Lincoln Presidential Library celebrates 125 years of history by honoring ‘The Library Lady’ on June 10

Illinois built one of the nation’s leading historical libraries thanks to the vision of Jessie Palmer Weber, who guided the institution from 1898 to 1926. As the library (now renamed the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library) celebrates its 125th year, it will honor Weber on June 10.

The event at 6 p.m. in the library’s Multi-Purpose Room includes a presentation on Weber’s life by Glenna Schroeder-Lein and an appearance by the librarian herself in the form of historical interpreter Gwen Podeschi.

This event is free and open to the public, but a reservation is required. Visit http://bit.ly/LibraryLady or call 217-558-8934. Admission to the museum is not included in your reservation.

The Illinois State Historical Library was founded in 1889. Weber took over as director nearly a decade later and oversaw collecting newspapers, photographs and documents that, together, preserved the story of Illinois.

The library began with just 442 books. By 1910, it had 28,680. Today, the collection includes 200,000 books, over 400,000 audio-visual items and millions of documents.

Weber helped establish the “Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society,” prepared exhibits for events such as the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, and helped plan commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas debates and the 100th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth.

Weber, the daughter of John Palmer, an Illinois governor and U.S. senator, said her goal was nothing less than “a complete history of the State and its counties and towns collected at the capital.”

The library (112 N. Sixth Street) was particularly important for its collection of documents from the life and career of Abraham Lincoln. That collection made it possible to create the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in 2004.
The President’s Message . . .

I’m looking forward to this year’s ISGS Fall Conference on October 24 and 25 in O’Fallon, IL. J. Mark Lowe is our featured speaker. The conference will be held at the Regency Conference Center and this year’s hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn. Look for information about our other speakers and presentations, hotel registration information and more on the ISGS website.

I’ve had a very busy several weeks traveling around Illinois. March marked the 150th Anniversary of the Charleston [Illinois] Riot between Union Soldiers and those opposed to the War known as Peace Democrats or Copperheads. The Illinois State Historical Society started the events by holding their annual two day Symposium in Charleston where ISGS had a booth and Janice Fritsch, ISGS Past President and I were presenters. The town of Charleston held a three day event with speakers including Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer, an encampment, house and courthouse tours, and music. Members of ISGS did Civil War look-ups for anyone searching for information about their Civil War ancestor. The event concluded with a reenactment of the Charleston Riot. ISGS Parliamentarian and past president David Kent Coy was very involved in the planning of the commemoration.

I met with several local society board members at the Western Illinois Museum in Macomb. I want to thank the McDonough County Genealogical Society for hosting our Roundtable.

May 2nd was Girl Scout Day at the Capital. There were 1200 girls registered to attend and ISGS was invited to have a booth at the event. I even met some ISGS members that were there with their girls. The Girl Scouts attending were working on their Citizen badge and supposed to do activities at the various booths. I had fun going through family photos that I’ve gathered over the years, making copies of them, separating them by decade, and making a poster with photos from 1850-1920. I tried to focus on children and poses that would be interesting. I had a family tree project for them to do; it was a lot of fun.

Take care,
Jane G. Haldeman
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society
Welcome New ISGS Members

Sally Roush - Gahanna, OH  
January Orenstein - West Hills, CA  
Brenda Taber - Charleston, IL  
Nicole Davis - Carbondale, IL  
Vicki Mattson - Waukegan, IL  
Westmont Public Library - Westmont, IL  
Russell Lewis - Chicago, IL  
Marlene Lambiaso - Winter Springs, FL  
Allen Nemiec - Macomb, IL  
Claire Davis - Cheyenne, WY  
Nancy Waller Thomas - Columbia, MO  
Kathleen Pool - Elburn, IL  
Michael Suddes - Plainville, MA  
Richard Stone - Geneseo, IL  
Judith O’Neill - The Villages, FL  
Linda Vincent - Ann Arbor, MI  
Alice Tate - Lake Forest, IL  
Jan Wenk - St. Louis, MO

ISGS Monthly Webinars

2nd Tuesday of every month, 8:00 p.m. CST  
Featuring some of the best known speakers in the field of genealogy!

June 10, 2014 — Plotting, Scheming, and Mapping Online  
Presenter: Cyndi Ingle  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3486718851035076865

July 8, 2014 – Newspaper Research—More Than Obituaries  
Presenter: Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4215015562064657921

August 12, 2014 – Land Records in Illinois  
Presenter: Michael John Neill  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7772534911757198337

• More descriptive explanations about each webinar are found on the ISGS website. You will need to register in advance to attend the webinar.

• 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.

• Please direct any questions to the ISGS Education Committee at isgseducation@ilgensoc.org

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

A conference for the nation’s genealogists  
August 27-30, 2014 in San Antonio, Texas, for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2014 Conference, Gone to Texas!  
For more information and to register: http://www.fgsconference.org
Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle and Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown recently announced the opening of the new Records Storage and Digital Imaging Center located at 1330 S. 54th Avenue in Cicero, Illinois.

The facility represents the first step in modernizing the records storage and digital imaging process for the Cook County Court System, allowing the County to consolidate more than one million boxes of records from multiple locations for digitization.

“Providing quick and efficient access to court records is an essential function of Cook County government. This Records Storage and Digital Imaging Center for our Court System highlights two of my most important goals: proactively using technology to modernize our operations, and improving efficiency in the use of County-leased and owned properties, which includes rethinking our storage space,” President Preckwinkle said.

“The vastness and strategic design of this new facility allows for the well-organized storage and rapid retrieval of the records currently contained in 1.1 million boxes of court documents,” Clerk Brown said. “To date, the Clerk's Office has digitized more than 95 million court documents, and the ongoing scanning and electronic storage of court records vastly improves the public's access to court documents, and enhances the Clerk's Office's ability to electronically transmit court information among justice agencies and to the media.

ISGS Awards Nominations Sought

Nominations are currently being accepted for the ISGS Honors and Awards for 2014. These awards will be presented at the ISGS Fall Conference in October. Now is the time to tell us why you feel someone should be recognized for commitment and service to genealogy. We have received one nomination so far.

You can nominate a volunteer, student, researcher, governmental or business leader, even an organization dedicated to recordkeeping and education.

Please visit the Honors and Awards page on the ISGS website under “About ISGS” or at http://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=48 to learn more and to download the nomination form.

To submit a nomination, please contact chair Linda Wallin at: isgsawards@ilgensoc.org. Your assistance is valuable to help us discover worthy candidates for the awards.

The deadline for nominations is July 1.

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. 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.
With the generous help of its volunteers, ISGS is poised for continued success. The positions listed below present 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.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

- **2014 ISGS Annual Conference:** “Illinois: Land of Opportunity”, October 24 and 25, Hilton Garden Inn located in O’Fallon, Illinois. Volunteers are needed as room monitors, registration, bag stuffing, hospitality, etc.

- **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:** Develops advertisers for the ISGS Quarterly, Newsletter, and fall conference syllabus.

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

- **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.

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**14th Annual British Institute**

**20–24 October 2014**
Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Your opportunity to study with genealogy pros**

- Award-winning genealogist: Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS
- Irish research expert: David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA
- Scottish research expert: Paul Milner
- Welsh research expert: Darris Williams, AG
- Personal consultations with your instructor
- Access to and instruction on British collections at the Family History Library

Choose from 4 courses to target your research

- From Simple to Complex: Applying Genealogy’s Standard of Acceptability to British Research [Jones]
- Researching Your Irish Ancestors [Rencher]
- Scottish Research: Understanding the Fundamentals and Beyond [Milner]
- Welsh Family History Made Simple [Williams]

“...a remarkable opportunity to benefit from the expert knowledge of our instructor, Tom Jones, as well as class members from the Family History Library. I look forward to further BI classes of similar quality.”

— Bonnie Wright, 2013 attendee

For full British Institute details visit: www.isbgfh.org
2014 ISGS Roundtables

McDonough County Genealogical Society hosted the first ISGS Roundtable of the year. The next Roundtable will be hosted by Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society on May 31 and another will be hosted by Iroquois County Genealogy Society on June 21.

PHOTO TOP: Marla Vizdal and Allen Nemec shared information from the McDonough Co Genealogical Society.

PHOTO BOTTOM: Lyle E Kagler and Jean Wistedt joined us from the Mercer County Historical Society.

Sharing Your Bible Records

If you have any contact with genealogists who have bible records they would like to share, please encourage them to do so. There is a form on our website that will help them give us all the correct information the first time.

Two copies of the records are needed. One is a photocopy of each of the family pages, plus the title page and the date of publication page. The second copy is a carefully hand-printed or typed copy of the material so that the sender's knowledge of the family, names, dates, and relationships, can be easily read. Even if the sender doesn't know much about the family, the second transcribed copy will give us another person's best judgment on what the handwritten bible says so that the best possible transcription can be printed in the collection.

The two copies can then be mailed to either the office of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, or to the bible chairman, whose address is:

Kristy Lawrie Gravlin
Family Bibles Chairman
204 W. North Street
Plano, Illinois 60545

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 members to communicate important news about our events and activities. We also 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 Website Update
Genealogy Calendar

Saturday, June 7
Chicago Genealogical Society - “Discovering the Past Block-by-Block: Using ChicagoAncestors.org” (ISGS Member Society Events) - 1:30 pm Newberry Library 60 W Walton St, Chicago, IL.
Presenter: Ginger Frere
For more information: http://www.chicagogenealogy.org

Thursday, June 12
Fox Valley Genealogical Society - “Overcoming Brick Walls - 2014” (ISGS Member Society Events) - 7:30 pm Naperville Municipal Center, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.
Program: “Overcoming Brick Walls - 2014”

Thursday, June 12
Peoria County Genealogical Society, the Peoria Public Library North Branch—3001 W. Grand Pkwy - 6:30 pm. Public welcome.
“How to do Research in France and Germany”, Presenter: Bob Hoffer

Saturday, June 14
North Suburban Genealogical Society meeting at the Northbrook History Museum (1776 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, IL). 1:00 pm.
Presenter: Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG “Excel, The Genealogist’s Underutilized Tool”

Thursday, June 19
Elgin Genealogical Society - “Using Libraries to Continue your Research” (ISGS Member Society Events) - 7:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library-Community Room, 270 N. Grove Avenue, Elgin, IL

For more information: www.elginroots.com / Email ElginGS@aol.com

Friday, June 20
Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society (ISGS Member Society Events) - 6:00 pm / White Fence Farm
Program: LAGHS Annual Dinner “The 1893 Columbian Exposition”
Speaker: Paul Durica & Bill Savage

Thursday, July 17
Elgin Genealogical Society - “Analyzing and Tracking your Research” (ISGS Member Society Events) - 7:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library-Community Room, 270 N. Grove Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120
For more information: www.elginroots.com / Email ElginGS@aol.com

Saturday, July 19
McHenry County IL Genealogy Society - “Genealogy Inside Out” Conference (ISGS Member Society Events) - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois
Speakers: Cyndy Ingle, Thomas MacEntee, Teresa McMillin, Kristan McCallum, Jane Haldeman, Susan Grzybowski, Melody Carvajal
Register Online at www.mcigs.org/conference

Saturday, July 26
Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society (ISGS Member Society Events) - 10:30 am, White Oak Library, Lockport
Program: “Building of Texaco Lockport” / Speaker: Gary Ward

Friday/Saturday, August 1-2

Pre-conference workshops on July 31 include writing workshops, computer labs and genealogy library workshops. For information, registration forms and pricing, call (317) 232-1882 or go to www.indianahistory.org. Early bird deadline: July 1.

Saturday, August 9
Genealogical Society of Southern Illinois Annual Conference (ISGS Member Society Events) at Ray Hancock Conference Center John A. Logan College Route 13 & Greenbriar Rd, Carterville, IL.

2014 Family Conference and Book Fair
Featured speaker will be Thomas MacEntee.
• Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists
• Got Illinois Ancestors? A Guide to Prairie State Genealogy
• Internet Archive: A Gold Mine for Genealogists
• 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Conference Registration is not necessary to attend the Book Fair. It is FREE and open to everyone.

For more information: Diane Anderson at dla62@yahoo.com or (618) 426-3606 evenings or Phil Stucker at tameroa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi/conf2014.html

View upcoming Genealogy Events: www.ilgensoc.org/events.php
ISGS Newsletter Deadlines
July/August 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due: July 1
September/October 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due September 1

2014 ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers
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.