

JUNE 2020

Iowa Genealogical Society

Once again it's newsletter time and unfortunately life is still not back to normal.

Since many are still sticking close to home I thought I'd pass on some information about the different parts of FamilySearch. I know many of you search for historical records but there is a lot more to FamilySearch.

FamilySearch has the FS Family Tree. This is one tree for everyone in the world. Everyone can make changes. A little scary but I seldom have problems with people messing up my lines. The more sources that get added to the tree the more people leave it alone. I have people with 99 good sources attached.



You would not want to upload a gedcom file to this tree because it would create lots of duplicates. Just enter yourself and search first to see if your parents and grandparents are already in the tree.

I often use FS Family Tree when I'm helping patrons. I can often find a source or a hint of somewhere to look for more information. Even if you don't want to use the Family Tree it's a good idea to check it out when you are stuck.

The genealogies section is a static personal database that you can upload a gedcom file. To update you have to take down your file and upload a new one. No one can make changes and it's a great way to have a copy of your database that family can refer to.

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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 Tasha Jackson, IGS President

Hello everyone!

Well, I've completed the 2020 census form for our household, and have been doing some cleaning and organizing at home over the past two months. For the time being, our library building remains closed. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic doesn't currently appear to have an end in sight, so it's hard to know what the best course of action is regarding reopening. Governor Reynolds has eased some restrictions in the state that *would* allow us to reopen, with limitations, but right now, with our limited staff, and volunteers still staying away from the building, it's not a feasible option for us. We don't have the staff numbers necessary to maintain the cleanliness level needed to ensure virus transmission remains low, and the last thing we'd want would be to be responsible for a local outbreak because we opened up too early. We're a non-circulating reference library, so every book that is used gets put back on the shelf—during our busier times this could be multiple people per day looking at the same book. We can't keep books, chairs, desks, tables, computers, the kitchen area, and the bathrooms disinfected at the level that is currently needed to combat this virus without devoting a significant part of our day to it, and I currently believe that it's safer to wait to open back up until there's less of a threat for local transmission. Since our last newsletter, many schools have been cancelled for the rest of the academic year, and many events, locally and around the world, that were scheduled for this Summer and Fall have already been cancelled as well. We don't currently have a timetable of when we will start opening back up to the public, or when we will resume classes and conferences. Right now there are still too many variables in play. Please look at our website, Facebook page, and/or Twitter account periodically, as those would be the first places to see updates about reopening.

Many of us are still stuck at home, wondering what we can be doing during a time when it still isn't safe to gather in large groups. I continue to make journal entries every day about how things around the world are changing. Think about some things that you could be doing while you're stuck at home that could help future generations of genealogists (and immediate family members as well!) better understand our lives. Consider using this time to label old photographs that you haven't gotten around to yet. Start scanning your photos onto your computer so there's more than one copy. Organize those genealogy research binders so that they have a natural flow for someone who doesn't work with them every day. Make copies of items that would be impossible or incredibly difficult to replace. For items that might be too large to fit in a folder or binder, consider labeling the back with what the item is and how you acquired it. Start organizing that maze of photos and documents on your computer so the file names make sense and items are grouped in an order that makes sense. Make back-up copies of your information!

In the meantime, please continue to share our website with relatives and friends, and ask them to click on the 'Donate' button. We've applied for several grants through the government's CARES Act, as well as local programs within the state and the city. We've received one grant so far, but we continue to

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research others in case they may be available as well. We've adjusted our mortgage payments to interest-only for the time being, which helps ease the burden of our monthly expenses as well. If you order items from Amazon, consider ordering from smile.amazon.com, their non-profit giving arm, instead of the general amazon.com site. You can enter 'Iowa Genealogical Society' in the box designating who they should make their donation to each time you purchase something on their site. Continue to hang in there, keep in touch with your family and friends via email, letters, phone calls, and video conferencing if you can, and I hope that you and all of your friends and family members stay healthy and avoid catching this virus. I know several people who have had it, but so far all have recovered, and thankfully, none of them are part of my household! I hope to see you all back in the library and at our next conference when this is all over!

Tasha Jackson

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The memories section is the place to add your family pictures and family stories. This would be a great place to tell the story of being in lockdown for Covid-19. Also add pictures of how you spent your time in quarantine. Tell the story of the great toilet paper hunt. This will allow future generations to know what it was really like living through a pandemic.

The Research Wiki is your friend. If there is a genealogical subject that you don't know much about, the wiki is the place to start. Maybe you need to know about vital records in Maryland. Type in Maryland and everything you want to know about research in the state will be available. Make the wiki your first stop. Or maybe you want to know about homesteading, fixed and moveable feast days in Sweden, native American research. If you can wonder about it the answer is probably in the wiki.

FamilySearch has a Book section too. The Family History Library is actively digitizing its family histories, local histories, and other collections to make them searchable and available online to researchers worldwide. Together with other world-renowned genealogical research partner libraries, the Family History Library is pleased to make its collections and its partners' collections available together in the new online digital library.

When I googled my Iseminger surname this is what I see.

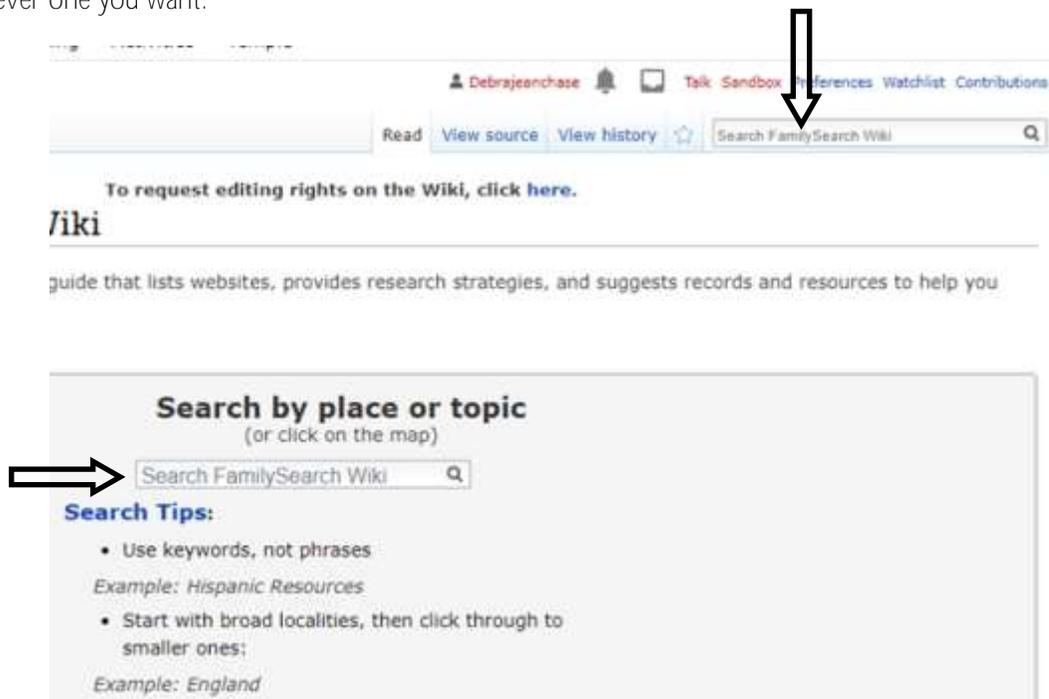
Access Level

Public	490	Available for anyone to see. You can read the full book.
Protected	275	Not available online. Click on Full Text Results and you can see snippets of what it contains.
Full Permission	22	I was able to read the full book.
Member Permission	4	These have restrictions of where the books can be seen. Family History Library etc.

For books that you are not able to see online look on worldcat.org to see if a local library has a copy.

FAMILYSEARCH WIKI

If you need to know more about a subject use the Wiki. You would not search for a surname. However, you would search for Iowa, England, homesteading, etc. The main page has two search boxes. You can use whichever one you want.



All the pages generally have the same arrangement. **I'll let you in on a secret.** Anything written in blue is a link that you can click on. It may take you to a link or it may allow you to sort items in a list

You can click on Online Genealogy Records and you will be taken to a chart showing links to statewide collections. To find links to collections for lower jurisdictions (such as a county or town), go to Locating Online Databases.

Getting Started with Maryland Research

Links to articles on getting started with Maryland research.

- [Guided Research](#)
- [Step-by-Step Maryland Research, 1880-Present](#)
- [How to Find Birth Records](#)
- [How to Find Marriage Records](#)
- [How to Find Death Records](#)
- [Research Strategies](#)

[Maryland Online Genealogy Records](#)

[Ask the Community](#)

Maryland Research Tools

Links to articles and websites that assist in Maryland research.

- [Boundary Changes for Maryland Counties](#)
- [Maryland Archives and Libraries](#)
- [MDGenWeb](#)
- [Geographical Names Information System - U.S. gazetteer of places, cemeteries and post offices in Maryland.](#)

You can also try the Guided Research link.

What is Guided Research?

The purpose of the Guided Research pages is to provide a prioritized list of genealogy resources for birth, marriage, and death records as evaluated by FamilySearch professionals for optimized research.

The Guided Research project was created for consultants (who know something about genealogy) and provides basic steps to find birth, marriage, and death information for a locality they may not be familiar with.

The list of countries or localities created are limited to those with online index collections and is not designed to cover every locality.

Guided Research pages can cover a country or other large jurisdiction such as states, provinces or counties. Collections must have significant coverage for the locality for it to be considered to be placed on the main Guided Research page for the locality.

The goal of the Guided Research pages and the databases selected for each locality is to have a 60% success rate when searched. Because there are many reasons why you may not find a record for an ancestor (lack of records, loss of records, incomplete database coverage, incorrect indexing, incorrect search perimeters, lack of information, server failures, etc.), the links under What else you can try may help in overcoming these reasons and provide a higher success rate.

The What else you can try pages in Guided Research are to provide tips for problem solving when the initial result proves unsuccessful.



SCHOOL RECORDS



[The Ancestor Hunt](#)

Just Published - Links to 620 Free Online School Record Collections from the Mid-West States. An underutilized information source, School Records are full of very useful genealogical information. Check out your state:

- Illinois - <http://bit.ly/2vdjDhI>
- Michigan - <http://bit.ly/2TBwdRh>
- Minnesota - <http://bit.ly/333E5xV>
- Nebraska - <http://bit.ly/2PXsriU>
- Ohio - <http://bit.ly/2WcksTd>
- Indiana - <http://bit.ly/2IxSM35>
- Iowa - <http://bit.ly/2QtToLB>
- Kansas - <http://bit.ly/2THwLF9>
- Missouri - <http://bit.ly/2T6KmWk>
- North Dakota - <http://bit.ly/3cQNCxO>
- Oklahoma - <http://bit.ly/37loiU>
- South Dakota - <http://bit.ly/2W9SIDY>
- Wisconsin - <http://bit.ly/2W797DR>

AmazonSmile



Everyone is buying more and more online. If you order from Amazon.com order from AmazonSmile instead and let them know you want to give money to the Iowa Genealogical Society.

The prices are the same but it's a painless way to donate to IGS.

About AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Think Two Generations Ahead

ALWAYS CONSIDER:

When adding sources, pictures and stories to your family tree, consider::

People two generations in the future.

Will it make sense to them?

Are all pictures titled, identified, and tagged to everyone in the picture?

Do stories include the person's name in the title?

Are sources complete, not just "because I said so."

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life stories of ancestors are being told – not just fact collecting.

Life stories cannot be wrapped up in three or four facts."

Find all available sources and post them

Genealogy without sources is mythology!

From the Riverton FamilySearch Library

****If you were teaching a 5 year old what would you have to tell them? Never assume they have the same knowledge you do.****

IGS CALENDAR

From The German Interest Group:

Although our program committee is sharing some different things to do and websites to look into during this time of COVID, one item we thought would be of interest to others who haven't joined our group is this website. For years we've had the Meyers Orts Lexicon as a two-volume set in our IGS library in the German section. The books were printed in the early 1900s (supposedly as a salesman's guide), with info on which province it belongs to, how many lived in the village/city, if there was a church/synagogue, a telegraph line, etc.

Over 20 years ago a wonderful lady by the name of Marion Rainey decided she could possibly decipher and index ALL the entries in both volumes. She approached the Family History Center in Salt Lake City about this, and eventually a computer programmer volunteered to help with the technical aspects of this website. The result is a free resource that has made lots of people happy they didn't have to translate the old Fraktur printing in the original books. If you think you have a German village/city in your heritage, look into this.

Type the name of your village into the searchbox. You don't need to use umlauts or other characters found in the German name. You can also use an "*" as a wildcard for searching. For instance, an indexer thought the place of birth for a great-uncle was "Monsonheim." After looking at a digitized copy of the original marriage record and using the wildcard, I was able to get "Moenchsondheim" as a result, which is in Bavaria and fit family legend.

The website isn't as helpful if your place name is common; then you have to use other information to narrow the field down to province if possible. Once you get the correct place name, then it gives you further information such as a partial translation of the entry, a tab with an old map and current Goggle map; an ecclesiastical tab noting any churches/synagogues in the village plus others in a 20-mile radius, and so forth. So give it a try.

<https://www.meyersgaz.org/>

For the Irish Interest Group:

We didn't get to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with each other and we haven't been able to meet to help each other over those notorious Irish brick walls. But we can be using this time at home to explore online resources. A few suggestions are:

www.IrishGenealogyToolKit.com, a free website by Clarie Santry. She has links to multiple resources.

www.FamilySearch.org Go to their research Wiki (under the Search link) and type Ireland in the search box. You can be lost for days when you see the results. They also have videos on Irish research - Go to Help and choose Learning Center from the drop down menu. Type in Ireland in that search board and be amazed. I found the webinar on Irish Presbyterian research very helpful.

In Ireland, they toast with the phrase *Slainte* which means Health. So to all of you, we sincerely say *Slainte*.

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

June 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

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. Include your name and e
-mail address that you would like it sent to.

From CCGS

Cass County Genealogical Society is starting to
slowly unpack things in our new room at the
Atlantic Library. We have over 50 boxes of books
**to unpack and put away as well as many “loose”
books that didn’t find their way into a box.**

We have set up the book shelves and are working
on making some order out of the confusion.
We hope to be up and running when the Library is
ready to open full time.

The Library is now open 3 days a week but only 30
people at a time can be in there, including staff, so
things are going slowly for us.

Currently the IGS Library is still closed.
When the Special Interest Groups start
meeting again we will announce it.

PRESERVING THE PAST & ENRICHING THE FUTURE