Welcome, Kristy Gravlin  
Family Bible Records Chairman

Dear Members and Friends of the ISGS:

My name is Kristy Lawrie Gravlin. I recently agreed to serve on the Family Bible committee. I would like to tell you a bit about myself so that we can begin to get acquainted.

I was born and raised in Plano, Illinois, (as were several generations of my family), and then left for about thirty years while I taught young children in Portland, Oregon.

When my daughter and her family were transferred back to this area (a surprise, not planned), I decided that I would return too, both to be near them, and to start my retirement-career---genealogy and history of the Plano area.

I now find myself working with several groups.

The Dickson-Murst (150 years in that family) Farm Volunteers put on open house events to teach "young" folks about the last 100 or so years of farming in Illinois (and let those of us, who were there, reminisce).

The Ken-Gen Genealogy Discussion Group assists "newbie's" and others with working with genealogy.

I assist where I can with the genealogy and/or historical groups in Kendall County, DeKalb County, Portland, Oregon, and California. The Portland folks have an Illinois Interest Group that has been meeting for twelve years now. Most of the members have ancestors who once lived in Illinois and they want to learn more about researching in the state. (Some of them find that they can listen, and transfer what they learn to other Midwest areas.)

continued on page 46
Fall Greetings to All:

The Illinois State Genealogical Society’s 40th Anniversary Conference is but a memory today. However, I must say it was the most well-attended conference in several years.

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend, to you who were on the conference committee, and to you who volunteered to assist in so many wonderful ways and thank you to our speakers who made the conference so special for so many. Congratulations to you who won the many door prizes, won the anniversary quilt, won the Ancestry World Membership and the Footnote.com memberships. We welcomed SO MANY brand new members to ISGS. We presented Honors and Awards to several deserving nominees. We even elected our ISGS Executive Committee for 2009 at our annual meeting. Topping it all off, we enlisted 2 new Governing Board Members. Whew! There was a lot going on that day in Elgin, Illinois. We are already busy planning the fall conference for 2009. Stay tuned for further news.

About membership: I’d like to ask a favor. Membership dues are due annually by January 1st. ISGS suggests that all dues paying members renew their membership within 30 days of the due date, if at all possible. I know, we forget; I know, we put it on the pile and I realize other things are foremost on our minds. We will try to send out reminders to those who have given us their email addresses.

Regarding email addresses, please be advised that we will only use your email address for ISGS business—we will never share it with anyone else. So if you haven't registered your email address with the ISGS office, or if you have had a change in your email address, we would appreciate notification at isgs.secy@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

Since I’ve already begun my Christmas shopping, I guess it’s time to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and all the blessings of the holiday season. Safe travels to all of you as you go "over the river and through the woods."

Regards,

Carole McCarty
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

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2009 Fall Conference

The ISGS Conference Committee is beginning to make plans for the 2009 fall conference. As you know, this is a day-long conference usually with a theme and many sessions during the day.

We’d be interested in hearing from our membership regarding topics for the conference and some of your favorite speakers from past ISGS conferences or other conferences you’ve attended.

At the same time, we are anxious to hear from you if you are interested in being on the planning committee for 2009. These opportunities include publicity, venue location, registration, exhibitors, door prizes and so forth.

Please send your suggestions or to volunteer to help to ISGSCONERENCE@comcast.net. Don’t hold back—we know there are ISGS members out there who are willing to help!

2008 ISGS Fall Conference CDs
There is a limited number of 2008 Fall Conference syllabuses available on CD. These can be purchased for $5.00 by contacting the ISGS office.

Address Changes
If you have a change of either a mailing address or an email address or both it is important to let the ISGS office know. We cannot be responsible for resending out issues that were not able to be forwarded to a new address.
Local Society Spotlight . . .

CHRISTIAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Christian County Genealogical Society celebrates their Silver Anniversary at their Genealogical Fair on November 08, 2008.

The Celebration will be held at the University of Illinois Extension Building located at 1120 N. Webster St. in Taylorville, Illinois. Dr. Gary K. Hargis, Past President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, and Mary Kirgan from the LDS Family History Center, Springfield, will be speaking. Adjacent County Genealogical Societies have been invited to attend and will bring displays and updated information about their organizations.

Twenty five years ago, persons interested in forming a Christian County Genealogical Society met at the home of Betty Orr in August 1983. On September 11, 1983, a public meeting was held and forty five persons signed up as Charter members on that day. The Officers were elected, the constitution and Bylaws were adopted and the Articles of Incorporation were granted from the State of Illinois on October 17, 1983.

Since 1983, the Christian County Genealogical Society has grown and established one of the finest genealogical research libraries in the State of Illinois. Their library collection is located at the County Historical Museum at the junction of Route 48 and 29 in Taylorville, Illinois. More information and details of the Christian County Genealogical Society may be found on their Web Site www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilchrgs/ or telephone them at (217) 824-6922.

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

ISGS General Fund Donation

Oriene Springstroh

New ISGS Members

Patricia Hollmann Indianapolis, IN
Clifford & Rebecca Olson Elgin, IL
Amelia C. Stone Marshall, IL
(D contributing)
Diane Wortman Effingham, IL
Rebecca Mechochko Litchfield, IL
Lisa Dahd Batavia, IL
Nancy J. Fako Elmhurst, IL
Nancy Holder Lake Mills, WI
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WELCOME TO THE ISGS BOARD

Jean Jung
(2011 Director)
Carole S. Grant
(Recording Secretary)
Lois Hanley
(Publicity Chair)
David Kent Coy
(Parliamentarian)
“Do I Need My Local Society?” by Dan Kane

There are whispers in the genealogical world that the internet is slowly destroying all our local and family history societies. Attendance at national and statewide events is down, membership numbers are dropping, etc. You know the drill. The genealogical sky is falling.

Whether you believe the scary whispers or not, the reality is this: there is a whole lot of research being conducted these days without the kind of help found in the meetings and publications of local societies. Whether you believe this development is simply a short-term trend fostered by the explosive growth of online research or the death knell for societies as we know them, it’s clear that something is up.

So what can we, as officers and members of the more than 400 genealogical, historical, and lineage societies in Illinois, do about the current developments to insure the future health of those societies and of the research pursuits we all engage in?

As I gaze around the state electronically, i.e. look at the various websites those 400+ societies host, I am reminded that local societies are not unlike the many religious congregations one can find in any Illinois county.

With all due respect to the notion of separation of church and state, I see many parallels between churches and genealogy/history/lineage societies. The most obvious one involves the internet.

For the sake of argument, let’s say that the Bible and the internet have at least one trait in common: they give believers and researchers an alternative to attending services or meetings regularly. In many religions there are very moral individuals who claim the Bible (or Torah or Koran, for that matter) provides all the spiritual help they need and that formal religious practice just gets in the way of their relationship with their deity.

At the same time, many genealogists and local historians claim that the internet is all they need to get their work done and meet their research objectives. Meetings take time, memberships cost money, and often, the internet gives them instant gratification in their searches for distant ancestors.

I propose that we think about what it is in the religious world that draws us to certain congregations and makes us avoid others. There may be some lessons in the religious sphere that we can use to stimulate membership and attendance numbers at our meetings.

It’s often been said that there are only three things people are looking for when they decide on a religious congregation for themselves and their families: good preaching, good music, and hospitality, or fellowship. The attendance numbers at the most successful churches bear this out.

So how do we take that lesson and apply it to genealogical, historical, and lineage societies?

1. Pay attention to your society’s curb appeal. Society newsletters and websites are often the first encounter a potential member has with us. Have we assembled a strong team of editors and writers and designers to make our societies attractive to potential members? With 102 counties in the State of Illinois, there are at least 400 societies competing for the attention of future members. A quick scan of the websites can give you a pretty good idea of which societies commit the most resources to their publications and their online attractiveness. And those of you who belong to more than one society know which newsletters and quarterly publications you look forward to the most. [Religious equivalent: good music, decorating, and services.]

2. Content is king! If you and/or your society do not already subscribe to at least one national publication (NGS, FGS, NEHGS, Ancestry, and Family Tree come to mind), you’re missing a golden opportunity to enhance your skills at the research game. And, as a society officer, you’re likely to find excellent models for the depth of research necessary to show readers how it’s done. The success of your society’s online and print media will be in direct proportion to the usefulness of the information contained therein. [Religious equivalent: good preaching.]

3. Make them feel at home. Ever notice how gracious the folks at other congregations seem to be when you’re out of town? They seem to go out of their way to greet you as you walk in, to welcome all newcomers from the pulpit, and to offer some form of hospitality after the service is concluded. Does your local society throw the same amount of effort into making newcomers as well as long-time members feel welcome and appreciated? Something as simple as large, easy-to-read name tags can go a long way toward giving people the simple, human recognition that is so important for building a sense of community. As the song on Cheers pointed out, it’s nice to go to places where everybody knows your name. [Religious equivalent: fellowship activities.]

[Dan Kane (djkmbk@comcast.net) is the ISGS Local Society Liaison, based in Oak Park. He can be reached at 773-817-1232. If you have any questions or suggestions about local society activities and strategies, drop him an email or give him a call.]
Illinois State Genealogical Society

Spring Tours and Workshop
Saturday, April 18, 2009
Springfield, Illinois

Two tours of the Illinois State Archives:
Learn what is available weekdays: Civil War Muster Rolls, Revolutionary Pension Applications, WWI Draft Cards, Original Land Records, IL Census and much more!

9:00 A.M.___________11 A.M.___________

Two tour times will be offered at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Find out what extensive resources are available for your genealogical research.

9:30 A.M_________1:00 P.M._______

Workshop: General Land Office Records and Federal Township Plats
by Karl Moore, IRAD Supervisor & ISGS Director
The workshop will cover the Public Lands Survey System, the genealogical value of General Land Office records, how to locate and print out the land tract an ancestor purchased from the federal government. Participants will learn several ways to use the Archives' online "Public Domain Land Sales Database" and the "Federal Township Plats of Illinois" scanned images.

1:00 P.M.____________

How to find & copy a death certificate from microfilm

9:00 A.M.___________11:00 A.M._________1 P.M._________

**Please select first and second choice for each session you wish to attend**
Pre Registration is Strongly encouraged by April 10th.
Checks should be made out and mailed to:
Illinois State Genealogical Society, PO Box 10195, Springfield Illinois 62791-0195

___________$12 Non-Member of ISGS per session
___________$10 Member of ISGS per session
___________Total amount enclosed

Print Name_____________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip_____________________________________________________
Phone (___)_____________________E-Mail________________________________

Directions and Parking will be forwarded with your confirmation
MEGAN VOVAK  
Illinois State Genealogical Society Youth Award for 2008  
Nominated by Elias Kent Kane Chapter of NSDAR in Elgin, Illinois  
For the effort and hours of work in helping to preserve the Big Woods Cemetery in Aurora, Kane County, Illinois  
and to participate in the activities which resulted in the very successful Grave Dedication Ceremony of the Revolutionary War Patriot, Israel Warner, buried in the Big Woods Cemetery.

NORMA MEIER  
Illinois State Genealogical Society Special Recognition Award  
Nominated by the Kankakee Valley Genealogical Society  
For many efforts, hours and hard work in transcribing and compiling church records located in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Also recognized for compiling pioneer profiles and French Canadian Records from Iroquois County.

DAVID McGRAW and ASHLIE MANSFIELD & their 2007-2008 Class of North Greene High School, White Hall, Greene Co., IL  
Illinois State Genealogical Society Special Recognition Award  
Nominated by a member of the ISGS Honors and Awards Committee  
Presented for your work in researching history, using genealogical sources & data and preserving your findings in written form to be used for their production of the play *Rough and Boisterous Place,* “ and revision of the booklet, “Murder Legend & Lore of Walkerville, Illinois, 1836-1898.”

NORTH GREEN HIGH SCHOOL, WHITE HALL, ILLINOIS  
Illinois State Genealogical Society Special Recognition Award  
This award will be presented to the NGHS for its support in creating a positive atmosphere and encouraging the success of the production of the play *Rough and Boisterous Place,* “ and revision of the booklet, “Murder Legend & Lore of Walkerville, Illinois, 1836-1898.”  
The play and revised booklet was the diligent work of the 2007-2008 Class of Mr. David McGraw and Ms. Ashlie Mansfield.

**Finally!**  
You don't have to wait for a conference to purchase your Genealogical research materials and supplies!  
Joan Kitchen-Murray of Roots2Leaves, Martha Mercer of Maia's Books and Annabelle Bradshaw of Front Page Books are happy to tell you that we've opened our *Family History Booth* at the *Manteno Antique Mall.*

Whether you're just starting out researching your family history or you've been at it for years, we have a large selection of books - old and new, archival products, maps, forms and ephemera to meet research needs for people of all ages.

You've seen us at Genealogical Conferences - Come Visit our Family History Booth!  
Manteno Antique Mall,  
35 E Third St, Manteno, IL  
Conveniently located less than 2 miles East of I-57 Exit 322 and 1/2 block West of IL Rte 50.

Welcome continued:  
The newest and biggest project, just getting-off-the-ground, is the *Plano* Historical group. We are only a few months old, struggling to figure it all out of course, but enthusiastic.

I am interested in saving the tidbits of family history that make ancestors into real people with real lives. I hope that the Family Bible work will support this well.

I hope to get to know many of you, either in person or through email contact. I may be reached at planoite59@yahoo.com. It would be helpful if you would mention ISGS in the subject line so that I'll recognize you.

Kristy [Kristy Lawrie Gravlin]

Cook County Naturalization Declarations of Intention  
This wonderful resource is now online for the Circuit Court only. The range of dates begins with 1906 and ends with the latest dates entered (1922/23). The ultimate ending date will be 1929. The Superior Court will be entered next. This project has been going on for several years so it will be several more before it is finished. The file can be sorted by surname, occupation, address...all sorts of ways to find a missing relative. The website is [http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/)
Does Your Home Have A Family Bible?

Many homes have a Family Bible although they may not look the same as our first thoughts would indicate. But no matter the format that your Great-Grandmother may have used, the information written there may be well worth sharing with the other researchers out there.

Some documents which serve as “Family Bibles” may be a simple note such as, “Pa died last night,” that was tucked between the pages. Other families may find every page of the designated area of the Bible filled out. Added to the couple’s names and marriage information, one might find a list of all their children, each one’s spouse and marriage dates, and all their death dates. What a discovery!

Most importantly, if a vital statistic record cannot be found for some reason, the Family Bible can take its place and become an important piece of documentation.

If you have information in a Bible, please consider sharing it with the Illinois State Genealogical Society. Contact Kristy Lawrie Gravlin by email at planoite59@yahoo.com or by post at 204 W. North Street, Plano, Illinois 60545, to obtain the information about how one does that. Then your family will join the many who can be found in the ISGS publications and some distant cousin may, at last, learn Grandma’s maiden name because of your generosity.
Our 40th Year!

**Newsletter Article Contributions due the 30th of the month prior to publishing.**

**Advertising options available**

Newsletter Editor

Email: kimzyk@comcast.net

ISGS Executive Committee  Elected Officers  2007-2008

President: Carole A. McCarty
1st Vice-President: Janice Fritsch
2nd Vice-President: Michele Claypool
Treasurer: Shirley Aleguas
Recording Secretary: Carole S. Grant

2008 Directors: Karl R. Moore
Cheri Hunter

2009 Directors: Jayne Cates
Susan Pope
Mary Ellen Huetsch

2010 Directors: Patricia Ely
Ann Wells
Annabelle Bradshaw

Remember the Illinois State Genealogical Society in your will.

FGS Membership

ISGS members may subscribe to FORUM, the quarterly magazine of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) for a discounted price of $15 per year. The discount is available to ISGS members because ISGS is an institutional member of FGS. Each issue contains more than 40 pages of articles about sources, repositories, and research strategies, plus reviews of new books and CDs. More information is available at www.fgs.org.

Memberships run from January 1 through December 31.

**Dues:**

- Individual Member: New & Renewal $30.00
- Joint Member or Canadian: New & Renewal $35.00
- International: (outside U.S. & Canada) $55.00
- Charter Member: (joined prior to June 1, 1969) $29.00
- Contributing Member: $55.00
- Illinois Local Affiliates: New & Renewal $30.00

Please include a long SASE with correspondence requiring a reply.

ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195
Executive Office: Illinois State Archives Building, 2nd Floor
Business Office Telephone: 217/789-1968
Website: <www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs> Published in January, March, May, July, September, November.

**Newsletter Article Contributions due the 30th of the month prior to publishing.**

**Advertising options available**