Fox Valley Genealogical Society Launches “Mike’s Index”  
by Oriene Morrow Springstroh

Michael Fichtel, 2006 Illinois State Genealogical Society Volkel Medal of Honor recipient, has finally seen the twenty-plus years he has spent indexing genealogy newsletters and journals come to fruition. Mike, a charter member of the Naperville-based society, had, by 2006, amassed a collection of some 35,000 index cards referring researchers back to all the periodicals that came through the FVGS mailbox since its founding in 1981. The card index was (and still is) housed at the Oswego Public Library, where Fox Valley’s library research volunteers added new cards to the file as Mike continued work on his on-going project.

The collection sparked an idea with then society president, Jim Weichel, to get the index digitized and up on the Fox Valley website, where it would be available to anyone who visits the site. With Jim leading the way, volunteers spent hundreds of hours entering card information into a computer database created by Jim, while others proofread each entry and flagged those with problems to be resolved. At the same time, Janice Fritsch, the society librarian, refined and defined the journal list on which the cards were based, while looking up all the questionable card references for resolution. After two years of intense work, the database is ready for its debut.

“Mike’s Index” was formally introduced to the genealogical world at the society’s February ‘08 general meeting.

Although it is not nearly as large or comprehensive as Allen County Public Library’s Periodical Source Index (PERSI), “Mike’s Index” contains more source detail, such as page numbers on which the item is located. Mike’s database also provides more search parameters, including the ability to customize your search somewhat. Comparisons with PERSI during digitizing of the cards revealed that many items Mike indexed, such as obituaries and other family-related filler facts not contained within titled articles, were not indexed by PERSI.

As you read this article, Mike continues to index more journals. This online project will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. That is a good reason to keep checking “Mike’s Index” at the FVGS website at <www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs>.

Remember the Illinois State Genealogical Society in your will.
Greetings:

It is with great honor that I have been chosen to write you as the Acting President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS). Robert M. Tenuta, the ISGS President, has resigned due to personal and family emergencies. Following his footsteps to continue the forward movement of our Society in meeting the goals and mission of ISGS will be foremost in my tenure as your President. The ISGS Board is outstanding and their exciting and innovative ideas will provide continued benefits to the members of ISGS.

It is probably safe to say genealogy is here to stay. Most families long to learn about their ancestors, roots, and heritage. Genealogists have discovered the wonderful rewards and challenges that accompany a genealogical search. ISGS wants to answer the need for as many people as possible by offering resources, services, and programs that are relevant and useful.

The bottom line is we are only as strong as our membership. We have been able to grow because our members are supportive. We share a dedication and passion for the study of family history and have shared interests and common goals. With your continued support, ISGS will shine as an outstanding state society.

2008 is a special year, our 40th Anniversary! Forty Years of Discovery – Portals to the Future, our anniversary celebration conference, will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Fox Valley University and Business Center on the campus of Elgin Community College, Elgin IL. We’re very excited about the lineup of exceptional speakers and the sixteen sessions that are being offered. Stay tuned for more information to be posted on the ISGS website, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/>.

This is a conference not to be missed!

As you know, we are a society of volunteers. To volunteer any of your talents, please email me at isgsnewsletter@yahoo.com or telephone the ISGS office at (217) 789-1968.

Warmest regards,

Carole McCarty
Acting President
Illinois State Genealogical Society

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

Angel Project Donors
Pat Ely, Lake Carroll, IL
Michele Claypool, Champaign, IL

ALPL Book Fund
Michele Claypool, Champaign, IL

Memorial Donation
Lois V. Meredith, Eureka, IL ~ in memory of Matthew Bracken
Local Society Spotlight . . .

As reported in the “BIGWILL News” (Vol. 15, No. 2) the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois has relocated its library collection to the McHenry Public Library located at 809 N. Front Street, McHenry, IL. Regular meetings are held at the Grace Lutheran Church in Richmond, IL. Maps and other related information are located on their web site at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiilbig/>

“We are CSAGSI, the Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois” announces their web site. The Czech Slovak Society will be hosting a mini conference on Saturday, March 29, 2008 starting at 8:30 AM. Speakers, William Galush, Ph. D. and Malyne Sternstein, Ph.D. will speak on “Emigration - Immigration of the Czechs and Slovaks into Illinois.” The conference will take place at the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange in LaGrange, IL. Members at $35 and non-members at $40.00. An ethnic style luncheon is included in the fee. More information is available by contacting Dolores Duy at dolly1939@aol.com. Certainly visit their phenomenal web site at <www.csagsi.org>

Our friends at

Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society in Pekin, IL will be hosting a three-day genealogical bus trip to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana Monday, June 9 through Wednesday, June 11, 2008. Certainly anyone doing family history will enjoy this road trip to one of the premiere libraries for genealogy in the United States. The package includes bus fare, room and meal accommodations as well as other wonderful features. Visit the Society’s web site at <www.tcghs.org>

The Newsletter regrets an error in the January/February 2008 issue - the article on Decatur County was in error - the Decatur Genealogical Society & Library is located in Macon County, Illinois.
Civil War Websites...Continued

For anyone with a Civil War ancestor who may be buried in Kansas, John A. Jackson, Kansas GenWeb Civil War Coordinator, let us know that he has created an online library of photos he takes of Civil War veteran tombstones. The photos are organized by county, city and cemetery, but with no apparent method to search among the sets of photos by surname. However, if you suspect your ancestor is buried in Kansas, this site is well worth visiting. If your ancestor is here, you will gain an excellent photo of his tombstone. The web address is <http://www.flickr.com/photos/civilwar_veterans_tombstones/sets/>.

The Civil War area of The Smithsonian resides at <www.civilwar.si.edu>. Among its features is an excellent timeline of the Civil War, useful for placing your ancestor’s activities within historic context. Some topics at the site are Slavery & Abolition, Soldiering, Weapons, Cavalries, Navies, Life & Culture, Appomattox, as well as Winslow Homer and Mathew Brady, with views of artifacts related to each topic.

The American Civil War Homepage at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html> provides links to enough Civil War topics to keep you surfing for days. Among other things, you will find links to Civil War reenactor groups and to Civil War Round Tables, organizations that are not necessarily focused on genealogy, but that encourage in-depth historical research into this period of American history. The site also leads you to Civil War message boards for individual regiments by state, something I would not have thought to look for, but was pleased to find.

Using my search engine and typing “Civil War Websites” into the search box brought up an array of sites that seem to link to the same databases discussed here and in the last issue of this newsletter. A multitude of searchable Civil War era topics can be discovered by clicking on one of the listed sites and then simply “surfing the net.”

We learn from our society friend and regular at our Annual Conferences, Eric Basir of Photo Grafix, that he has initiated a new source of sharing photos and “people helping people.” This new web site is located at <www.lostandfoundphotos.net> where photos are sorted by country and unknown categories. Visitors can choose to communicate with other contributors via semi-private posting or private message.

Genealogists seeking answers and amateur and professional photo identification specialists are invited to join this free network.

Advertising Opportunity!
Take advantage of a fantastic opportunity to advertise your services and/or business or showcase your society in the Illinois State Genealogical Society Conference Syllabus for 2008! It is read by the attendees at the conference and many use it after the conference for the outlines and information from the presenters plus the notes taken by the attendees. For further information or ad reservation form, contact Mary Huetsch at 618-939-6125 or by email at jhuetsch@aol.com.

2008 ISGS NEWSLETTER DELIVERY DATES!

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.

WELCOME

Annette Mey , Winchester, VA
Cindy Barnhart, Marion, IA
Verice Childress, Bartonville, IL
Kristy Gavlin, Plano, IL
Geraldine Scully, Greeley, CO
Michael Houston, Lake Zurich, IL
Judith Neill , Aston, IL
Susan Clarke, Chicago, IL

New ISGS Members....

David King, Batavia, IL
Joni King, Louisville, CO
Linda Kent, Novi, MI
Jim Rafferty, Xenia, OH

Burlington Public Library,
Burlington, IA
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.

ARCHIVES TOUR

Friday, April 18:

______ 9 AM ______ 11 AM

______ 1 PM ______ 3 PM

ARCHIVES TOUR

Saturday, April 19:

______ 9 AM ______ 11 AM

______ 1 PM

DEATH CERTIFICATE ASSISTANCE

Friday, April 18:

______ 9 AM ______ 11 AM

______ 1 PM ______ 3 PM

DEATH CERTIFICATE ASSISTANCE

Saturday, April 19:

______ 9 AM ______ 11 AM

______ 1 PM

ALPL TOUR

Friday, April 18:

______ 9:30 AM

ALPL TOUR

Saturday, April 19:

______ 9:30 AM

$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:

I L L I N O I S  S T A T E  G E N E A L O G I C A L  S O C I E T Y ,  P O  B O X  3 0 6 ,  S P R I N G F I E L D ,  I L  6 2 7 9 1 - 3 0 6 5

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.
Genealogy Calendar

April 2008

(12th)
Kankakee Valley Genealogical Society
Kankakee hosts a presentation on “Working with the Collection” at the Kankakee Public Library, ~ 1:00 PM - For further information, consult the society website at: <http://www.kvgs.org/index.html>.

(13th)
Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois
GSSI will present featured speaker, Peggy Coriasco at the Genealogy Society Library, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL ~ “Italy to Illinois to Italy” For info see their web <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilgssi>.

(15th)
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
NSCG will present featured speaker, Carol Bartlett on “How to Use Genealogy Reference Books” 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 Marian Schuetz ~ “The Feds Have Records on your Ancestors” at the Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL ~ 7:30 PM. http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkgs/

May 2008

(11th)
Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois
GSSI will present featured speaker, Joseph Wolz at the Genealogy Society Library, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL ~ “The Story of Kornthal” For further information, consult the society website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilgssi>.

(11th)
Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society
TEGHS will present featured speaker, Mary Ann Russell of the Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site, Pekin, IL, 7:00 PM ~ For further information, consult the society website at: <http://www.teghs.org>.

(16th)
DuPage County Genealogical Society
NSCG will present featured speaker, Everett Butler ~ “Familysearch.org” at the DuPage County Museum, Wheaton, IL ~ 7:30 PM. For further info, http://www.dcgs.org.

(17th)
British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois
BIGWIL will host speaker Jeffrey Bassett, "Genetic Genealogy “ at Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond, IL. More information ~ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wilbig/>.

(22nd)
Kane County Genealogical Society
KCGS will host speaker Joy Aavang “How I Survived the Blitz” at the Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL ~ 7:30 PM. http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkgs/

(20th)
Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
NSCG will present featured speaker, Ralph Beaudoin ~ “Online Genealogy Tutorials” at the Forest View Educational Center, Arlington Heights, IL ~ 7:30 PM. For more info <www.nwscg.org>.

June 2008

(14th)
Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois
GSSI will host the Spring Workshop at the C.E. Brehm Library, Mt. Vernon, IL ~ For further information, consult the society website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilgssi>.

(26th)
Kane County Genealogical Society
KCGS will host speaker Mike Karsen “Sex, Murder & Genealogy” at the Geneva History Center, Geneva, IL ~ 7:30 PM. http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilkgs/

Conferences

April 5
Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Meeting & Conference Evansville, IN
<http://www.indgensoc.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.
To commemorate the 40th Anniversary Year of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, the Newsletter Editor has dusted off some timely, interesting words that have been recorded and preserved in past issues of the ISGS Newsletter.

**From ISGS Newsletter ~ Volume 1, Nos. 4 and 5, May-June 1980**

**PUBLIC DOMAIN COMPUTER PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION**  - From Illinois State Archives Newsletter "For the Record", Winter 1979. The Illinois State Archives is the first state depository to computerize initial land sale records, which were compiled over 100 years ago by employees of the U.S. General Land Office, state officials, or clerks of the Illinois Central Railroad. Altogether, the computer file holds data on the original sales of the 55,740 square miles that comprise the state of Illinois.

Much of that land had been sold in 40-acre plots…the names of those purchasers, their county of residence, the amount of land they bought, its price per acre, geographical description, and purchase date have been converted into codes for computer input, and keypunchers have processed the coded data onto master magnetic computer tapes.

Also included in this computerized data are (1) the claims of squatters or settlers who arrived in Illinois during the colonial era when the French or British controlled parts of Illinois, (2) claims of those who settled here during the American Revolution, (3) plots awarded to veterans of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and the Mexican-American or Blackhawk Wars if the veteran moved onto his grant or the name of the actual individual who settled on the land granted.

Upon completion of the project, researchers will be able to obtain various kinds of information: chronological or geographical listings, all purchases by an individual (alphabetical listing), etc.

This project began over two years ago and has been funded for the past year by the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are proud of the Illinois State Archives for recognizing this need and being the first to undertake such a project!

**From ISGS Newsletter ~ Volume 4, No. 3, March 1984**

**IDENTIFYING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs can be identified as to time period by determining the type you possess. There were several types including:

1. **The Daguerreotype**, 1839-1857. It was invented by L.J.M.Daguerre in 1837. It is the oldest of commercially made photographs. It is a positive picture that has a shiny, mirror-like appearance. It has a fragile silver surface on a copper plate. They were once enclosed in a case and they still need that protection.

2. **Ambrotype**. 1852-1863. It was invented by Archer & Frye in 1851. This is a positive on glass and will have a coating of red or black paper or cloth behind the glass. These were also enclosed in cases.

3. **Melainotypes, Ferrotypes or Tintype**, 1856 20th Century were positives. These are not shiny like daguerreotypes, nor like on glass, but are an image on metal. They stay be in cases, paper frames, wall frames, albums or just loose. If they are pasted in paper frames or slipped in cases, they may be earlier. If the pose is formal, the earlier the time. The more casual or a group of people, the later the time. Tintypes were taken in numbers at fairs and amusement parks. Look for photographers name on the back of the pasted on paper. Do compare the clothing fashions for an era time clue.

4. **The Carte de Visite**, 1859-1914, invented by Disderi in 1854. These were the first paper photographs, 2% x 4% in size and called visiting cards. The earlier ones were thinner and the later ones heavier and thicker. It was discontinued in the U. S. by the turn of the century but continued in Great Britain and Scandinavia.

5. **The Cabinet Portrait**. 1866-1914 was invented by Window in 1866. This was a negative 4% x 6% and found in albums and wall frames. Study fashions for the time period. If the photograph is an oval pasted on a card or if its surrounded by dark grey or a black mount, it was probably made after 1900.

6. **The Post Card**, 1905-1930. These were very popular and sometimes they were mailed. Look for the postmark. If it was a Tintype or Carte de Viste, it might have a revenue stamp on the back. This clue indicates the picture was taken during the Civil War.

(Prince George's County GS BULLETIN)
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: Carole A. McCarty
1st Vice-President: Vacant
2nd Vice-President: Michele Claypool
Treasurer: Shirley Aleguas
Recording Secretary: Sherry R. Austin
2010 Directors: Patricia Ely
Ann Wells

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: $3,000.00
Illinois Local Affiliates: New & Renewal $25.00

Please include a long SASE with correspondence requiring a reply.