Committee to help us plan new classes and help us structure our conferences – please let us know if you're interested in joining us.

We have someone interested in serving as a new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the coming year, so we will bring their name to the next board meeting as a **consideration, but we're still looking for a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.** The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is vital to our continued education offerings, as they serve as **Chair of the Education Committee.** We're still operating on a skeleton crew of loyal volunteers, but there's hope on the horizon, as several others have stepped forward to start volunteering in the coming months. We have lots of great ideas, but few people to help us carry them out, and we'd like to continue to be able to offer you the quality programming and resources you enjoy.

Our crowdrise fundraising page is still active – please share the link with your friends and family. If you would like to help us by contributing, or would like to help share our link with others, you can find it on our Facebook page, or you can visit the website with this address:

<http://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/keeping-history-alive-campaign>

We continue to make progress on our bill from the heat exchanger replacement on the roof last

Continued on page 3

President's Message continued from page 2

year, and we continue to save on our operating costs by having people donate most of the items we need to run the library on a daily basis, such as ink and printer paper. A generous donor renewed our Ancestry Library Edition subscription for 2020, so you can continue to utilize this resource in our library throughout the year. Is there something you enjoy talking about that you'd like to share with others? Consider volunteering to teach a class! You don't have to be a teacher or have a teaching degree to do so—several of our Fall Conference attendees expressed an interest in helping teach a class—we're here to help you prepare! As always, advice and suggestions are always welcome! Keep checking our website for new class listings, and our Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest updates.

Hope you see you all in the library soon!

Tasha Jackson

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## RootsTech 2020 Free Livestream Schedule

Rootstech is a great genealogical conference if you're able to attend. But for those of us that can't you can still watch many of the classes online.

If traveling to Salt Lake City isn't an option for you, don't worry! Many of the sights and teachings from the conference will be streamed live -for free!

Join us starting on Wednesday, February 26, at 8:00 a.m. mountain standard time, and enjoy learning from presenters such as Crista Cowan, Blaine Bettinger, Jenny Hansen, and more!

General sessions featuring keynote speakers will also be streamed. Join the conversation happening on social media using #NotAtRootsTech. You can view the full streaming schedule below. All times are listed in mountain standard time.

If you need help calculating the time difference to your time zone, visit [TheTimeZoneConverter.com](https://www.thetimezoneconverter.com). Sessions will be available to view on demand after the livestream ends.

The livestream schedule is available at <https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake/live-stream-schedule>

## MYRTLE VAN DYKE 1922-2019

Normally when one of our members passes away we don't mention it in the newsletter. Tasha also allowed me to close the library on the day of her funeral. I would have hated not being able to such a special lady. Myrt was in a class by herself. Not only has she been a member for decades she has also been a volunteer for the same amount of time. Myrt stopped volunteering full time when she hit age 95. Mainly because she didn't like driving that far from Johnston. But that didn't stop her from working on a mailing for the full day when we were working on the November Newsletter.



Myrt worked on the IGS mailing crew for many years. She was a library attendant and if you were lucky enough to have her help you she stayed with you all day and believe me she would find things for you. Many of the people she helped would come back to see her and often brought gifts of chocolate.

Myrt was also the expert on DNA before the IGS DNA interest group started. People were always surprised when we had them talk to Myrt when they had DNA questions. She loved sharing what she knew with others and was usually able to make us understand what she was talking about.



My favorite Myrt story. IGS used to have Lives & Times speakers. The tables would all be removed from the library so we could move chairs in. After one of the events everyone was chatting as usual. Myrt decided that the tables needed to be put back so she got another woman to help her and she was ready to move tables. Believe me, they are very heavy. When I saw what she was doing I announced to the many men in the room that perhaps they could help so a woman in her 80's wouldn't have to do the work. They started helping but Myrt was still in the thick of things. There was nothing she didn't think she could do and usually she was right.

Part of her obituary reads:

Myrtle joined the United States Navy Waves in 1943 until her honorable discharge in 1946. She was stationed in New York and assigned as chief mailman. Returning to Des Moines from her military duty, she attended Drake University, where she received her Master and teaching degrees. She worked as a Kindergarten Teacher for the Des Moines Public Schools for 33 years and retired in 1984.



Myrt was a member of the Iowa Genealogical Society, Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines, D.A.R (Daughters of the American Revolution), National Huguenot Society, Daughters of American Colonists, Colonial Clergy, The National, Iowa and Des Moines Education Associations, Des Moines Area School Personnel Association, Iowa WAVES Veterans #84, V.F.W. Auxiliary #9662, Naval Armed Guard Iowa-Minnesota WWII and the American Legion in Johnston. She also served as a Volunteer for the Iowa Genealogical Library and VA Central Iowa Health Care System.



**IOWA WELSH SOCIETY  
2020 ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION**

**Reservation Form**

Sunday, March 8, 2020  
Pella Golf and Country Club  
600 Elm Street, Pella, Iowa 50219  
641-628-4664

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = Total Remittance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify any dietary needs:      Vegetarian / Vegan / Other

\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Iowa Welsh Society

Mail check and this form to: Richard Phillips  
Pella Golf and Country Club  
600 Elm St, Pella, Iowa 50219

**Reservations due Wed. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>**

You may contact Margaret Patterson at 319-541-2876 cell or [mepattic@gmail.com](mailto:mepattic@gmail.com)  
for further information



The German Interest Group always has a good time. At Christmas that means good food and good company. If you have German heritage you might want to attend their monthly meetings. They have a lot of knowledge to share.

# German Ostfriesen Apfel Kuchen

(Apple Cake)

Ardith Ortgies

## **In food processor:**

1 Cup Sugar

1 Cup flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

4 Tablespoons cold butter, cut in 4 pieces

1 teaspoon vanilla

Process until mixture looks like corn meal and spread in buttered 9 inch spring form pan  
(do not pat it down)

4 large tart apples, peeled, quartered.

Feed through slicing disc of processor (thinly)

Arrange on top of crumb mixture.

Bake 35 minutes at 350 degrees

## **Topping:**

3 Tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

3 Tablespoons melted butter

1 large egg

Mix all ingredients until smooth and sugar is dissolved.

Spoon over apples and bake 20 minutes more or until top is firm.

**Easy and basically you only dirty the food processor!!**



One of the great items at the GIG Christmas pot luck

## IGS CALENDAR

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

### JANUARY 2020

Saturday, January 11

Beginning Genealogy

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

Instructor - Sheri Snodgrass

Preregistration required. FREE

Saturday, January 18

**What's the Best Genealogy Software for You?**

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

Instructor - Tasha Jackson

Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$15 non-members.

### FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday, February 1

Website Comparison

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

Instructor - Sheri Snodgrass

Preregistration required.

Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$15 non-members.

Tuesday, February 11

Beginning Genealogy

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor - Tasha Jackson

Preregistration required. FREE

Classes subject to change

# Save the Date

## April 18, 2020

### IGS Spring Conference

More information coming



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: \_\_\_\_\_   CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



IOWA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2020

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.

## 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.

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

Ancestry.com User Group meets the  
second Sunday of the month, from 1:30 p.m.

Family Tree Maker User Group meets the  
second Sunday of the month, from 3 p.m.

Irish Interest Group meets on the  
third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Legacy User Group meets the third Thursday  
of the month, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Norwegian Interest Group meets on the fourth  
Tuesday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m.

RootsMagic User Group meets the fourth  
Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Publishing & Preserving Family History  
Interest Group meets the fourth Sunday of the  
month, at 1:30 p.m.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy  
of the newsletter please send an e-mail to  
[igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org). Include your name and e  
-mail address that you would like it sent to.

## February German Interest Group Meeting Date Change

February 10 2020

Topic: Exploring Genealogy.net; also Using a  
Research Plan for Brick Walls

CompGen (Verein fur Computergenealogie (or  
Genealogy.net). This group is the largest genealog-  
ical society in Germany. The group was formed to  
help preserve and access records of all areas of  
Germany today as well as the former German  
areas. CompGen is the overarching umbrella and  
their website has much information.

Brick walls are a normal process in the gene-  
alogist's road to finding your ancestors.

The program committee will note personal brick  
walls, and we'll ask members to bring their own so  
we can do a group project. We'll dissect problems  
at the meeting with our bullet points below, as well  
as go over types of sources (primary, secondary,  
tertiary, and family tradition.)

Whats? What I know, What I think I know, What  
I don't know, What I want to know.

Facilitators: GIG Program Committee

March 2 2020

Topic: The Emigrant Experience

The speakers will discuss timelines of great waves  
of emigrants leaving, documents needed, what  
waterways they might have taken, and more.

Facilitators/Speaker: Mike Schrader and Diane  
Green

PRESERVING THE PAST & ENRICHING THE FUTURE