



# IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Preserving the Past and Enriching the Future Since 1965

628 E. Grand Ave. · Des Moines, IA 50309-1924 · 515-276-0287 · [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) · [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

**Greetings from the Iowa Genealogical Society!** IGS, a non-profit organization funded by membership dues and donations, is dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of Iowa's people. As we celebrate our 45th anniversary, IGS is pleased to continue a tradition of historical and cultural excellence.

## Irish Conference Planned for August 7th

The Iowa Genealogical Society is pleased to offer a special full-day conference, **"Researching Your Irish Roots,"** **Saturday, August 7, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

All classes will be held in rooms A & B, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, Des Moines.

Topics of discussion include:

- Researching Catholic Church Records
- Irish Migration Patterns
- Using Land Valuation Records
- Irish Research Websites
- Preparing for a Research Trip to Ireland



Special guest presenters:

Mary Wickersham and Sheila Northrop are co-presidents of the professional research firm Midwest Ancestor Research. They have served on the boards of the Irish Genealogical Society International and the Minnesota Genealogical Society and are instructors for courses in both societies. Sheila is currently Education Chair for IGSI. Both are members of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the National Genealogical Society.

Theresa Liewer moderates the Irish Interest Group of the Iowa Genealogical Society and has served on the IGS board in several roles. She made her first research trip to Ireland in 1997 and has made several more, including the Third and Fourth Irish Genealogical Congresses in Maynooth and Dublin. One of her prized possessions is the Land Valuation Map showing the exact ten acres her McCormack family lived on.

Cost: \$40 IGS members/\$50 non-members. Space is limited & preregistration is required.

Register early to reserve your place at this special conference!

Registration information is available online: <http://www.iowagenealogy.org> and at the IGS Library.



**Sarah Craig**  
born 1832  
Queen's County, Ireland

## Library Hours

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

Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

## IGS Staff

**Administrative Assistant**  
Debra Chase

**Assistant Librarian**  
Susan Claman

## Chapter News from Across Iowa

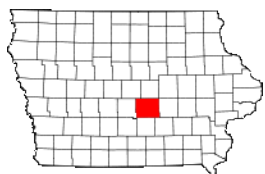


**Iowa County Genealogy Society** held its fourth annual "A Picnic In The Cemetery" in June. Participants took a sack lunch, lawn chairs and bug spray and met at 6:00 p.m. at Piersol Cemetery.

Featured speakers were Bonnie and Scott Romine and Dave Jackson. Scott is the cemetery sexton, Bonnie portrayed several of her ancestors, and Dave spoke about a man that had been murdered and is buried in Piersol.

"A Picnic in the Cemetery" has become the society's most popular program. Past years have included presentations on reading and caring for tombstones and understanding the meanings of the symbols on the stones. The last two years have included portrayals of people that are buried in the featured cemetery.

ICGS meets the second Thursday of each month at the genealogical library in North English. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact: Iowa County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 207, 121 Main St., North English, IA 52316. Phone: 319-664-3194. Email: [iacogen@netins.net](mailto:iacogen@netins.net) . Website: <http://iagenweb.org/iowa/research/ICGS.htm> .



From the **Jasper County Genealogical Society**:  
TO ALL IGS MEMBERS & INTERESTED FRIENDS:  
The **Jasper County Genealogical Society** needs to buy a new microfilm reader/scanner/printer for our genealogical library.

We have more than 50 rolls of microfilm that we cannot view because our old microfilm reader is beyond repair. We have applied for a \$5000 grant from the Pepsi Co. to help us buy a new machine. Each month during 2010 Pepsi awards grants to various projects based on the number of votes received.

Voting begins on the first day of each month and continues through the last day of the month. In order for our society to win a grant, we need the help of our fellow genealogists and friends.

Here's how you can help:

Each day go to <http://refresheverything.com>, and click "Browse ideas and vote: on the right side of the screen. When the "Vote Now" screen comes up, type "JCGS" in the "find" window at the top right side of the page. When our project screen comes up, and before you vote, go to the blue bar at the lower left corner of the screen and click the "Sign In" button.

The first time you log on, you will be asked to select a password, enter your name and email address, prove that you are over age 18, and type two words that appear in a box. After that, just enter your email address and password, then type two words. Once you are signed in, click on the "vote for this project" button at the right side of our box, sign out, and you're done. You can cast one vote every day for the JCGS project.

Please vote for our project every day, and if you would be so kind to ask your friends and relatives to vote for us, we would certainly appreciate all your efforts.

## Volunteers Make a Difference!

Have you enjoyed and benefited from past **IGS conferences**? Are you interested in helping others make the next IGS spring and fall conferences full of fun and learning? If so, please contact Carla Anders at [carla.anders@yahoo.com](mailto:carla.anders@yahoo.com) We need YOU to help make next year's conferences a success!

**Newsletter volunteers** are needed to help with printing, folding and mailing the bimonthly newsletter. Contact the IGS office, 515-276-0287, if you can help.

**Publicity Volunteers** are needed to help post IGS programs & events to online calendars. All necessary information sent via email. If you can spare a little time & have Internet access, you can help spread the word about IGS from the comfort of home!  
Contact:  
Alice Hoyt Veen,  
515-676-2301.

**July Programs & Events at the IGS Library**  
628 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines

*All programs & activities take place at the IGS Library unless otherwise noted.*

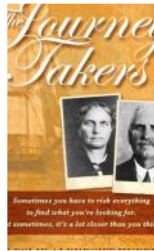
**JULY 6: African American Interest Group**  
**7 p.m.** Free.

**JULY 8: Lives & Times: Lost in Siberia—  
The Rest of the Story ~ 7 p.m.**

John Groh relates the story of two branches of the Groh family: one branch immigrated to America in the early 1900s, the other remained in Russia and was deported to Siberia by Stalin prior to WWII. Separated for over seventy years, the family has been reunited through the power of the Internet. No registration is required for this FREE program. Donations appreciated.

**JULY 9: The Journey Takers ~ 6 p.m.**

Author Leslie Albrecht Huber delves into the past to recreate the story of one of the most influential groups of people in U.S. history: nineteenth-century European immigrants. Tracing her own family's journey, she sets out to understand who they were and what mattered to them. Based on thousands of hours of research, Huber creates the immigration experience in a way that captures both its sweeping historical breadth and its intimately personal consequences.



Huber has written over one hundred articles, mostly on family history and history topics. She has spoken to local, regional, and national audiences across the country. No registration is required for this FREE program

**JULY 12\*\*DATE CHANGE\*\*:**

**German Interest Group ~ 7 p.m.**

Due to the Independence Day holiday weekend, the July meeting of the German Interest Group has been rescheduled from the regular "first Monday of the month" to July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., IGS Library. Free.

**JULY 15: Iowa Legacy Users Interest Group ~ 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

Anyone interested in learning more about the Legacy genealogy software program is invited to attend this FREE group. Bring your laptop, if you have one, with your software; learn & share information with other Legacy users.

**BEAT THE HEAT: BLOCKBUSTER  
RESEARCH WEEKEND JULY 17-18**

• **JULY 17: Introduction to African-American Research 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**  
Don't let anyone tell you it's not possible to find your African-American roots. This class is an introduction to discovering your ancestors in the pre-Civil War era. Learn about research, source materials and how to record the information you find. Discover the stories that have been passed down by the "old folks." Preregistration is required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.



• **JULY 17: Newspaper Research 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**  
Newspapers offer a wealth of information about your ancestors and the times in which they lived. Learn tips & techniques for conducting a successful search, and where you can access these valuable resources. Preregistration is required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

• **JULY 17-18: Research Slumber Party 5 p.m. Saturday, 17 July -6 a.m. Sunday, 18 July 2010**  
Take advantage of access to all IGS Library resources and the expert assistance of our volunteers for thirteen hours of continuous research. Compare notes and enjoy the company of other die-hard family history enthusiasts. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Cost: \$25 per person; includes a light supper.

**JULY 20: Irish Interest Group ~ 7 p.m.**  
Free.

**JULY 22: Beginning Internet Genealogy 6 – 8 p.m.**

Explore the possibilities of researching your family's history on the Internet. Learn about search engines, genealogical websites and more. Space is limited; preregistration is suggested for this FREE class.

**JULY 27: Norwegian Interest Group 7 p.m.** Free.

*To preregister for any IGS classes or events, stop in at the IGS Library, or contact IGS: 515-276-0287, [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org).*

## Looking Ahead: Save the Dates!

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER: Save the Dates! 2nd Annual IGS Quilt Show "Tales These Quilts Can Tell," September 30, October 1 & 2.

This year's exhibit will include a sale table for small donated quilted and/or pieced items, including pot holders, table runners, pillow tops, placemats, potato bakers, coasters, Christmas theme items and more. Members are encouraged to donate their handiwork for the sale table.



Plan to enter your family heirloom in this year's show, then save the date and come enjoy this one-of-a-kind exhibit!

For more information, contact: Shirley Munier, 277-2066 or Helen Phillips, 967-4641; or the IGS Library, 276-0287.

### IGS Fall Conference: October 8–9, 2010 Location: State Historical Society of Iowa and Iowa Genealogical Society

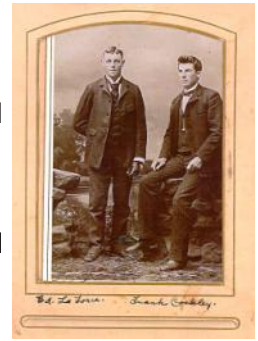
This year's conference will feature special guest Gail Blankenau of Lincoln, Nebraska. Gail is an experienced genealogist and photo historian who shares her research and advice in such well-known periodicals as the *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, and *Family Chronicle* magazine.



Genealogists who crave unique perspectives and a fresh point of view will find new inspiration and ideas in her engaging and high-energy presentations. Learn more about Gail at [http://www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org/member\\_details.php?member=BlankenauG](http://www.genealogicalspeakersguild.org/member_details.php?member=BlankenauG).

## IGS Fall Conference topics of discussion

*Dating and identifying your 19th Century Photographs.* If you have a drawer or box full of old family photos, Gail will bring your ancestral images into focus. Learn how to use power combinations of image type, fashions, photographers and your family tree to reveal the stories in those intriguing faces.



*Rich Resource for Poor Ancestors.* Rich or poor, your family left some kind of paper trail; you just need to know where to look.

*Breaking Through with Land Records.* Expand your research and break through those brick walls. Gail will guide you through the different kinds of land records, and help you prioritize and identify what she calls "high value targets."



*Keeping Up With the Jones ... and Smiths.* Learn new techniques to zero in on your ancestor as an individual—no matter what his or her name was.

### Other topics/Activities

- Photography Collection at the State Historical Society
- Research resources available at the State of Iowa Historical Society
- Iowa Land Records
- Land Record Search at the State of Iowa Historical Society
- Research opportunities at the Iowa Genealogical Society

*Watch the IGS website for registration information, and save the dates!*

**For more information about IGS, our services, programs or activities, contact:**

Iowa Genealogical Society

628 East Grand Avenue · Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1924 · 515-276-0287

[igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) · [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)