Treasures Found in the Family Bible
by Kristy Gravlin

We are so used to living in this era of records in triplicate, that we sometimes forget that it wasn’t always so. Genealogists are familiar with newbies who write to a message list asking where to find Great-Great Grandma’s birth certificate. At least they have an idea of the date—“some place in Illinois in 1817.” But most places in the United States did not require record registration until some time after 1900, and even when they were “required” there are so many that cannot be found that we are sure not everyone complied with that annoying rule.

What we might find, however, is a family Bible. Birth was an important event, one that was none too certain to work out well. When the baby arrived, it was something they wanted to remember. The nearest courthouse may have required a trip of several days. The “church” may not have had a minister for many years to come. So the Bible, the one book that early settlers were likely to have, was pressed into service. The parent, or a friend, who was able to write, would go to the family Bible and carefully enter the child’s name and birthdate, leaving a treasure for someone to find many generations later. May you be lucky enough to find your treasure.

Michael John Neill
He is just one of the many great speakers we’ll be having this year at the ISGS Annual Conference on October 24th in Elgin, IL. See pages 77 and 78 for details.

New ISGS Board Members

Back Row:
David Kent Coy—Parliamentarian
Lois Hanley—Publicity
Jean Jung—2011 Director
Larry Pepper—Honors & Awards Chair

Front Row:
Sandra Lee Michaels—Finance & Budget Chair
Kristy Gravlin—Family Bible Records

Not pictured:
Richard Michaels—Membership Promotion
President’s Message —
from Carole A. McCarty

Dear Fellow Genealogists,

I have been following stories about identity theft for some time, but most recently because my husband and I were victims of such a prominent problem in our society. Luckily our experience was minimal and didn’t involve years of resolutions.

According to Dick Eastman’s recent newsletter:

Identity theft is a major concern these days, as it should be. Many legislators seem to think that the problem can be solved by locking up all the birth, marriage, and death records, which, of course, has an impact on genealogists. The legislators apparently have never checked with the security experts who deal with identity theft every day, however. The security experts report that public domain records of birth, marriage, and death are rarely used by identity thieves. Instead, the thieves have easier methods.

You might want to read the “rest of the story” by cutting and pasting this link in the address line: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/07/preventing-identity-theft-with-the-ssdi.html

On another note, a happier one, ISGS is preparing for our Annual Fall Conference, Piecing Together the Puzzle of Our Past, on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Fox Valley University and Business Center on the campus of Elgin Community College in Elgin, Illinois. Conference flyers were mailed to previous attendees, genealogical and historical societies and libraries. If you want to have more flyers mailed to your local society or you notice that your library is running out of flyers, you may email ISGSConference@comcast.net to request more. If you happened to receive two flyers, please pass the extra one on to another genealogy friend. The flyer and registration form are on the ISGS website: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/.

The ISGS annual meeting is held at 8:45 am at the fall conference, immediately before the conference program begins. At that time ISGS members have an opportunity to vote on the slate of officers for 2010 and any other new business to come before the meeting. It is also a time to let your voice and opinions be heard concerning ISGS projects and activities. I look forward to meeting those of you who have this event on your genealogy calendar!

Happy summer!

Carole McCarty
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

“One must always maintain one’s connection to the past and yet ceaselessly pull away from it.
To remain in touch with the past requires a love of memory.
To remain in touch with the past requires a constant imaginative effort.”

-Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962), French philosopher
Ancestor Charts

ISGS members are encouraged to send a completed 6 generation chart to the ISGS office. Many of our ancestor charts have not been updated or even submitted by our members and we would like bring our current ancestor charts up to date. Send 2 copies of the chart below along with permission to publish to:

ISGS
P.O. Box 10195
Springfield, IL 62791-0195
Acknowledging our generous contributors to ISGS and ISGS Projects!

Thank you!

**ALPL Book Fund**

Oriene Springstroh - Aurora, IL

**Angel Project Donors**

Barb Griffith—Madison, WI
Pat Ely—Lake Carroll, IL

**New ISGS Members**

Phyllis Hollingsworth—Jacksonville Beach, FL
Tanya Foltz—Hanover, IL
Sandra Woest—Magnolia, IL
Dennis Joseph Staley—Erie, PA
Roberta Lusky—Woodland, CA
Martha Reinhart—Casa Blanca, Las Vegas, NV
Donna M. Gasper Pond—Peoria, IL
William Popp—Walpole, MA
James Grant—Palatine, IL

**Illinois Legacy Online**

Welcome to Illinois Legacy Online. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are proud to present this digital archive of significant and interesting historical materials from Illinois’ past.

This resource provides digital images of thousands of documents from both the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection and the broader Manuscripts division of the Illinois State Historical Library.

http://ilhpa.hpa.state.il.us/alplm/

**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.

**Missing ISGS Quarterlies**

The Illinois State Genealogical Society Archives are missing the following Quarterlies:
- 1994
- 2000

If you have copies of these please consider donating them to the archives.

Call 217/789-1968 or Email: ISGS office
Piecing Together the Puzzle of Our Past

Conference Program -- Saturday, October 24, 2009

8:00-8:45 A.M. Registration and Networking ** Visit our vendor and society exhibits!!*

8:45 A.M. Welcome and Illinois State Genealogical Society Awards

9:30 A.M. Determining Search Parameters and Really Tracking Your Online Research

  Michael John Neill 1A

  Online searching is more than mindlessly putting names into search boxes and hoping. This lecture will provide an overview of how to think about your online searching to help you maximize your results and organize your process.

Genealogical Approaches as an aid in Identification at Pioneer Cemeteries

  M. Catherine Bird 1B

  This presentation provides an overview of several local cemeteries and discusses the successful efforts to restore the names of the individuals buried within these "vandalized" or vandalized cemeteries.

Digital Restoration of Photographs using an Image Editing Software

  Larry Pepper 1C

  Larry provides basic instruction on how to use an image editing program to create digitally restored versions of damaged original photographs. Learn how to return clarity to faded images, fix blemishes and cracks, and repair missing or damaged parts of your images. Photos Welcome!

11:00 A.M. Finding Cresche's Girls and Barbara's Jesus

  Michael John Neill 2A

  These two case studies from the 19th and early 20th century track two women through their ten marriages and six husbands. Locating them successfully required a variety of online and offline approaches, organizational techniques and problem-solving.

Organizing Genealogical Materials

  Delray Palmer 2B

  Learn a simple system for organizing pedigree charts, family group records, research logs, documents, notes, and research helps. A genealogical filing system should be: 1) simple to set up; 2) well-organized; 3) flexible; 4) inexpensive; and 5) safe and understandable for future generations.

Using Railroad Records in Family History Research

  Craig Pfannkuche 2C

  Railroads were the largest non-farm employers in the United States between 1870 and 1930. A vast variety of jobs were filled by waves of newly arrived immigrants to the United States. Craig will cite examples from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad personnel records and explain what type of information can be found in similar railroad records.

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 P.M. Establishing the Neighborhood

  Michael John Neill 3A

  Your ancestor did not live in complete isolation. This lecture provides some ways to determine both your ancestor's physical and social neighborhoods in an attempt to better understand your ancestor and to learn more about him. Tracking the neighbors may help you track your ancestor.

Finding Your Roots in a Chicago Building

  Lesley Martin 3B

  An address in a city directory can tell you the street where your ancestor lived, but additional sources may help you uncover more details. She will discuss how to use Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, photography files, and other resources available at the Chicago History Museum.

Using Maps in Family History Research

  Craig Pfannkuche 3C

  An ability to read and make use of a wide variety of maps, is useful toward putting together a history of one's family. Craig will demonstrate how many different maps can be used to help the researcher understand the movement and history of one's ancestors.

3:00 P.M. What is Unwritten?

  Michael John Neill 4A

  In some cases, the document we locate only tells part of the story. Viewing a document in its historical, legal, familial, and chronological context is important in interpreting it correctly and harvesting as many clues from it as possible. Never read anything just once!

Finding Ichabod: Using the Federal Census Returns

  Ann Wells 4B

  Combining your ancestor is not in the census, but should be? With a little creative research, you can probably overcome that brick wall. A case study in finding Ichabod between New York, Illinois and Minnesota over a 60 year period.

Preserving Family Heirlooms

  Tina Beaird 4C

  Learn simple strategies and solutions for preserving your valuable family documents and photographs for future generations; and get preservation dos and don'ts for modern scrap-booking.
ISGS Fall Conference Saturday, October 24, 2009

Directions to Elgin Community College
4 miles south of I-90
From Interstate I-90 head south on Randall Road to South Street. Head east (left) to Renner Drive and turn right on Renner Drive. Follow Renner Drive to the Elgin Community College’s Fox Valley University and Business Center.
Heard north on Randall Road turn east (right) on College Green Drive (it’s a stoplight). Then make a quick left then right onto Spartan Drive. Follow to the Elgin Community College’s Fox Valley University and Business Center.

Conference Hotels

Conference Rate Deadline: October 5, 2009
Free shuttle service to and from conference
Comfort Suites - 815-336-3500
Country Inn & Suites - 815-426-6400

New This Year!
Are you puzzled about something in your ancestry? Bring your questions to the 2009 conference!

Michael John Neill, Featured Speaker, is a board member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and contributor to Ancestry World Journal, a popular genealogical ezine. Michael has spoken frequently to genealogical societies across Illinois and conducts a week of computer genealogical workshops annually in Galesburg, Illinois. He maintains the website www.rootdig.com.

Tina Baird is a board member and Archivist for the Illinois State Genealogical Society. She is a Reference Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She has spoken locally and nationally on genealogy and preservation issues.

Dr. M. Catherine Bird is a Registered Professional Archaeologist employed by Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc. Dr. Bird is a member of the Illinois Archaeological Survey and Chair of the membership committee.

Lesley Marin has had a varied career in libraries, freelance editing, fact checking, and research. Since joining the Research Center staff at the Chicago History Museum in 1999, she has assisted thousands of researchers in their quest for information.

Delray Palmer is currently the Director of the Crystal Lake Illinois LDS Family History Center. She has organized three local family history fairs where she has also presented. Tracing her roots has been a favorite pastime for 30 years.

Larry Pepper has 38 years of photography experience in a variety of areas. He is currently a board member of Illinois Genealogical Society and President of the Elgin Genealogical Society.

Craig Pfannkuche is the genealogical archivist for the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society and currently is the Corresponding Secretary of both the Chicago Genealogical Society and the McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society.

Ann Wells has 25 years of professional genealogical experience and is owner of Wells Genealogical Research. She is a board member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, director of the McHenry County Genealogical Society, board member of the Crystal Lake Historical Society and board member of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History.

Become a Member and Save!
Become a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society now and save $5.00 on your conference registration fee. By becoming a member, you will receive discounts on ISGS conferences, events and tours, quarterly publications, bi-monthly online newsletters, free access to the ISGS Quarterly as well as discounts on ISGS publications. Visit www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~izgs for more information about all the wonderful things our organization has to offer. Join today!

Registration Form
Mailed and Postmarked by Friday, September 26th
☐ $35.00 for ISGS Members
☐ $45.00 for Non-Members
☐ $50.00 Postmarked after September 26th or at the door
☐ $30.00 Annual Membership to ISGS

Late registrations welcome, but we cannot guarantee lunch or printed syllabus after this date or for walk-ins.
Please, no refunds after September 26th

Name __________________________
Address ________________________
City, State, Zip __________________

Phone ________________________
E-mail Address (preferred) ______

Register online using Paypal
Or make checks payable to:
ISGS
P.O. Box 10195
Springfield, IL 62791-0195
E-mail: ISGSConference@comcast.net
www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~izgs

Please Indicate Conference Break-Out Session Choices Here:
9:30 ☐ 1A ☐ 1B ☐ 1C
11:00 ☐ 2A ☐ 2B ☐ 2C
1:30 ☐ 3A ☐ 3B ☐ 3C
3:00 ☐ 4A ☐ 4B ☐ 4C
Genealogy

**July 2009**

*24th&25th*
The Federation of East European Family History Societies

**August 2009**

*4th*
Elgin Genealogical Society
“The Civil War and Lincoln in Grandfather’s Diary,” presented by David Batholomew. [www.ilfvgs.org](http://www.ilfvgs.org)

*8th*
National Archives-Great Lakes Region
Tony Burroughs will be presenting “African-American Genealogical Research.” To register call 773-948-9001 or email Chicago.archives@nara.gov.

*7th&8th*
The Missouri State Genealogical Association
It’s 2009 annual conference will be held in Jefferson Co., MO. Julie Miller will be the featured speaker. [www.mosga.org](http://www.mosga.org)

*15th*
CSAGSI
Paul Valasek presents “Why Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian or Hungarian” at 1:30pm in LaGrange, IL. info: [www.csagsi.org](http://www.csagsi.org)

*20th*
Elgin Genealogical Society
“Adoption Searches,” by Matt Rutherford. [www.ilfvgs.org](http://www.ilfvgs.org)

*24th*
Henry County Genealogical Society

**September 2009**

*2nd-5th*
FGS 2009 Annual Conference
“Passages through Time”

*18th-19th*
Polish Genealogical Society of America
Presents “Unraveling the Mysteries” at the Chicago Marriot in Schaumburg, IL. See [www.pgbsa.org](http://www.pgbsa.org) for more information.

**October 2009**

*9th-10th*
Iowa Genealogical Society
“Mining for Your Ancestors,” West Des Moines, IA [www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

*15th-18th*
The Lincoln Colloquium comes to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. This year the program focuses on the environment of the 1800s. For more information call 217-391-3241.

Calendar

**July 2009**

*24th&25th*
Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois
Will present a docent lead tour of the Illinois Holocaust Museum at 1pm at 9600 Wood Dr., Skokie, IL. The cost is $10/adults or $8/senior (65+). Space is limited and reservations are required at rsvp@jgsi.org or call 312-666-0100.

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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.

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.
ISGS Executive Committee  Elected Officers  2009

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

2009 Directors: Jayne Cates
                Susan Pope
                Mary Ellen Huetsch

2010 Directors: Ann Wells
                Annabelle Bradshaw

2011 Directors: Karl R. Moore
                Cheri Hunter
                Jean Jung

There is an opening for a 1 year Director position. If interested please contact the ISGS Office at 217/789-1968

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)

Remember the Illinois State Genealogical Society in your will.

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.