Larry Pepper
New Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee

Originally, Larry Pepper is from Urbana, IL and moved to the suburbs of Chicago in early 2004 following a career change for his wife, Mary Lynne Doherty. Since he enjoys photography they decided to start a home-based photography business. Therefore, Pepper Photography was created; they specialize in digital restoration of old and damaged photos. They keep busy growing the business, so ask him for a business card when you see him. With his love of history and genealogy, this venture has been rewarding.

During the summer of 1969, he started to work on his family genealogy. He used a three ring binder from junior high school which he still has. He is a bit of a pack rat / collector, which is handy for a genealogist.

His Father was not involved in his family, but his maternal Grandfather was deeply involved with his family and he was the family historian.

Continued on page 51

Starting a New Family Bible

Some families are lucky enough to have an old Family Bible in their possession. Some will have only a name or two, but that is better than nothing. Some will have pages and pages of names and dates, and we can only hope that the handwriting is legible and the ink hasn’t faded.

But if you do not have a Family Bible, or if yours is old and filled with names, perhaps you would be interested in starting a new one for the benefit of your great-grandchildren. There are several things you will want to consider before you purchase.

What size do you want the Bible to be? Some of the old Bibles are huge. They take up a great deal of room on the closet shelf, and are difficult to handle. But you don’t want too small a Bible either since you will want to be able to write all the family dates on the pages.

Check the pages where you will write. Some Bibles have none of these... that would not be a good choice. You will want to be able to

Continued on page 54

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.

SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE PUBLISHES LINCOLN TEACHING PACKET


Continued on page 50

Digitization and Indexing of Homestead Records Announced

ISGS has received the following information from the Homestead National Monument of America, a National Park Service site located in Beatrice, Nebraska.

The monument is charged with interpreting and commemorating the many impacts of the Home

Continued on page 55

New ISGS Members

Larry Pepper East Dundee, IL
Karen M. Buel Naperville, IL
Amanda Fillmore Los Lunas, NM
Carol Bromund Schaumburg, IL
Amanda Wehane Madison, WI
Debra Branigan Saint Inigoes, MD

Deadline date for article contributions to the ISGS March newsletter is February 28, 2009
President’s Message — from Carole A. McCarty

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO YOU!

RESOLUTIONS...What does that term mean to you when you consider your genealogical journey in 2009? Have you made any yet?

Remembering past years and past promises to myself, RESOLUTIONS mean little. I don’t even make them anymore. I like to think of myself as an organized person in the various aspects of my daily life. However, when it comes to my “genealogy room,” I’ve failed miserably. This is an embarrassing truth. Yes, I’ve read countless renditions of how others organize their genealogy research. They all sound wonderful. Color coding, folders, binders, file cabinets, notebooks, the Dollarhide System, indexing systems, software programs, and on and on. I do have some of that in place. Nowhere have I read about PILES. You know what I mean, don’t you? If you don’t have ‘piles,” then you can skip the rest of the message and turn to the next page.

2009 is new year. I new approach I new RESOLUTION, singular...not plural. As it happens, there is one way to tackle the piles of papers in box lids, plastic trays and vertical magazine holders. I read it is a disciplined segment of the day, each day, to begin the process of organizing the piles. I can do this; I WILL do this beginning today, January 1st. With wastebasket at my side, I WILL toss little scraps of paper after making sure the information contained therein is no longer relevant or that it is properly recorded in some fashion. I’m opening my new WORD 2007, making various file categories, and entering data there. There is a new box of vinyl sheet protectors on my desk to put some of those papers into their appropriate family 3-ring binders. Now does that sound like a plan? My New Year wish for you is that your genealogy piles will turn into genealogy files.

Maybe next year, I’ll work on my photos. they are all over the place. Wish me luck!

Sincerely,

Carole McCarty
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

Secretary of State cont.

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois contains 35 document reproductions of Lincoln related documents held at the Illinois State Archives, said White. To assist teachers in their classroom, each packet also contains an 87-page teacher guide about Abraham Lincoln in Illinois.

White said the teaching packet is designed to promote knowledge about Abraham Lincoln and the early history of Illinois, while also teaching history students how to use and analyze primary document material. The Illinois State Archives houses more than 120 Abraham Lincoln documents, including many bills he wrote as a state legislator.

A copy of the packet is being sent to every public middle and secondary school in Illinois. Other in-state educational institutions may also receive a free packet by writing to the Illinois State Archives, c/o Archives Publications, Third Floor Norton Archives Building, Springfield, IL 62756 or by calling (217) 782-2226.

Funding for Abraham Lincoln in Illinois was generously provided by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois is the seventh teaching packet issued by the Illinois State Archives. Previous teaching packets are Windows to the Past 1818-1880 (out of print), a collection of downstate county records that focused on rural development; Early Chicago 1837-1871, which focused on Chicago's development up until the Great Chicago Fire; From the Ashes: 1872-1900, which focused on Chicago's recovery from the fire; Illinois at War: 1941-1945, which examined the home front during World War II; Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940, which reviewed life in Illinois during the Great Depression; and The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911, which reviewed the construction and decline one of the major internal improvements in Illinois history.

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois is one of several initiatives taken by the Secretary of State office to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. The Secretary of State also serves as the State Librarian and in that role Secretary White conducted an essay contest on Lincoln for students in grades 5-6, 7-8 and high school, created a commemorative flag that was distributed to all the libraries in the state, and printed informational bookmarks that have been distributed throughout libraries and schools.


**Family Records:**

*A Disaster Planning Guide*

A new manual, *Rescuing Family Records: A Disaster Planning Guide*, is available from the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). Written by David Carmicheal, the state archivist of Georgia, this manual provides practical guidance to help individuals and families protect their most important legal documents and irreplaceable pieces of family history from loss during a disaster.

Think of all the paperwork that marks your life’s most important stages: birth certificate, diploma, marriage license and deeds and driver licenses and everything in between. Now, because of Katrina, thousands of critical records are gone. That’s how Paula Zahn’s CNN.com report described the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on September 16, 2005.

*Rescuing Family Records* describes the records that protect a family’s finances, health, civil rights, and family history. Some, such as deeds and mortgages, may be obvious to readers, but others, such as leases, proof of intellectual property, and certain tax records, are easily forgotten in the moment of crisis. The manual prompts readers to think through all the records that may help their family survive disaster and return to normal afterwards.

It includes:

- a checklist of records, with space for recording whether and where the record is duplicated;
- various options for duplicating and protecting records, and the pros and cons of each;
- a discussion about why certain records may need to be certified; and

A brief introduction to caring for historical family records.

The book’s author, David Carmicheal, is Director of the Georgia Archives and led CoSA’s nationwide effort to better protect essential records after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As I talked to people who live in hurricane- and tornado-prone areas, they ask me what records their family should protect in the event of a disaster. Their concerns led to this manual.

Families should think about records in advance of a disaster, according to Rex Wamsley, Director of the National Continuity of Operations Division of FEMA. Disasters strike the United States every single day, says Wamsley, and while the effects of tornadoes or wildfires or floods may not be as widespread as Hurricane Katrina, they can be just as devastating on individuals and families. According to Wamsley, records are key to protecting yourself during and after a disaster. Imagine, for example, what happens if you evacuate and find yourself far from home with no medical history or record of medications. The results can be disastrous.

The 24-page manual is available for $10, plus $3 postage and handling, from the Council of State Archivists, [www.StateArchivists.org/prepare/families.htm](http://www.StateArchivists.org/prepare/families.htm). Proceeds will be used to support CoSA’s ongoing Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

The Council of State Archivists is a national organization that works to ensure that our nation’s historical records are valued, preserved, and widely used. To learn more about CoSA’s Emergency Preparedness Initiative and other CoSA projects, visit our website at [www.statearchivists.org/](http://www.statearchivists.org/) or contact Victoria Walch, Executive Director, Council of State Archivists, at (319) 338-0248 or vwalch@statearchivists.org.

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**Larry Pepper cont.**

historian. Therefore, Larry asked him many questions about his family. He believes that his interest in genealogy came from the absence of a Father and his family, the death of his maternal Grandmother, and the close relationship between his maternal Grandfather and himself.

Larry’s work on his family genealogy has wafted and waned so he has not completed as much work as he could have in 40 years. One of his early goals was to have every branch back to the Atlantic before jumping over. So, with a couple of exceptions, just about every branch has its tip in the water now. As you know, depending on how recent a family arrival was, this goal could be easy or difficult; but since several of his branches are deep into the 17th century New World, he is happy with where he currently is. Of course, a couple of branches jumped over the ocean prematurely but that is OK too.

He was exposed to the ISGS and its many wonderful members by volunteering to help with the 40th anniversary conference last year. Afterwards, Carole McCarty asked me if he would join ISGS as a board member and so here he is.
Angel Project Donors

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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.
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
**Starting A New Family Bible cont.**

record Births, Deaths, Marriages, and possibly Baptisms too. You will want a page with enough lines to allow for the estimated size of your family over several generations.

Investigate the strength of the cover and the binding. If this Bible is to last until your great-grandchild can pass it on, it must be a sturdily built Bible. But the old Bibles with thick leather covers are so heavy that one can hardly carry them around. Some of the soft leather covers are as strong as need be now.

Will you want artwork, or reference material, in your Bible? Again some are beautifully decorated but they become thicker and heavier. Think through that.

You will want a Bible printed on acid-free paper. You want the pages, and the words upon them, to last for at least a century.

Choose well.

Kristy Lawrie Gravlin, ISGS Family Bible Chairman

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**NATIONAL ARCHIVES CREATES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN GENEALOGY**

Two awards to be granted for articles based on National Archives records

Washington, DC* In celebration of its 75th anniversary, the National Archives announces two awards to recognize significant achievements in genealogy research, based on records from the National Archives.

The National Archives is known worldwide as a treasure chest of genealogical information. Each year, millions of people use Federal records in the National Archives to search for their family roots. Census schedules, ship passenger arrival lists, citizenship papers, military pension files, land patents, and court records offer detailed evidence to flesh out family histories. This competition provides an opportunity for students to share their research "treasures" with the public.

The awards are $1,000 for first place; $500 for second place. Winning articles may be published in Prologue, the quarterly magazine of the National Archives, and/or on the National Archives web site.

To be eligible, an applicant must be either an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning; have completed at least one semester; and have not yet advanced to candidacy, if in a Ph.D. program. An applicant does not have to be an American citizen, but must be attending an American college or university. Permanent National Archives employees are not eligible.

Awards will be announced at the National Archives annual Genealogy Fair on April 22, 2009.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. Cover sheet that includes the following:
   - Name and contact information;
   - Proof of enrollment at an accredited academic institution; and
   - Signature giving permission for the article to be published.

2. An original, unpublished work between 1,000 and 3,000 words the at demonstrates the use of National Archives holdings to conduct genealogical research. The essay must be typed and include a works-cited page or bibliography. End notes are suggested but not required.

Please submit applications to:
Diane Dimkoff
Director, Customer Services Division
Room G-13
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408
diane.dimkoff@nara.gov

Essays may be submitted in-person or via e-mail before 5:00 p.m. EST March 1, 2009 or via regular mail (postmarked by February 25, 2009).

For additional information about the scholarship and/or application process, email KYR@nara.gov.
**Genealogy**

**January 2009**

[25th]
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
“Ask the Experts”
http://jewishgen.org/jgsi/future8.htm

**February 2009**

[10th]
Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society
Mary Ann Russell, a volunteer at New Salem, will speak about an ongoing project involving family history of families living in New Salem at the time of Abraham Lincoln’s residence there.
http://www.tcghs.org/#Enewsletter

[12th]
Great River Genealogical Society
“Moldering to Dust-Reviving the History of a Forgotten Irish Family”

[14th]
Kankakee Valley Genealogical Society
http://www.kvgs.org/

[28th]
DuPage County Genealogical Society

**March 2009**

[9th–13th]
11th Annual Genealogy Week
Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg, IL
http://www.rootdig.com/sandburg.html

**April 2009**

[18th]
Quad Cities Genealogical Conference
The speaker will be Curt Witcher from the Allen County Public Library.

**May 2009**

[13th–16th]
NGS 2009 Family History Conference
“The Building of a Nation: From Roanoke to the West,” Raleigh, NC
http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/

**September 2009**

[2nd–5th]
FGS 2009 Annual Conference

**Calendar**

“Passages through Time”
http://www.fgs.org/2009conference/

[26th]
Fox Valley Genealogical Society,
Naperville, IL
Will present its annual all-day conference featuring Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, supervisor of the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section. Lectures include: Colonial Migrations; Colonial Probates and Statues; Surnames and Forenames; and The Scots-Irish in Colonial America. For more information, (630) 728-2624 or (630) 978-8444 or <ilfvgs@gmail.com> or http://www.ilfvgs.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.

**Digitization and Indexing continued**

stead Act of 1862, which affected public lands in Illinois and twenty-nine other states. For the past decade, the monument has sought to acquire copies of original homesteading records in the National Archives to allow public access and research. These case files provide details about homesteaders that are particularly valuable to genealogists. The files include names; dates of birth and death; county of origin; date of naturalization; location of homestead; and much more.

The monument recently formed a partnership with several organizations to begin digitization and name indexing of these records. Their partners are FamilySearch, Inc., whose volunteers will digitize documents inside the National Archives; Footnote.com, which will place those digital images on its website; and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which will create an enhanced and detailed index. The National Archives has agreed to a digital pilot project that will create digital copies of 300,000 documents from the Lincoln, Nebraska land office. The monument hopes it will soon be able to expand the project to include homestead records from Illinois.

A group known as Homestead Congress operates a website and blog to provide updates on this and many other projects. You may visit their site at http://homesteadcongress.blogspot.com. If you would like to receive Homestead Congress updates, send the Congress an e-mail at homesteadcongress@gmail.com. The monument’s site may be viewed at www.nps.gov/home.
**ISGS Executive Committee  Elected Officers  2008-2009**

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                Ann Wells
                Annabelle Bradshaw

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**Advertising Opportunity**

We would like to include any announcements your society has about upcoming conferences, seminars, and meeting information. Submit this information to the ISGS office either by email (isgs.secy@sbcglobal.net) or to the ISGS address listed below.

Also if your society is having a conference and there is an opportunity for ISGS to exhibit at the conference, please send the application for participation to Shirley Aleguas (saleguas@dtnspeed.net)

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ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195
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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**

Newsletter Editor
Email: kimzyk@comcast.net

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Memberships run from January 1 through December 31.

**Dues:**
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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.