Considering the Source  

by Oriene Morrow Springstroh

We never know when, in the course of our research, we will be tripped up because we neglected to consider the source of our data. I was reminded of this common problem when I obtained a copy of the book *Family Maps of DuPage County, Illinois*, by Gregory A. Boyd, J.D., published by Arphax Publishing Co. (a land record resource series). The cover indicated that the book included land owner data from the Illinois State Archives.

When I looked at my ancestor's (Jonas Brewer) land purchases in this book, two were noted - one on 2 May 1845 and the other on 2 May 1854, complete with legal descriptions and a township map showing the locations. However, I was fairly sure from other research that Jonas Brewer had not purchased land in that township in 1854. Next I looked at the Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database on the Illinois State Archives website which indicated the same dates as Boyd's book. Boyd had not made the error. Where else, I wondered, could I look to verify the information?

Lucky for us researchers, we have the Bureau of Land Management records online at <www.glorecords.blm.gov/> to help us out. A quick search at this site revealed that title to these two properties was transferred to Jonas Brewer at the Chicago land office on 1 March 1846 (this record included digital images of the original transfer documents that I could print). Somewhere along the chain of transcriptions for this property someone transposed 1845 into 1854.

The next step was to contact the Illinois State Archives about the problem. Karl Moore soon replied to say the original record showed very clearly that both properties were purchased on 2 May 1845. He acknowledged that the error was made during transcription for the online database, but that it could not be edited soon. Let's keep reminding one another that online databases, as wonderful as they are, should first be used as guides to the original records and, secondly, as substitutes only when the original no longer exists.

---

**2008 ISGS NEWSLETTER DELIVERY DATES!**

- January 15, 2008
- March 15, 2008
- May 15, 2008
- July 15, 2008
- September 15, 2008
- November 15, 2008

Deadline dates for Article contributions to the ISGS Newsletter are 30 days prior to delivery dates above.

---

You know you are a Genealogy addict when....

⇒ You brake for libraries.
⇒ You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.
⇒ You would rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.
⇒ You would rather read census schedules than a good book.
⇒ You are more interested in what happened in 1699 than in 1999.

What’s your Genealogy Resolution?
Dear Readers:

Welcome to many “beginnings!”

You may be one of many who are reading this newsletter on your monitor in the comfort of your home or library. Beginning with this edition, ISGS is delivering the Newsletter electronically for the very first time!

As I wrote to the membership in December 2007, this was a major decision done with some thoughtful planning that included a contingency for non-computer users. The ISGS Board created a plan through October 2008, offering the Newsletter free through our web site. The Board is focusing on bringing our services digitally and electronically to reach a broader audience in the state.

You are also reading the very first Newsletter of our 40th Anniversary year! This Anniversary will be celebrated many different ways for the Society and the membership and will culminate with the Fall Conference in October.

Watch for details to come out soon.

And, of course, this is the beginning of a new fiscal year for ISGS. I will be serving my second and final term and hope to continue to make an impact with the Society and the membership. I feel strongly about reaching out to the members, and have received many types of feedback form you. Thanks so much for your positive responses.

Our Annual Membership Campaign was a huge success. I am deeply grateful for the expression of member support through monetary contributions to support our operational expenses, as well as for our many projects and activities.

Memberships once sustained an organization such as ours, but like other societies around the country, we are seeing a decline in members. Now, in addition to the purpose of data preservation and education our initiatives include re-establishing a sound, strong financial base.

In response, the Finance and Budget Committee, led by Janice Fritsch, have been working diligently to continue to balance an annual budget. I have also created fundraising endeavors, including grant opportunities that focus on raising funds outside the Society. I will include a financial statement in the next issue of the Newsletter. In the meantime, please let me know if you have questions.

Lastly, I will be contacting the many members who offered to volunteer their time and talent through the Annual Membership Campaign and at the Fall Conference in October. If you would like to become involved in a thriving, exciting organization, contact me directly at isgsnewsletter@yahoo.com. We have much to accomplish and can use your help!

I am pleased with this edition of the ISGS Newsletter, but will need a Newsletter Editor to produce it. Do you have experience with Newsletters and creating them in MS Publisher? I look forward to hearing from you!

Patricia Archibald, Franklin, IN
Steven Arvin, Reno, NV
Gene Atkin, Aurora, IL
Bonnie Brewer, Elk Grove, CA
Barbara Chabot, Portland, TX
Christian County Genealogical Society, Taylorville, IL
Florence A. Crane, Apache Junction, AZ
Carlton D. Cuffman, Buffalo Grove, IL
Joan Culler, Westchester, IL
Kirk Dermint, Fairview Heights, IL
Sandra Ditzig, Antioch, IL
Alice Dolezal, San Pierre, IN
DuPage County Genealogical Society, Wheaton, IL
Irene Fallon, Winthe, WI
Cheryl Ferrence, Boulder City, NV
Alisyn P. Friederich, Duluth, MN
Iris M. Gray, Bozeman, MT
Patricia Hagen, Burnsville, MN
Kathy Kult, Island Lake, IL
Kim Lemberg, Wildwood, IL
Lincoln Library, Springfield, IL
Fran Luby, Tower Lakes, IL
Char Martin, Hickory Hills, IL
Angela McLaughlin, Evansville, IN
Nancy McNeil, Lisle, IL
Carl Merchut, Huntley, IL
Louise More, Wilmette, IL
Patricia Murphy, Sterling Heights, MI
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists, Mt. Prospect, IL
Susan Olson, Mankat, MN
Elizabeth Orsay, Indianapolis, IN
Frank Schaefer, Peoria, IL
Patricia Schlickman, Mazon, IL
Gordon & Debbie Schmaus, Oswego, IL
Patty Smith, Quincy, IL
Steve Szabados, Palatine, IL
Jean Tousignant, Charlottesville, VA
Gerald Ventrees, Golden Valley, AZ
Gene & Kathy Walkder, Sherman, IL
Darlene Prechel Waters, Peoria, IL
Ellen Zagozdon, Chicago, IL
Gretchen Zehner, Chesterton, IN

New ISGS Members....
McLean County - Latest in Publications!

McLean County Genealogical Society’s (MCGS) latest book: *Illinois McLean County Cemeteries*, Volume 21, Hudson Cemetery, in Hudson, Illinois. This Hudson Cemetery book has been two years in the making and contains 65 pages, 48 of which are a listing of over 1700 names. Where known, information included is name, date of birth, date of death, place of death, date of burial, grave location within the cemetery, funeral home, military service, and sometimes name of spouse or parents. The book has several pages of photos of the cemetery and historic monuments. Cemetery views are also featured on the front and back of the softbound cover. Published in 2006, and one of our most ambitious projects ever, *The McLean County Combined Indexed Atlases, 1856-1914*, is a joint effort of MCGS and the McLean County Museum of History. This 11 x 14” coffee table book contains 388 pages of digitized reproductions of beautifully colored maps and lithographic plates illustrating county farms and houses and includes an index of 22,706 listings of landowners.

Order for these publications are available on the MCGS website at <http://mcgs.org/>.

Contributed by Susan Pope

Decatur County’s 2007 Success!

*Featured in the picture above is Decatur County Genealogical Society’s building. The Society successfully paid off the mortgage in 2007 and is not focused on adding titles to their vast holdings. Their facility continues to be host to many visitors doing research in the area, arriving from all over the country. Email requests continue to grow with the availability of county records.*

Cheri Hunter, ISGS Board Member and Librarian for the DCGS’s library collection reports that “the Society is diligently working on finishing publications and updating their web site. In 2007, DCGS had five new publications.”

Their web site is <www.rootsweb.com/~ildecgs>. Their telephone number is 217-429-0135.

State Section of the DCGS Bldg.

Local Society Spotlight . . .

What’s New in Monroe County!

*The Monroe County Genealogical Society (MCGS) meets in the Morrison Talbott Library in Waterloo, Illinois, on the third Thursday of each month except December at 7 PM. The current President is Jan Wenk. We attract members and visitors from many counties in Illinois and Missouri. Our county borders the Mississippi River and is close to St. Louis so members regularly attend from that city.*

One exciting project the society is currently working on is a history book of veterans in Monroe County with lots of photos. A second project is the creation of a county wide cemetery database using cemetery indexes as well as obituaries. The total county cemetery index, currently available for use at the library, now has 31,225 names. In 2007, MCGS released 7 index books compiled and indexed by Janet Flynn and Pat Vaseska of Chancery Court records.

Monroe County was established in 1816 before Illinois became a state and named after fifth President James Monroe.

MCGS’ web site is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilmcghs/> and their mailing address is P.O. Box 381, Columbia, IL 62236.

Contributed by Mary Ellen Huetsch

**In Memoriam**

Sandra Stewart Shellhammer

ISGS Charter Member, Sandra K. Stewart Shellhammer, of Illiopolis, died on September 20, 2007. A surgical nurse, Mrs. Shellhammer was also a forensic genealogist and a member of numerous genealogical societies.
Effingham County resident Marion Burford and Sangamon County resident Ruth Fouts recently produced a family history entitled “Colonial America Ancestors of the Descendants of Septimus Lee James and Cora Belle Field of Effingham County, Illinois” and donated it to the Illinois State Genealogical Society, which stores family histories at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Ms. Burford and Ms. Fouts, joined by Marion’s son, Michael Burford and Ruth’s son, Ric Major, made the donation on October 30, 2007, the 100th birth anniversary of their mother, Sarah Lucile James Hoedebecke, who had spent many years pursuing her genealogical ancestry.

Pictured above for the occasion on October 30, from left are ALPL Genealogical Research Librarian Dennis Suttles, Ruth Fouts, Ric Major, Marion Burford, ISGS Secretary Penny Todd-Ponsonby, and Michael Burford.

Contributed by David Joens, Director, Illinois State Archives.

Colonial America Family History Donated to ISGS

Acknowledging our generous contributors to ISGS and ISGS Projects! Thank you!

Angel Project Donors
- Lorraine Walker, Dyer, IN
- Genie Lorch-Davis, Lake Zurich, IL
- Wilma Gibson, Creve Coeur, IL
- Jean Hunt, Danville, CA
- Jean Mixer, Blue Springs, MO
- Jennifer Magers, Campus, IL
- Richard Parks, Chicago, IL

National Archives Fund
- Mary Young, Albuquerque, NM
- Irvin & Nel Bassett, Springville, UT
- Joan Griffis, Danville, IL
- Grace Horner, Palatine, IL
- Jean Hunt, Danville, CA

IL State Archives Gift Fund
- Curtis Brasfield, Chicago, IL
- Phyllis Rearden, Charleston, IL
- Irvin & Nel Bassett, Springville, UT
- Ann Faulkner, Harrison Twp., MI

Volkel Memorial Fund
- Mark & Kathy Sorensen, Decatur, IL
- Grace Horner, Palatine, IL
- Louise Clifton, Waukegan, IL
- Jean Hunt, Danville, CA
- Beverly Schrag, Madison, WI

ALPL Book Fund
- Gary Hargis, North Aurora, IL
  (In memory of C.D. Kirk)
- Shirley Aleguas, Waverly, IL
- Margot Dudewicz, Columbus, GA
- Grace Horner, Palatine, IL
- Jean Hunt, Danville, CA

The National Archives and Records Administration–Great Lakes Region has announced that beginning January 2008, the facility will be open each second Saturday of each month with hours 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM. Email: <Chicago.archives@nara.gov>

Upcoming programs......Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 10:00 AM
Guest presenter, David A. Joens, Director, Illinois State Archives ~ The Life and Times of John W. E. Thomas; Illinois’ First African American State Legislator

Guest presenter, Dr. Erma Brooks Williams, Sr. Executive Director for Board and Government Affairs at Chicago State University ~ Illinois African American State Lawmakers Impact on Public Policy
Civil War Websites by Oriene Morrow Springstroh

Although they will not replace the need to obtain your Civil War ancestor’s military pension file, many opportunities exist on the Internet for finding information about the Civil War, including troop rosters and campaign and battle descriptions. If you are researching an Illinois soldier, begin with the military database on the Illinois State Archives website at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html> to find information about your ancestor’s service record. State and date of birth and a personal description are usually included also. If your soldier did not live in Illinois, check the website of your state of interest to see if a military database exists to help you out. Of those this writer has visited, Pennsylvania and New York have online muster rolls similar to those of Illinois at <www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp> and <www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_military.shtml>

The website at <www.militaryindexes.com/civilwar/> is an excellent place to search for your soldier. The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System is a computerized database containing very basic facts about servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War. The beauty of this site is the ability to search by surname and turn up the names of all soldiers with that surname in any regiment, whether Union or Confederate. You can also turn up a complete roster of his regiment or company to see who his comrades were. The facts about the soldiers were entered from records that are indexed to many millions of other documents about Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. Other information includes: histories of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies, links to descriptions of 384 significant battles of the war, and other historical information. Additional information about soldiers, sailors, regiments, and battles, as well as prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records, will be added over time.

Another place you can find a brief history of a unit’s action is <http://www.civilwararchive.com/>. Regimental histories on this site are from Frederick H. Dyer’s *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, which was compiled from *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and a variety of other sources*. This location has many other unique features that may be helpful, but does not include regimental rosters and cannot be searched for surnames.

The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies may be read online at the Cornell University site: <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>. This is where the rubber hits the road and you get down to the nitty-gritty of the daily grind of your ancestor’s fight, browsing through the records of the campaigns and individual battles, reading reports written as the fighting happened. You will need the history of your ancestor’s fighting unit from Dyer’s *Compendium* (cited in the paragraph above) to make the best use of these records.

Yet another site is <www.civil-war.net.index.htm>, which offers an array of transcriptions of original documents focused on this tragic period in America’s history. It is worthwhile to take a look here.

Finally, don’t overlook the pictorial archives maintained by the Library of Congress. Start out at <http://www.american south.org/> to explore more of the amazing benefits this age of technology offers genealogists. By combining the strengths of these websites, it is possible to gain more insight into your ancestor’s Civil War experience.

---

**In Memoriam**

In this issue of the ISGS Newsletter, beginning our 40th Anniversary Year, we honor those who were committed to the purpose and mission of ISGS and have passed on ......

Dorothy Dodd
Harold Flety
Elizabeth Grimm*
Mildred Jones
Robert J. Hagenberg
Raymond Karst

Thelma Kohlberg
Edmond Pratt
Gerald Reeder
Genevieve Smalling
Earl Smith
Lester Wickline*

*ISGS Board Member

Remember the Illinois State Genealogical Society in your will.
STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNOUNCES

SPRING TOURS IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

**ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES TOURS AND DEATH CERTIFICATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**GENEALOGY AT THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY**

Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 2008

A treasure trove of genealogical information can be accessed at the Illinois State Archives. Learn how you can hunt for your ancestor in Civil War Muster Rolls, Revolutionary War Pension Applications, WWI Draft Registration Cards, Spanish-American War Records, Original Land Purchase Records, County Histories, Marriage Indexes and Death Certificates at the archives. Finding aids are available to help with your research.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (ALPL) is the premier repository for materials relating to the history of the Prairie State. The ALPL holds printed and published resources on most Illinois counties. Materials include family genealogies; county histories; census schedule indexes and/or particular county transcriptions of enumeration records, cemetery inscriptions; and birth, death, naturalization and marriage transcriptions and/or indexes. The ALPL event is an hour-long overview and tour of the published collections and tour of newspapers.

REGISTRATION: Questions and/or Register Online at http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/
Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged ~ by April 14, 2008

| Print Name | | | | |
| Address | | | | |
| City | State | Zip | | |
| Phone | E-Mail | | | |

Mark 1st and 2nd choice - You will be notified by e-mail where and when to meet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARCHIVES TOUR</th>
<th>ARCHIVES TOUR</th>
<th>ALPL TOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 18:</td>
<td>Saturday, April 19:</td>
<td>Friday, April 18:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>9 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEATH CERTIFICATE ASSISTANCE</th>
<th>DEATH CERTIFICATE ASSISTANCE</th>
<th>ALPL TOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 18:</td>
<td>Saturday, April 19:</td>
<td>Saturday, April 19:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 AM</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>9 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$12.00 non-member (per tour/per death certificate assistance session) Nonrefundable
$10.00 member (per tour/per death certificate assistance session) Nonrefundable

$ Total - Check payable to Illinois State Genealogical Society Return registration form and payment to: Illinois State Genealogical Society, PO Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is located in downtown Springfield at 212 North Sixth Street. Parking ramp is off 6th Street between Madison and Mason streets.

**Friday Archives Tours:** Parking is available within walking distance to the Archives Building at the Capitol Complex Visitor's Center parking lot, located on Edwards Street west of College Street.

**Saturday Archives Tours:** Parking lot outside the Archives Building.
January 2008

(15th)
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
NSCG will present an audio tape presentation by featured speaker, George Schweitzer on January 15th at the Forest View Educational Center, Arlington Heights, IL ~ 7:30 PM 
For further information, consult the society website at: <www.nwscg.org>.

(24th)
Kane County Genealogical Society
KCGS will host speaker Jeff Bockman, I Cannot Tell a Lie - I Chopped Down my Royal Family Tree Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL ~ 7:30 PM. Website: http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkcgs/

February 2008

(7th)
Tinley Moraine Genealogists
TMG will present featured speaker, Dr. Paul Valesek on February 7th at the Tinley Park Public Library, Tinley Park IL ~ 7:00 PM - Haller’s Army and Tips for Researching your Polish Ancestors 
For further information, consult the society website at: <www.tmgenealogists.org>.

March 2008

(6th)
Tinley Moraine Genealogists
TMG will present featured speaker, Joy Matthiessen at the Tinley Park Public Library, Tinley Park IL ~ 7:00 PM - Cemetery Symbolism For further information, consult the society website at: <www.tmgenealogists.org>.

(11th)
Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society
TEGHS will present featured speaker, Owen Muelder of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Pekin, IL, 7:00 PM ~ For further information, consult the society website at: <http://www.teghs.org>.

April 5
Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Meeting & Conference Evansville, IN <http://www.indgensoc.org/>

April 12
Tinley Moraine Genealogists Annual Conference ~ Tinley Park, IL <www.tmgenealogists.org>

May 14-17
National Genealogical Society Conference in the States Show Me the Nation’s Records Kansas City, MO <www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Posting Genealogy Events
Please send notices of events well in advance to ISGS Newsletter Editor: <isgsnewsletter@yahoo.com>. Include date(s), location, contact person, and the address or website to be used for additional information.
Now Available!

Is your organization looking for resources for speakers for meetings and conferences or members who need professional research assistance? ISGS can help!


Visit our website for online ordering or contact the ISGS Office!

ISGS Executive Committee
2007-2008
Elected Officers

Congratulations to the officers elected at the Fall Conference:

President: Robert M. Tenuta
Vice-President: Carole M. McCarty
2nd Vice-President: Michele Claypool
Treasurer: Shirley Aleguas
Recording Secretary: Lorna Wright
2010 Directors: Patricia Ely

Memberships run from January 1 through December 31.

Dues:
Individual Member: New & Renewal $25.00
Joint Member or Canadian: New & Renewal $30.00
International: (outside U.S. & Canada) $50.00
Charter Member: (joined prior to June 1, 1969) $24.00
Contributing Member: $50.00
Individual Life Member: $1,000.00
Illinois Local Affiliates: New & Renewal $25.00

Please include a long SASE with correspondence requiring a reply.

Our 40th Year!