By Thomas MacEntee

The end of one year and the beginning of another is often a time for reflection. Most people ponder breaking bad habits or making improvements in their lives. Have you considered making changes to your “genealogy life” - looking for ways to improve your research or perhaps expand your knowledge?

There are many ways in which you can shake up the way you currently do things, but also try something new. Following are 10 resolutions you can try for 2014 and all of them are fairly easy to achieve.

**Backup Your Genealogy Data**

Making sure your research data, documents and images are secure is the first resolution because it is the most important. Do not put this one off! How many times have you heard about others losing a flash drive with all their research data, or having a hard drive crash?

Keeping a resolution to back up your data - genealogy data as well as other data - is a simple 3-step process:

- **Create a backup plan.** Writing down a plan makes the process of securing your data much easier. Review all the places your genealogy data lives - don’t forget Internet favorites and bookmarks, scanned photos and documents, and your research database. Then decide on a backup method. Options include an external hard drive, burning to a CD or DVD, or using an online system like DropBox or Carbonite.

- **Backup your data.** The initial backup process will take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours depending upon the amount of data.

- **Set a backup schedule.** Commit yourself to backing up your genealogy data on a regular schedule. Once a week or once a month - whatever works for you. Also consider a method that performs automatic backups for you so you don’t have to worry about a schedule.

For more information on backup plans, methods as well as tips and tricks, check out the data backup resources at GeneaBloggers.

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**Attend A Webinar**

While webinars really took off in 2011, you’ll see them only become more popular. Why? Two words: convenience and variety.

- **Convenient:** webinars are convenient for both those who attend webinars as well as for speakers and sponsors. You can be part of a webinar from your home or office at almost any time of the day and from any part of the world. And what if you can’t attend the live event? Many providers offer a recorded version of the webinar that can be viewed at your convenience.

- **Variety:** The range of subjects covered by webinars is often the same as you would find at a major genealogy conference. Topics include research strategies, specific ethnic groups or geographic locations, technology, brick wall strategies and more. And the speakers? Many of the big names you find at other events are now offering their presentations through the webinar medium.

To view a list of upcoming webinars, check out GeneaWebinars.

**Join A Genealogy Society**

If you don’t already belong to a local or national genealogy society, consider joining one. Why? Many genealogy societies offer resources and services that can help you expand your research and your knowledge. Some of these resources are even available online in a members-only section. In addition, most societies offer monthly meetings with guest speakers focusing on a variety of topics.

*Continued on Page 4...*
I hope that everyone made it through the very cold and snowy weather that began our year. My ancestor, Theodoric Jenkins, living in Boone County, Missouri wrote a letter to his daughter on 17 January 1841. He wrote, “...it is so very cold this morning that the ink freezes in my pen, by far the coldest day we have had this winter the thermometer stand 6˚ below zero...” When I read that letter several years ago, it made me understand a little more of what life was like for my ancestors.

Thomas MacEntee opened ISGS’ third year of webinars with his presentation, “7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists.” Julie Tarr, as Education Chair, has assembled a terrific lineup again this year; please go to the ISGS Webinars and tab on the website to see the upcoming talks. Feel free to make copies of the 2014 brochure and distribute it, and thank you. Remember, if you are an ISGS member you may watch the recordings and download handouts of previous webinars. I also want to thank FamilySearch for sponsoring the webinars this year. Their sponsorship doesn’t pay for everything, but it does help ISGS continue to bring you these wonderful, educational presentations.

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is now closed for three years after the death of someone. This came into effect with the stroke of a pen — the signing of the Federal budget bill. For more information and what impact it has on family historians please visit Judy G. Russell’s blog http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/ and the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) website http://www.fgs.org/rpac/.

I’m pleased to announce that ISGS has partnered with the Illinois State Archives on a new indexing project. Becky Higgins, ISGS Indexing Coordinator, has more information about this exciting project later in this newsletter.

Take care,

Jane G. Haldeman
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

Jesse White Offers Instructional Video on Paper Conservation

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White announced that the Basics of Paper Conservation instructional video is available on the Secretary of State website as well as the office’s YouTube Channel.

“This video is geared towards persons with little or no professional training or experience who need to repair or restore documents,” said White. “It will be very useful for genealogists, archivists in small historical repositories and students.”

The video features Illinois State Archives conservator Dottie Hopkins-Rehan as she discusses simple techniques that archivists can use to preserve and repair documents. Topics include how to humidify, flatten, clean and properly store documents. Hopkins-Rehan has been a conservator at the State Archives for more than 30 years.

The video was filmed by Secretary of State staff in the Illinois State Archives’ conservation laboratory. It can be accessed by visiting the Secretary of State website at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/home.html or the YouTube Channel http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcb3lwPjDjA&feature=c4-overview&list=UUIA1SUswkOGuN4Phf-e9gWg .
With the beginning of a new year, ISGS is poised for continued success. The positions listed below reflect some retiring board members, and some interesting and exciting opportunities for you! Please consider helping ISGS achieve its mission to preserve and disseminate Illinois historical and genealogical materials, and to educate and aid those researching their ancestry.

For information on any of the positions listed below, please contact Susie Pope: isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org.

- **Finance and Budget Chair**: This committee monitors the financial condition of ISGS, makes recommendations to the Governing board, and compiles the annual budget.

- **Advertising Chair**: This chair develops advertisers for the ISGS Quarterly, Newsletter, and fall conference syllabus.

- **Publications Chair**: This committee monitors the ISGS publications inventory, and coordinates the printing and distribution of all ISGS publications, with the exception of the Newsletter and Quarterly.

- **Education Chair**: Develops and coordinates educational opportunities offered by ISGS.

- **Honors and Awards Chair**: The chair solicits nominations from individuals and societies for each of the ISGS annual awards. The nominations are discussed in committee and finalists are presented with awards in the fall.

- **Long Range Planning**: This committee considers plans for the improvement of the Society. They solicit suggestions from the membership, make regular reports to the Board, and present projects for action.

- **Publicity Committee Members (Social Media)**: Committee members are needed specifically to promote ISGS through its social media (Facebook, Blog, and Twitter accounts), and at conferences.

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**Genealogical Foundation Established in Illinois**

The *Illinois State Genealogical Foundation*, a private, not for profit, tax exempt organization, was recently established in Illinois in 2012 to help support genealogical and historical activities in the state. The Foundation is governed by nine Directors who have an interest in supporting and promoting genealogy and Illinois history.

The purpose of the Foundation is to assist in developing and increasing educational opportunities for the genealogical and historical community of Illinois. It also will be providing service and support for students and organizations whose primary interest involves the study and education of genealogical and historical events in Illinois.

The Foundation encourages gifts of money, property, historical papers and documents, and other material having educational, artistic, scientific and/or historical value. The Foundation will receive, hold, and administer such gifts with the primary intent of serving the genealogical and historical community in Illinois.

“A grant program will be created to provide funding to applicants for genealogical and historical projects in the state”, said Stephen Black, President of the Foundation. “Further information on this grant program will be provided as more details and specific criteria are developed.” “The first priority will be to obtain funding for the Foundation to provide for a sustained grant program consistent with maintenance of equity,” Black added.

All actions of the Foundation shall be for its educational purposes as provided in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as such, any donation to the Foundation is tax deductible. If you are interested in further information on the organization or purpose of the Foundation, please contact Stephen Black, Foundation President, at 623-466-3545. If you are interested in providing support or making a contribution to the Foundation, you may send it to the Illinois State Genealogical Foundation, 906 Switchgrass Lane, Champaign, IL 61822.
10 Genealogical Resolutions, Cont. from Page 1 . . .

And don’t forget that a genealogy society doesn’t have to be in your backyard for you to join! If your ancestors migrated from another part of the country, think about joining a far-flung society even if you can’t attend meetings. You’ll still be able to tap into the resources including newsletters, quarterlies and research databases.

For a comprehensive list of genealogy societies, check out Cyndi’s List.

Publish Your Family History
With the many self-publishing options now available, there’s no reason you shouldn’t put your research into a printed format to share with family, friends and other researchers. Check out sites like Blurb, CreateSpace, Lulu or Stories To Tell to see how easy it is to create your own book, calendar or other printed item.

Worried about your writing skills? Don’t be! There are a variety of sites and blogs that can help you improve your writing skills. For example, check out Better Writing Skills.

Connect With Other Researchers
Your ancestors didn’t live solitary lives - they were part of a community. So as a genealogist, why should you? Besides joining a genealogy society (see above), use message boards and social media to connect with other researchers.

GenealogyWise is often called “Facebook for genealogists” and offers a variety of ways to connect including groups, message boards and chat rooms. Also consider using Facebook to expand your genealogy network. Do this by searching for other genealogy groups and societies around a common interest. One example is RootsWeb: an entire Facebook community has emerged with RootsWeb fans as members. They post news items, new resources and more to the Facebook group. Check them out on Facebook.

Attend a Genealogy Conference
When thinking genealogy conferences, don’t just consider the large national events such as RootsTech, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference or the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference. There are many local events such as one day workshops or weekend conferences that you can attend. The best way to find these events is to follow local societies on Facebook or do a search on Google.

 Participate In An Indexing Project
One way to learn how certain record sets work and how they can be used, is to help out with the indexing process. What is involved? Very often when a set of records like a census is digitized and made available online, the text needs to be converted to a searchable format. With handwritten records, this process cannot be automated easily. This is where volunteers come in - they read each line and transcribe what they see. The results are then captured and placed in a searchable database for other researchers to use.

Get Out! Visit An Archive Or Library
Recent statistics show that a majority of beginning genealogists perform most or all of their genealogy research online using sites like Archives.com. With a high convenience factor and a wide range of resources, online research can often lead to the perception that almost everything is available online.

The truth is that there are more resources that have not yet been digitized and they are waiting for you to get out and find them. Locate a local FamilySearch Center or archive or library. Check in with the staff. They are there to help you succeed. Chances are you’ll not only find new information about your ancestors, but you may even be able to network with other researchers in person!

Interview A Living Relative
Here’s another resolution that you should not put off: sit down with a living relative and conduct even just a basic interview. Besides the basic questions about how and where they grew up, ask them about their own parents and grandparents. Gather names, dates and places.

A good technique is to present a family photo and ask if they remember the people in the photo, when and where it was taken and what was going on with the family at that time. Very often a photo will offer the prompt to get a relative to open up instead of answering a series of questions.

For a modern twist on the family interview, check out sites like 1000memories, StoryTree.Me and Tpstry. You can not only store your interview notes, audio clips and photos but some will even offer questions and prompts to ask your relatives.

Share Your Knowledge
Take some time to give back to the genealogy community that has given you and millions of other researchers so much. Volunteer with your local society. Assist with a cemetery survey. Digitize and transcribe a record set. Answer questions on a message board. Teach a class on your area of genealogical expertise. Mentor a beginning genealogist.

Not only will you be making a valuable contribution, but you might even surprise yourself at what you might receive in return.

Get off to a good start with your genealogy in 2014.
Consider one, several or all of the above resolutions to shake up the way you’ve been doing things. By the end of the year you’ll have not only a sense of accomplishment but who knows? - you might just venture into a new area or pick up a new skill!
Did you know?

- A webinar is a live lecture/presentation that you can attend via a computer with an Internet connection.
- Our live webinars are free to the public.
- You need to register in advance to attend the webinar.
- ISGS members have access to the recorded version of past webinars.
- Please direct any questions to the ISGS Education Committee at isgseducation@ilgensoc.org.

February 11, 2014 — Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies

Presenter: D. Joshua Taylor

Discover the methods used in the 19th and early 20th century to create a compiled genealogy, and how to ensure its information does not lead you down the wrong trail.

Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9213931983607980546

March 11, 2014 — Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent

Presenter: Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL

Learn to link families using autosomal DNA test results from any testing company. Maximize impact on your genealogical research goals. Includes how to use test results.

Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5053293122685075970

April 8, 2014 — Using Canadian Records to Find Your Midwestern Ancestor

Presenter: Kathryn Lake Hogan, PLCGS, UE

Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5139560805000800257

For the complete list of upcoming webinars, visit: http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234

And don’t forget to spread the word by printing copies of our webinar brochure to hand out at your local society meetings. The brochure can be accessed at http://ilgensoc.org/upload/menu/2014_webinar_brochure.pdf.

The above webinars are sponsored by FamilySearch https://familysearch.org

Join Our New ISGS Project

By Becky Higgins
ISGS Indexing Coordinator

ISGS is about to embark on an exciting new indexing project and we need your help. We have several wonderful indexers who have volunteered but the more the merrier!

The project entails creating an index for professional registration records from the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. The State of Illinois has required registration for many professions through the years and these records will be very helpful to genealogists and historians alike. We will begin with the Register of Licensed Physicians and Surgeons from 1877-1952. This register also includes midwives. With the index linked to the digital image of the page, all the information will be available.

Imagine finding your ancestor listed in this ledger. It may tell you where he/she was living at a given time, where he/she worked, what type of medicine was practiced, and much more. In some cases, the comments section even gives the date of death!

If you'd like to help with this project, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact me at bhiggins9@gmail.com and I’ll be happy to include you on our team.
### Welcome New ISGS Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joan Hanlon</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
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<td>Susan Idzikowski</td>
<td>West Allis, WI</td>
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<td>Penny Martin</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Gloria Mitchell</td>
<td>Madison, MS</td>
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<td>Debbie Fraedrich</td>
<td>Cobden, IL</td>
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<td>Juliana Smith</td>
<td>Hammond, IN</td>
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<td>Karla Hyde</td>
<td>Highmore, SD</td>
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<td>Lucy McCoy</td>
<td>Georgetown, TX</td>
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<td>Charles Giglotto</td>
<td>Waterloo, IL</td>
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<td>Chris Pyle</td>
<td>Libertyville, IL</td>
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<td>Louise Bluff</td>
<td>Sparta, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol C. Cole</td>
<td>Terrace Park, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leland Cole</td>
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<td>Janice Jacoby</td>
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<td>Marilyn Vercimak</td>
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<td>Dwight Moore</td>
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<td>Lori Brewer</td>
<td>Derby, KS</td>
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<td>Nona Moore</td>
<td>Mascoutah, IL</td>
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<td>Eileen Lemons</td>
<td>Highlands Ranch, CO</td>
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<td>Susan Mayer</td>
<td>Morton Grove, IL</td>
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<td>Quentin Burrows</td>
<td>Joliet, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Pine</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Thames-Simmons</td>
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<td>Kay Simonson</td>
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<td>Cindy Cracraft</td>
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<td>Andrew Robbins</td>
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<td>Michelle Hoftriezer</td>
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<td>Archives of Michigan</td>
<td>Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Sally Gantz</td>
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<td>Katherine Bopp</td>
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<td>Jessica Lynn Taylor</td>
<td>Oak Park, IL</td>
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<td>Sean &amp; Emily Kerwin</td>
<td>Peoria, IL</td>
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<td>Anthem, AZ</td>
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<td>NSDAR Library</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Stein</td>
<td>Northbrook, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Driscoll</td>
<td>Mendota Heights, MN</td>
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### Share your love of family history with your friends and relatives!

Invite them to join the Illinois State Genealogical Society. They can join online at [http://ilgensoc.org](http://ilgensoc.org).

Click on **Join ISGS**! Then select the membership type and click on the desired form to join online or print and mail the membership form to ISGS.

### Translations from German, Dutch, and French to English

Gordon Hartig  
P. O. Box 7732  
Bloomington, IN 47407  

Telephone: (812) 430-9117  
Email: Gordon@hartigtranslations.com  
Website: [http://www.hartigtranslations.com](http://www.hartigtranslations.com)

*Specializing in Old German Script*
Genealogy Calendar

FEB. 1st - 1:30 pm
Chicago Genealogical Society
“Beginning Genealogy Using Accredited Methods” by Marsha Peterson-Maass
Newberry Library 60 W Walton St, Chicago, IL
http://www.chicagogenealogy.org

FEB. 8th - 1:00 pm
North Suburban Genealogical Society
“Military Genealogy” by Tina Beaird
Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak Street, Winnetka, IL
http://nsgsil.org

FEB. 11th - 8:00 pm
“Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies”
ISGS Webinar by D. Joshua Taylor
Web: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9213931983607980546

FEB. 15th
DuPage County Genealogical Society’s 39th Annual Conference
Hilton Garden Inn, 4070 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL
“Find It -> Prove It -> Share It” 39th DuPage County Genealogical Society Annual Conference
http://www.dcgso.org/

FEB. 20th - 7:00 pm
Elgin Genealogical Society
“Getting the Vitals Down: Birth, Marriage, and Death Records”
Gail Borden Public Library-Community Room, 270 N. Grove Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120
www.elginroots.com
Email ElginGS@aol.com

MARCH 1st - 1:30 pm
Chicago Genealogical Society
“Holy Cow! Where Are My Chicago Catholics Now” by Teresa Steinkamp-McMillon, CG
Newberry Library 60 W Walton St, Chicago, IL
http://www.chicagogenealogy.org

MARCH 8th - 1:00 pm
North Suburban Genealogical Society
“Reading Between the Lines of the City Directory” by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin
Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak Street, Winnetka, IL
http://nsgsil.org

MAY 17th
Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois
GeneaQuest all-day conference - Keynote speaker: Thomas MacEntee
http://www.geneaquest.blogspot.com

ISGS Website Update

Do you have suggestions for the ISGS Website?
The website committee is eager to hear your thoughts! If you have suggestions, questions, or comments on the website, please use the Website Suggestion Form at http://www.ilgensoc.com/cpage.php?pt=87 or email the ISGS website Chair at: ISGSWebsite@ilgensoc.org.

Have You Logged In At The ISGS Website?
Did you know that almost half of our over 1,300 members have never logged in at our website? If you have not received your ISGS Member Login Instructions, please contact the ISGS Webmaster at isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org.

Do We Have Your Correct Email?
Periodically, ISGS will send “blast emails” to its members to communicate important news about our events and activities. In addition, we distribute the ISGS newsletter six times a year using email. Each time we send these emails, several emails are “returned” because the ISGS member has changed their email address or there is incorrect information in our database.

Help us ensure that you get all the latest ISGS emails by checking your email address on the ISGS website:

- Visit http://www.ilgensoc.org and click Members Section in the left sidebar.
- Enter your login and password. Then click Edit Your Profile in the Members Section sidebar on the left.
- Click the Contact Info tab and verify your email address.

If your email address is incorrect or missing, please contact the ISGS Office at isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org with the correct information.
ISGS Newsletter Deadlines

March-April 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due March 1

May-June 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due: May 1

ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers 2014

President: Jane Haldeman
1st Vice President: Tony Burroughs
2nd Vice President: Susan Scoville Pope
Treasurer: Michele Claypool
Recording Secretary: Barbara McKean

2014 Directors: Karl Moore, Valerie Burd, Sara Taylor
2015 Directors: Jayne Cates, Becky Higgins, Kristy Gravlin
2016 Directors: Dan Dixon, Mary Westerhold, Darlene Hinkle

Contact ISGS
ISGS, PO Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195
Executive Office: Illinois State Archives Bldg.,
2nd Floor
Website: http://ilgensoc.org/index.php

ISGS Office Hours
Mondays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Newsletter Published in
January, March, May, July, September, November

- Newsletter article contributions are due the 30th of the month prior to publishing.
- Advertising options available. Contact the Advertising Chair at: isgsadvertising@ilgensoc.org
- Newsletter Editor: isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org

Renew Your Membership Online
http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=8
or mail your renewal to:
ISGS Membership Renewal
PO Box 10195
Springfield, IL 62791-0195

- Individual/Society/Library: $30
- Joint (two people at same address): $35

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