Time flies when you’re having fun and 2018 is going to be an exciting year – we will be celebrating ISGS’s 50th Anniversary and Bicentennial of our Statehood! No, I didn’t forget about 2017. The ISGS Governing Board is gearing up for these special events with the theme of “Building to the Bicentennial” in 2017. Many projects and activities are being designed and developed – indexing projects, conferences, educational opportunities and a Roadshow. You can be part of the excitement! See the Opportunities page of this issue for current openings or simply email ISGS 2nd VP at isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org to get involved!!

Dawn Carey Henry
President
Illinois Genealogical Society
ISGS was the local host for the FGS 2016 conference held in Springfield, Aug 31 to Sept 3. From Librarians’ Day to the Wednesday night reception to the final sessions, it was a wonderful 5 days of genealogy. With over 160 sessions and workshops, the exhibit hall and other activities, there was little down time. ISGS was honored to help with the conference and to have FGS back where it started 40 years ago.

A large conference such as this cannot be pulled off without the help of many people. Many ISGS members were involved on the national as well as the local level. Janice Fritsch and Susie Pope were the national chairs. Publications were handled by Julie Cahill Tarr. Jane Haldeman oversaw registration before and during the conference. Stephanie Pierce Carbonetti handled advertising. Joan Kitchen Murray was the Exhibit co-chair. All the meals were coordinated by Donna Hartwig. Jackie Lyell stepped in right before the conference to assist with on-site coordination for Society Showcase. Howard Manthei worked on signs and Angela McGhee coordinated all the volunteers. The ISGS Board was also involved in the important role of “what do you need?” runners as well as manning the Society booth in the exhibit hall.

A special thank you to all of those attending the conference that volunteered to help. You gave up some of your precious conference time to help with registration, hospitality or the exhibit hall. Room monitors help keep things on track and on time. And those techie volunteers are truly needed now that all presentations use some type of technology. Thank you again.

Many attendees stopped by the ISGS booth to learn about the Society or how to research in Illinois. It was a pleasure to meet you and help you with your research questions. Even after the conference, ISGS is here to help you with your genealogy questions. If you need additional help, or didn’t get to stop by to talk to us, please feel free to contact us. Hearing your questions helps ISGS serve you better.

Submitted by Laura Kovarik

ISGS 2016 Local Host Conference Chair

Pictured above: Laura Kovarik, FGS Conference Local Host Chair and Paul Ritter, ISGS award winner

A HUGE thank you to LAURA KOVARIK!!
ISGS 2016 Award Winners Announced

On Saturday, September 3, 2016, eight individuals were honored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) with awards for their outstanding achievements in the field of genealogy. ISGS presented the awards at the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Annual Conference – *Time Travel: Centuries of Memories* – in Springfield, Illinois. The recipients include:

- **Rick Womack**, of San Francisco, California and **Ken Alexander**, of Evanston, Illinois, will each receive the **ISGS Special Recognition Award** for their work indexing CDs for the Archives Indexing Project.

- **Darlene Hinkle**, of Amboy, Illinois, will receive the **ISGS Special Recognition Award** for her work with the ISGS Newsletter, Church Records and Nomination Committees.

- **Harold Schook**, of Odell, Illinois and **Paul Ritter**, of Pontiac, Illinois, will each receive the **ISGS Community Service Award** for their work in restoring the graves of Civil War veterans in Odell, Illinois.

- **David C. Bailey**, of Naperville, Illinois, will receive the **ISGS Community Service Award** for his work documenting Civil War soldiers connected to Illinois.

- **Loretto “Lou” Dennis Szucs**, of Lockport, Illinois, will receive the **Volkel Medal of Honor Award** for her lifetime of work for the genealogical community, including research, instruction, archiving, editing, and writing, as well as founding the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

- **D. Joshua Taylor**, of New York, New York, will receive the **ISGS Distinguished Service Award** for his work in the genealogical community, including hosting the *Genealogy Roadshow* on PBS, appearances on the television show *Who Do You Think You Are?*, as president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and as a lecturer and writer.

**Dawn Carey Henry**, ISGS President, notes: “Once a year ISGS takes time to recognize some of our exceptional volunteers and those who have contributed to the genealogical community as a whole. This year is no exception. I am delighted to acknowledge and honor this year’s recipients. Thank you for your dedication to ISGS and sharing your passion for genealogy. Congratulations to each of the winners!”
**ISGS Award Winner Biographies**

**Rick Womack** is the recipient of the Special Recognition Award presented to him by the Illinois State Genealogical Society at their annual meeting. He was honored for his work indexing having completed 8,400 log entries of doctors licensed to practice in Illinois. Rick lives in San Francisco, California where he does computer support work for lawyers and paralegals. He has a Computer/Electronics Bachelors Degree. Rick has family living in Illinois, so doing long distance work for ISGS seemed a natural commitment. His interest in family history began about twenty years ago and he had been able to trace his paternal side back to the British Isles to the mid 1700s and his maternal side back to the early 1800s. Rick also does indexing for Ancestry and Family Search and contributes to Find A Grave. He is a member of the California Genealogical Society based in Oakland and the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

**Kenneth Alexander** has been nominated for the Special Recognition Award for his work digitizing the Illinois Register of Licensed Physicians and Surgeons for the Illinois State Genealogical Society, under the direction of Clyda Ogle. The Society intends to put the Register online as a searchable database when the project is completed. A retired Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Ken is focusing his attention on a number of projects, one of them being his family history. In particular, he is researching the contributions of the Ross family of Illinois to the history of Illinois and the United States and has written and edited several Wikipedia articles on this topic. We hope to read about this interesting family, which includes the founder of Lewiston, Illinois, one day in our *Quarterly Magazine*. Ken is an ISGS member, member of the Chicago Genealogical Society, and is also a member of the National and Illinois Societies, Sons of the American Revolution. He and his wife live in Evanston, Illinois.

**Darlene Hinkle** was honored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society with a Special Recognition Award for her service revitalizing the ISGS newsletter by encouraging societies to submit articles for publication. And, perhaps you were one of those she selected to interview for the newsletter at the conferences the past two years. She has also submitted two articles for the *ISGS Quarterly* regarding small town museums. Darlene is an ISGS executive director and in this capacity has been in charge of Church Records. She lives in Amboy, Illinois, where she spends every spare moment working on her various family lines. Her interest has resulted in four trips to Ireland and to various states where she has met with wonderful family. Boston is her favorite place to research and also to enjoy her grandchildren. What began as a hobby is now an obsession, she says! Darlene retired after twenty-two years as Amboy’s city clerk/collector and then four years as city treasurer.

**Harold Shook**, 75, of Odell, Illinois, is being honored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society with the Community Service Award for his work assisting with the restoration of headstones of Civil War Veterans. Harold himself is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and every Memorial Day he visits the local cemeteries with other members of American Legion Post #666 where they render services for veterans from every war. Noticing seven deteriorating headstones of Civil War Veterans in the Odell Township Cemetery bothered Harold so he contacted Paul Ritter, local science teacher, and along with Paul’s students were able to identify the deceased soldiers. He said the kids, “ran with the project” and after extensive research they were able to cut through the red tape and the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs was able replace those worn markers, and those veterans this Memorial Day were able to get their identities back.

According to the *Pontiac Daily Leader* Harold is the poster child for the good life in retirement! The article states that he enriches the life of those around him by sharing his talents with others and finds enjoyment by exploring new hobbies and talents. It might also be mentioned that every year he places flags next to the graves of deceased veterans. Harold is a retired printer.
Paul Ritter is a hands on science teacher who has spent 19 of the 23 years of his teaching career at Pontiac Township High School. He also teaches Environmental Earth classes at Heartland Community College. Paul was chosen for the Community Service Award by the Illinois State Genealogical Society because of his involvement with Operation Headstone. As part of his science class his students studied the impact of acid rain, the weather, and the human factor regarding the deterioration of headstones. His class project, for which he is being recognized, is the work done with seven Civil War headstones. Two of the stones were simply overturned and so his students were able to refurbish them. The other five were badly decomposed and by doing rubbings were able to determine the names of the deceased soldiers and by working with the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Administration were able to get replacement stones. One of the veterans, Captain James Wightman, they discovered, was a highly decorated soldier, responsible for saving many lives in several important battles of the Civil War. Two relatives of the deceased war veterans were located and presented with the flag of their forefathers. Paul was also the recipient of the 2014 White House Presidential Award for Innovation in Environmental Education, and received the 2011-2012 National Environmental Science Teacher of the Year Award. He is the founder of Operation Endangered Species, which is responsible for reintroducing an extinct species of turtle to the state, and the former president of the Illinois Science Teachers Association. Paul is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University where he obtained his B.S and M.S. degrees. At Pontiac Township High School he teaches Biology, Earth Science, Introduction to Ecology, and Environmental Chemistry.

David C. Bailey Sr. received the Community Service Award for his work documenting Civil War veteran burial sites in Illinois and the post-war movements of Illinois Civil War veterans through the use of GAR records this past year. David, who lives in Naperville, Illinois, is retired as Head of Commercial Development for the Integrated Supply and Trading Department of BP North America. Since his retirement he has served as Illinois Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and is also the past State President of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). David’s long standing interest in the Civil War originated as a boy, living in Pennsylvania, when an aunt, who was a retired history teacher, would take him to Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields and tell him personal interest stories about the soldiers who fought in these locations. This long held interest fit in well with the goal of the SUVCW to ensure that the graves of all Civil War Veterans are appropriately identified and marked. Doing this became one of David’s missions. His efforts in this area were also recently recognized by the SUVCW when they awarded David with the organization’s Meritorious Service Award. In addition to his many activities David has written twenty articles for the ISGS Quarterly.

Loretto "Lou" Dennis Szucs is a professional researcher, instructor, archivist, and writer. She was the founding officer of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, forty years ago. Her legislative work was instrumental in keeping vital records open to the public. Her publications are List of Pensioners, Chicago & Cook County, Illinois, In the Shadow of the Water Tower, The Life of Thomas J. Fleming, and Probate Court Records: Cook County, Illinois Docket Book A. In addition, she has authored or edited nine genealogy reference books. She has also presented over 500 times and served on the ISGS and FGS boards, the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board and the Cook County Court History Advisory Board. She served on the Records Access and Preservation Committee for many years. She has worked for ancestry.com, as well as the National Archives and Records Administration, edited Ancestry magazine and FORUM, and received an award from the National Archives.

D. Joshua Taylor has inspired new generations to discover genealogy by appearing as a host on Genealogy Roadshow on PBS and as a featured genealogist on Who Do You Think You Are? Although he started learning genealogy at the tender young age of 10, he continues to serve the genealogy community as president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. In his spare time, he writes, lectures and speaks. He has written for American Ancestors, Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, Crossroads, and FORUM. Joshua has received the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit, the Rubincam Youth Award from the National Genealogical Society, and the RootsTech Distinguished Presenter Award.
Thank you to everyone that helped make the Farms and Families: Across the Decades reception a success. ISGS hosted the reception as part of the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference that was held in Springfield Aug 31 to Sept 3.

Thank you to:

- **FamilySearch** for sponsoring the event
- **Rosanna Hogarty** and **Selma Blackmon** for creating the displays on their family farms, bringing them to Springfield and manning their tables during the reception.
- **Jan Wenk, Carol Sondag** and **Pat Vaseska** from the Monroe County Genealogical Society for setting up the table about Monroe County’s bicentennial. Loved the corn stalks!
- **Oriene Springstroh**, Acclaim Press, and **Larry Kafner Photography** for their generous donations.
- **Dave, Steve** and **Penny** for help in the creation of the display boards, table centerpieces and games.
- **Sharron Newhouse** for her contribution of the names and dates for the display tables
- **Candace, Darlene, Jackie, Doreen, Anita, Dawn, Susie**, for their wonderful finds that helped make the table decorations the talk to the conference
- **Rick, Jackie, Dawn, Doreen, Donna, John, Margaret, Doug, Candace, the ISHS volunteers** and others that I can’t remember (I was stressed!) for their patience and hard work setting up the reception hall. I had so much help it was amazing. You made it all come together.
- **Tina Beaird** and **Debra Dudek** for assisting with the “Can you guess what this is?” table.
- **Illinois State Historical Society** [http://www.historyillinois.org/](http://www.historyillinois.org/) for co-hosting the reception, arranging the music, and providing the wonderful Lincoln portrait.
- **Prairieland Heritage Museum, Jacksonville** for the wonderful photos of farm equipment. [https://prairielandheritage.com/](https://prairielandheritage.com/)
- **Museum of the Grand Prairie, Champaign County Forest Preserve District** for the mystery farm items. That table was always busy! [http://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org/](http://www.museumofthegrandprairie.org/)

The following repositories allowed material from their collections to be used for the reception:

- **The Newberry Library**, Chicago [https://www.newberry.org/](https://www.newberry.org/)
- **Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection**, UIUC [http://idnc.library.illinois.edu/](http://idnc.library.illinois.edu/)
- **Regional History Center, NIU** [http://rhc.lib.niu.edu/](http://rhc.lib.niu.edu/)
- **Western Illinois University Archives and Special Collections** [http://www.wiu.edu/libraries/archive](http://www.wiu.edu/libraries/archive)
- **State of Illinois Archives** [https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/)

Thank you to everyone that helped. Apologies to anyone I mistakenly left out.

Laura Kovarik
Local Host Chair, 2016 FGS Conference
Finding the Dead: Illinois Death Certificates Lookup Service at ISGS

Among the many services available to the public, as well as members of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, is the Illinois Death Certificate lookup service. Not only can ISGS members receive copies of Illinois death certificates from 1916-1950 at a discount, anyone using ISGS can save considerable money compared to county-based services.

The current pricing for one certificate is $6.00 for ISGS members and $10.00 for non-members (you can order as many as you would like). Compare that to the current $15.00 rate at sites such as Genealogy Online for Cook County (https://www.cookcountygenealogy.com/).

Currently, only those certificates listed at the Illinois Death Certificates 1916-1950 database at http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/idphdeathindex.html can be obtained through the ISGS lookup service.

Requesting a Death Certificate: The Process

To obtain non-certified copies of death certificates from the 1916-1950 timeframe, please follow these steps:

- Search for the individual death certificate(s) you want.
- After you find the correct certificates(s), print or copy down the information exactly as displayed on your screen.
- **Order Online**: To order online using a MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express or a PayPal account, use our shopping cart at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59. Your information is kept safe and secure by the PayPal payment service.
- **Order by Mail**: To mail your request, print out the ISGS Death Certificate Request Form (click here) and transfer the death certificate information to the form. Mail the form along with your check made payable to the Illinois State Genealogical Society to the address shown on the form. (Note: Credit card payments are only available online.)

If you have any questions, visit http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59 for more information, email isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org or call (217) 789-1968.

Revenues Support ISGS Operations

In the past few years we have seen a marked decrease in income from the ISGS death certificate lookup service. Proceeds directly support ISGS office operations. So remember to take advantage of this service, whether you are a member of ISGS or not!
Madison County Probate Files

In May 2013 the Madison County Archival Library staff and volunteers embarked on a joint probate project with the Madison County Circuit Clerk’s office. The project involved processing over 44,000 probate files. The objective was to retain all of the original wills while finding a new location for the remainder of the file. It was obvious that volunteers would be needed to accomplish this in a timely manner. Since volunteers were already an important part of the archival library operations and the archival library had the space to accommodate them while they worked on the project, it was a good fit. With the first delivery by the circuit clerk’s office of over 200 files and with a few of the archival library’s “regular” volunteers on hand, the project began.

Since the volunteers and staff already had an interest in history and genealogy, the probate files soon became one of the more interesting collections processed at the archival library. With a few exceptions, the earliest probate files processed were from the early 1900s and the people, businesses, and even foreign countries involved in the settling of these estates created lively discussions among the volunteers.

From the beginning of the project, it became evident what a treasure of information was available in these files. There were stories of missing people who suddenly had relatives ready to claim any assets available, a family cemetery that was willed to a city, and guardianship files dating from the earliest days of Madison County (predating Illinois statehood). The elaborate business letterheads and the price difference from today’s prices started many a discussion. Inventories listing farm animals by name and description along with detailed listings of estate sales frequently caused a work stoppage as everyone gathered to read and discuss the items. When it was necessary to determine the heirs to an estate, family trees or a list of all heirs and their current addresses were included. Wills were found written on scraps of cardboard in pencil, on notecard sized sheets of paper, and, at the other extreme, several typed pages of detailed instructions.

Since the circuit clerk’s office was looking for new storage space for the files, it was arranged that the files would be kept at the archival library. The circuit clerk’s office worked with the State of Illinois to complete all of the necessary paperwork to accomplish this transfer. While the original wills are retained by the circuit clerk’s office, a copy of the wills, along with the remainder of the files are now stored at the Madison County Archival Library. (Note that the first 250 boxes of probate files were already located at the IRAD facility in Carbondale when this project began. Those files will remain in Carbondale.)
A new project is now underway at the archival library dealing with the guardianship files. There are approximately 200 boxes of guardianship files, but because of the nature of the files, the index that was available was inadequate. As staff began to access these files for researchers, it became obvious that a more extensive index would be helpful. Several volunteers agreed to help, and a separate index of the guardianship files is now being prepared. This new index will include the name of the guardian, the name of the deceased individual, and the names of all of the minor children included in the file.

While the archival library staff participated in the project by processing the files, answering questions on unusual wills, and making copies, it was the volunteers that kept it going week to week. Congratulations on a job well done!

Submitted by
Mary T. Westerhold, mtwjrw7@yahoo.com
Archival Research Manager
Madison County Archival Library

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**ISGS Bylaw Change**

Illinois State Genealogical Society has completed the general membership voting on the Amended Bylaws. In Article XIII, the Bylaws may be amended if the proposed changes are presented to the membership in writing at least 30 days prior to the vote. The proposed amendments were emailed to Society members on September 14, 2016. Voting was held by email from Thursday, October 13, 2016 to Thursday, October 20, 2016. There were 255 votes cast. Of those, 11 were voided for reasons such as duplicate votes or the submitter was not on the membership list as of Oct 13, 2016.

The results are as follows:
In Favor – 240
Against – 0
Abstain – 4

Under Article XIII, two-thirds of the votes must be in favor of the proposed amendments to pass. The motion to accept the amended bylaws has passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Kovarik
ISGS Recording Secretary
2016 Webinar Series
Online Educational Opportunities for Genealogy

Schedule
All webinars start at 8:00 pm Central time

Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process
January 12, 2016, with Drew Smith

Reconstructing Black Community Life Through Benevolent Societies
February 9, 2016, with Angela Walton-Raji

Researching in Archives & Libraries: Do's and Don'ts
March 8, 2016, with Melissa Barker

Letters, Ledgers, and Lodge Books: Finding Ancestors with Ethnic Resources
April 12, 2016, with Lisa Alzo

Polish Immigration to America - When, Where, Why and How
May 10, 2016, with Stephen Szabados

Using Social Media to Break Through Brick Walls
June 14, 2016, with Amie Tenant

Special Delivery: Using US Postmaster Documents in Family History Research
July 12, 2016, with Jean Hibben

Misbegotten Children; Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate
August 9, 2016, with Peggy Lauritzen, AG

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Using Occupational Records
September 13, 2016, with Amy Johnson Crow

Midwestern Gems: Back Issues of Genealogical, Historical and Sociological Journals
October 11, 2016, with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGS

Principles of Effective Evidence Analysis
November 8, 2016, with George G. Morgan

Without the Hint - There is No Story
December 13, 2016, with Bernice Alexander Bennett

FAQs
What is a webinar? A webinar is a live lecture/presentation that you can attend via a computer with an internet connection.

Is there a cost to attend an ISGS webinar? No, ISGS offers the live broadcast of its webinars to the public for free.

How do I sign up to attend a webinar? Visit the Webinars page at http://bit.ly/ISGSWebinars and click the “register” link for each session you want to attend. Fill out the short form to complete your registration.

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Top Archived Recordings
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Treasures and Hidden Secrets of the Illinois Regional Archives
Luana Darby

Hunting for Henry - A Case Study
Using Collaterals Teresa S. McMillin, CG

Land Records in Illinois
Michael John Neil

Using Canadian Records to Find Your Midwestern Ancestor
Kathryn Lake Hogan

Newspaper Research – More Than Obituaries
Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL


ISGS Announces 2017 FREE Webinar Lineup

ISGS 2017 Webinar Series
Online Educational Opportunities for Genealogy

Schedule
All webinars start at 8:00 pm Central Time

Finding Dirk: Records of Insane Asylums in Illinois
January 12, 2017, presented by Jill Morelli

Freedmen’s Bureau Records — Valuable to ALL Southern Research!
February 14, 2017, presented by Diane Richard

Nurse, Matrons, Laundresses & Cooks. Documenting Women in the Civil War
March 14, 2017, presented by Angela Y. Walton-Raji

Tracing Slave and Slaveowner Ancestors with DNA and Genealogy
April 11, 2017, presented by Nicka Smith

Cause of Death: Using Coroner’s Records for Genealogy
May 9, 2017, presented by Lisa A. Alzo

Preserving Old Family Letters: Tips From An Archivist
June 13, 2017, presented by Melissa Barker

The Watchfires of a Hundred Circling Camps
July 11, 2017, presented by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Ten Years is a Long Time: Census Substitutes for the In-between Years
August 8, 2017, presented by Amy Johnson Crow, CG

Luxembourgers on the Prairie: Researching your Luxembourg Ancestors
September 12, 2017, presented by Lisa Oberg

Funeral Homes and Family History: They’re Dying to Meet You
October 10, 2017, presented by Daniel Earl

Illinois Gold: Hard to Find But Valuable Prairie State Resources for Genealogical Research
November 14, 2017, presented by Thomas MacEntee

Ephemera: Genealogy Gold
December 12, 2017, presented by Sharon S. Atkins

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Using Evernote as Your Primary Tool for Capturing Notes and Ideas by Drew Smith
Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG
Dissecting Obituaries for New Clues by George G. Morgan
Using Google Earth for Genealogy by Lisa Louise Cooke
Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving by Dr. Michael D. Lacopo
Forgotten Civil War Veterans Recognized:

Maple Hill Cemetery in Elwood and Riverside Cemetery in Montgomery

MAPLE HILL CEMETERY in ELWOOD, IL

The Philip H. Sheridan Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in conjunction with the Maple Hill Cemetery Association conducted a dedication ceremony on September 17, 2016 for seven new headstones on the previously unmarked or poorly marked graves of Civil War veterans buried in the historic Maple Hill Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

Twenty-four Civil War veterans are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery. Many of those soldiers served in units raised locally in Will County, including the 20th and 100th Illinois Infantries. In addition three veterans who served in Ohio units, one from New York and a solitary Confederate from Virginia are buried in the Cemetery.

Materially aiding in the successful completion of the project was Anthony Hernandez of Aurora’s Boy Scout Troop #28. Sheridan Camp members recruited Anthony to make this his Eagle Scout Leadership Project. Anthony as well as many other members and friends of Troop #28 set the seven new markers and cleaned and reset the existing markers on those other Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery.

Among those receiving new grave markers are: James F. Branch (20th Illinois Infantry), George R. Clark (20th Illinois Infantry), Thomas F. Francis (2nd Illinois Light Artillery), Joseph Hedge (8th Illinois Infantry), James Kinney (12th and 17th Illinois Cavalries), Ralph Nye (86th Ohio Infantry) and Stephen J. Roke (100th Illinois Infantry).

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY in MONTGOMERY, IL

Another ceremony took place October 29, 2016, at Riverside Cemetery in Montgomery, IL where the Philip H. Sheridan Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in conjunction with the Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission and Riverside Cemetery dedicated 17 new headstones on the previously unmarked graves of Civil War veterans buried. Fifty-four Civil War veterans are buried in Riverside Cemetery. Many of those soldiers served in units that were raised in part in Kane County, including the 7th, 13th, 36th, 42nd, 58th, 89th, 105th, 124th, 141st and 156th Illinois Infantries and the 13th Illinois Cavalry. In addition men who served in regiments from Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and the United States Colored Troops are also buried in the Cemetery. Many of them were active members of Aurora’s GAR Post # 20.
Materially aiding in the successful completion of the project were Alan Morrow from Boy Scout Troop #41 in Sugar Grove and Cole Butler and Justin Huberty from Aurora's Troop #11. These three Eagle Scout candidates as well as many other members and friends of their Troops set the 17 new markers and cleaned and reset 30 existing markers on those other Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery.


Submitted by Gary Gunderson, Commander, P.H. Sheridan Camp #2

gfoxvalleycivwar@live.com

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War: www.suvcw.org
On September 1, 2016 at the FGS conference in Springfield, IL, the Federation of Genealogical Societies President D. Joshua Taylor announced that the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions fundraising project had met the goal! A $500,000 donation from someone not in the genealogy community was matched by ancestry.com to meet the fundraising goal!

Thank you to the many of you who have donated to this great cause. Thank you to the many local genealogy societies for their donations. Thank you to the Illinois State Genealogical Society for their matching donations.

For more information go to preservethepensions.org.

Access to all War of 1812 digitized images are free at Fold3. Digitization is 65% complete.
Save $$ on Illinois Death Certificate Lookups!

Did you know that the Illinois State Genealogical Society offers a discounted lookup service for Illinois death certificates from 1916 to 1950? And this discount is available to ISGS members ($6) and non-members ($10)? Some counties, such as Cook County, currently charge $15 per certificate!


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

Gordon Hartig
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Evansville, IN 47728

Telephone: (812) 430-9117
Email: gordon@gartigtranslations.com
website: [http://www.hartigtranslations.com](http://www.hartigtranslations.com)
Specializing in Old German Script

**Sandra Parker,** Chair of Prairie Pioneer Certificates invites you to apply for this certificate.

To learn more about this application process and to see the Index of Certified Prairie Pioneers, go to [www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=20](http://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=20).

**Charles Dobias,** Chair of the ISGS Military Certificates wants to encourage you to apply.

Dedication of Lincoln Stones in Hancock County

For the past year the Hancock County Historical Society (HCHS) has been highlighting the importance the Lincoln family played in the development of Hancock County. The county is able to claim that it is “The Land of Lincoln’s Relatives”. It is believed that more of President Lincoln’s family members are buried here than in any other one location. Fund raising efforts to place tombstones on the graves of these long forgotten relatives led to interest and success in raising money toward the placement of stones for Thomas Jefferson Lincoln and his daughter Emma Lincoln Nelson. They are direct descendants of the earliest Hancock County Lincolns. Efforts have also led to recognition of some of the descendants and relatives still living in the area. HCHS Board of Director, Harry Miller, has been researching the topic for many years. As a result of his efforts, HCHS held a dedication ceremony of the tombstones, hosted by Miller, at the burial sites of Thomas Jefferson Lincoln and his daughter, Emma Lincoln Nelson on Sunday, June 5, 2016. Thomas is buried next to his wife in the Majorville Cemetery near Fountain Green and his daughter, Emma, in the Webster Cemetery, Webster, IL.

Over the years, as the Lincoln family was quietly laid to rest, and as decades began to fade away, the Hancock County Lincolns were somewhat forgotten. As the years passed cemeteries fell into decay and time took its toll as stones toppled and were left unattended. Hancock County Historical Society and its historians agree with this old proverb: “To forget one’s ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root!” Fund-raising efforts continue as there is more work to be done!
As the future President-to-be made his way into history, some of his family members, Abram, James, and Mordecai Lincoln, were making their way into Hancock County, Illinois. They began to settle as early as 1829 in the Fountain Green area. An uncle, aunt and cousins began their quest on the untamed frontier consisting of tall green prairie grass, streams, timber and abundant wild game. Friendly Indians still lived in some areas and would visit with the Lincolns, bringing wild game to share.

In the early 1830s, a church was organized, known as St. Simons Catholic Church. Thomas Jefferson Lincoln, now ten years old, assisted Henry Riley as a carpenter in building the church. A cemetery, St Simons, was also set aside for burials. It is commonly referred to as the “Lincoln Cemetery.” The first Lincoln burial was in 1836. Eight direct Lincoln family members, plus four Lincolns by marriage are buried there. It is thought that Hancock County cemeteries contain more of President Lincoln’s relatives than any other location. Named here are three but there are others also. Contributions of these Hancock County Lincolns were significant. Many were skilled craftsmen, some served in judicial capacities, and some were businessmen. James Lincoln was the first Justice of Peace in Fountain Green Township from 1832 to 1836 according to T. Gregg’s 1880 History of Hancock County, IL. According to Miller, “They were noble people, industrious, and had close-knit families”.

Pictured below President Abraham Lincoln and his look alike Hancock County cousin, Hezekiah Lincoln (HCHS files)

Submitted by Janet Holtman, Hancock County Historical Society

Illinois Bicentennial Commission Established!

Executive Order 2016-11 establishes the Illinois Bicentennial Commission and the Office of the Illinois Bicentennial. to mark the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the Illinois Constitution of 1818 at the Kaskaskia Convention and December 3, 2018 will mark the 200th anniversary of the admission of Illinois to the Union as a state.

Welcome New ISGS Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simona MacAngus</td>
<td>Woodland, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>MaryAnne Haffner</td>
<td>Waynesboro, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Scott</td>
<td>Evanston, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carole Kasch</td>
<td>Lombard, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tessa Hudson</td>
<td>Elkhart, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Seiler</td>
<td>Urbana, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connie Reik</td>
<td>Melrose, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Yancey</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirly Koelling</td>
<td>Grant Park, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Sepulvado</td>
<td>Baton Rouge, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Hetchler</td>
<td>Warren, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolyn Colwell</td>
<td>Northport, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Etchingham</td>
<td>Oak Park, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alanna Sablotny</td>
<td>St. Charles, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce &amp; Kristin Moore</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Paradee</td>
<td>Franklin, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>JoAnn Menzer</td>
<td>Glenville, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marguerite Henry</td>
<td>Evansville, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Engelman</td>
<td>Springfield, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Stevens</td>
<td>Fairfield, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Redden</td>
<td>Decatur, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gayle Wolcott</td>
<td>Ventura, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karla Krueger</td>
<td>Pleasant Plains, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Rusk</td>
<td>Midlothian, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Linder</td>
<td>Springfield, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon &amp; Bob Folkerts</td>
<td>Athens, IL</td>
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<td>Barb Stone</td>
<td>Springfield, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marylois Riemenschneider</td>
<td>Lemont, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Jennings</td>
<td>Libertyville, IL</td>
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<td>Chris Kientzle</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulette Miller</td>
<td>Champaign, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>LuAnn Salz</td>
<td>Peoria, IL</td>
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<td>Cynthia Guffey</td>
<td>Madison, AL</td>
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<td>Naperville Public Library</td>
<td>Naperville, IL</td>
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<td>Paula &amp; Stephen Carlisle</td>
<td>Lexington, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Lou Gammage</td>
<td>Marianna, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bette Bellefeuille</td>
<td>Laveen, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie McGrew</td>
<td>Melvin, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Bare</td>
<td>Summerville, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Jones Gover</td>
<td>Stafford, VA</td>
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The ISGS webinars, and particularly their retention for later viewing for members, is by far the best benefit I appreciate as a member. Keep them coming!

-Diane Walsh, Belleville, IL

To Join, go to the ISGS website: ilgensoc.org
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Join in the FUN!

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.

INDEXING PROJECT

Volunteers are hard at work on a project indexing ledgers from the IL Department of Registration and Education 1877-1952. Interested? Volunteers need a computer with CD drive, Microsoft Excel, and Internet. To volunteer, please contact Clyda Ogle, Indexing Coordinator at isgsindexing@ilgensoc.org or cogle926@msn.com.

ISGS Board Volunteers Needed

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

- **Advertising Chair:** This committee chair solicits advertising for various ISGS publications and fall conference syllabus.

- **Marketing & Publicity Chair:** The goals of this committee are to disseminate information about ISGS, to stimulate an interest in genealogy and ISGS, and to promote membership in the society in consultation with other society committees.

- **Newsletter Editor:** The Editor is responsible for publishing genealogical news bimonthly, with particular emphasis given to ISGS projects, publications of Illinois records, and activities of Illinois local societies.

- **Publications Chair:** This committee monitors the publications inventory and advises the Board regarding reprinting and oversees the process of publishing new items.

- **Education Chair:** This committee develops genealogical education programs for members and member societies, ranging from workshops to developing youth programming.

- **Family Bible Records Committee:** Bible records are collected and preserved digitally. Information from these records is published in the ISGS Quarterly.

- **Website Chair:** This committee coordinates the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Society’s website.

For more information or to VOLUNTEER, contact Susie Pope at isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org.

Say yes if she emails or calls you!!
2nd Tuesday of every month, 8:00 PM CDT featuring some of the nation’s best known speakers in the field of genealogy!

The following webinars are sponsored by FamilySearch.

8 November 2016: Principles of Effective Evidence Analysis  
Presenter: George G. Morgan  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5160689038658812674

13 December 2016: Without the Hint - There is No Story  
Presenter: Bernice Alexander Bennett  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3458035909419848194

Presenter: Jill Morelli  
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/127044282472510721

Webinar descriptions are available on the ISGS website at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234

ISGS Quarterly

The Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly is read by over 1000 members and is held in many libraries throughout IL and the U.S. The Quarterly is published four times a year. The editor accepts original, unpublished submissions for inclusion in upcoming issues. If you would like to contribute, please refer to the ISGS website for submission guidelines. All inquiries go to isgsquarterly@ilgensoc.org

If you are interested in advertising in the Quarterly or the newsletter, please contact the Advertising Committee at isgsadvertising@ilgensoc.org

ISGS Members: Update your contact information!

Occasionally ISGS sends out an “email blast” to its members notifying them of upcoming events, such as the Annual Meeting, Fall Conference, etc. Each time we do a blast, we receive approximately 40 “bounce backs” – which means that these ISGS members have an invalid or non-functioning email address.

Do we have your latest information in terms of mailing address (so you can receive the ISGS Quarterly) or e-mail address (so you can receive ISGS email notifications)? If your information has changed in the past few months, please forward the new information to the ISGS office at isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org or call (217) 789-1968.

You can also update your contact information on the ISGS website www.ilgensoc.org. Click on the Members Section on the left sidebar. Enter your login and password. Then click Edit Your Profile in the Members section on the left.

Click the Contact Info tab and verify your email address.
Google Alerts for Genealogists

What is Google Alerts?
What if you could get notified when something new related to your genealogy was added to the Google index? Let’s say someone started a new blog about an ancestral land, or added a website about a specific surname? Wouldn’t it be nice if Google worked for you and sent you an email when new items appeared? That in essence is what Google Alerts can do: it is a notification service for any keyword search in Google.

Setting Up Your Alerts
The process of creating alerts in Google Alerts is fairly simple:
• Log in to your Google Account (or Gmail).
• Visit http://www.google.com/alerts.
• In the search field, enter your search term for which you want to be alerted. Example: Illinois genealogy.
• Click the Show Options down arrow. Set your options as follows (these are my personal recommendations):
  o How often – At most once a day
    Be careful of using “As it happens” since your mailbox might get overloaded!
  o Sources – Automatic
    This setting will look at all Google resources including News, Books, Blogs etc.
  o Language – English
    To get alerted in another language make sure you are using the translated term for that language. Example: use genealogie instead of genealogy for German sites.
  o Region – Any Region
  o How Many – All results
    Using All results will result in more material, but I’d rather sort through it than have Google sort and decide for me. I’ve missed important information by using Only the best results.
  o Deliver to – your email address
    You can also select RSS Feed if you prefer to receive your alerts in an RSS Feed reader such as Feedly.

What Types of Alerts Should I Set Up?
Here are some suggestions:
• Surnames of interest
• Specific ancestor names
• Geographic locations
• Street address of family home
• Your website or blog
• Area of interest: “Danish genealogy,” “Norwegian roots,” Scandinavian ancestry”

©2016, copyright Thomas MacEntee. All rights reserved. For more information, please visit High-Definition Genealogy at http://hidefgen.com.
Genealogy Events: for complete event information, go to ISGS website, events

5 November, 2016: Geneseo Public Library, Steve Szabados presents “Jump Start Your Genealogy Research”, 309-944-6452


5 November 2016: Czech & Slovak Am Genealogy Society of IL, Sisters Mary Bratsovsky and Mary Depaul present The Nuns form St. Joseph Bohemian Orphanage, allspare@sbcglobal.net

5 November 2016: St. Louis Genealogical Society, Ted Steele presents “GEDCOM: What is it? What do I do with it?”, stlgs.org

9 November 2016: Fountaingale Public Library District, Jane Haldeman presents “Researching Colonial American Ancestors”, www.fountaingale.org


10 November 2016: Decatur Genealogical Society, “Military Websites”, vaharmon@comcast.net


12 November 2016: St. Louis Genealogical Society, Viki Fagyal, “Meal on the Bones: Using Newspapers to Add Persona to Born, Married, Died”, stlgs.org

13 November 2016: Swedish American Genealogical Society “Exploring Your Swedish Roots”, nordstromv@aol.com


16 November 2016: Decatur Genealogical Society, Christian McWhirter presents “Battle Hymns: Power and Popularity of Music in the Civil War”, vaharmon@comcast.net


17 November 2016: Downers Grove Public Library, Lisa Alzo presents webinar “Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors”, downersgrovelibrary.org

19 November 2016: St. Louis Genealogical Society, Dan Lilienkamp presents “Finding Your Ancestors in German Church Records”, stlgs.org

19 November 2016: Midwest Regional Oral History Forum, Kalamazoo, MI, contact donnaodom@sharekazoo.org

19 November 2016: CAGGNI, Terry Lynch presents “Over There: The War to End All Wars”, caggni.org

3 December 2016: Wisconsin Historical Society, Sarah White presents “Family History Projects”, wisconsinhistory.org


22-27 Jan 2017: Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy courses, SLGI.ugagenealogy.org

8-11 February 2017: Rootstech in Salt Lake City, UT, www.rootstech.org


22 August 2018: Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), National Conference, Fort Wayne, IN, www.fgs.org

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International Society of Family History Writers and Editors

2017 Excellence in Writing Competition is now open for entries through 15 June 2017. This competition is open to both members and non-members of ISFHWE; both published and non-published authors may enter.

Details of the categories and more can be found at www.isfhwe.org/competition.php.

Winners of the ISFHWE Excellence in Writing Competition for 2016

Cat 1 – Columns
1st Place: Elaine Thomas – Stories I've Been Told – Otto I. Fuchs, Jr.
2nd Place: Martha E. Jones, PhD – Ancestral Avenues – Write Your Own Obituary
3rd Place: Barbara Starmans – General Paresis of the Insane
HM: Carolyn Schott – Happy Birthday, Mom
HM: Susan R. Anderson – Searching for roots to find my way home
HM: James M. Beidler – Accomplishing Client's Goal the Best Holiday Present

Cat 2 – Articles
1st Place: Barbara J. Starmans – 'In every city, village & hamlet'
2nd Place: Barbara Ellman – Genealogy Myth-Busters
3rd Place: Beverly Thompson – A Most Amazing Find: Protecting the Purse
HM: Paul Gorry – the Changing Face of Irish Genealogy
HM: Mary Penner – Collaboration with Colleagues
HM: Carolyn Schott – The Letter to the Governor

Cat 3 – Newsletters
1st Place: Michelle D. Novak – The Archivist (Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ)
2nd Place: Tony Burroughs – The Center for Black Genealogy News & Notes (CBG)
3rd Place: Patricia Mansfield Phelan – Newsletter of the Irish Family History Forum – Irish Family
HM: Michael McKeag – (1) North Irish Roots & (2) Snippets
HM: Stephanie Jobes – Lifeliner (Genealogical Society of Riverside)
HM: James M. Beidler – Der Kurier

Cat 4 – Unpublished Authors
1st Place: Frieda Anna Stiehl – Aunt Frieda's Story
2nd Place: Catherine Smith – Converging Lines

Cat 5 – Unpublished Material – Published Authors
1st Place: Ruth Randall – Joseph Workman: Pioneer
2nd Place: Wendy Wilson Spooner – English Colonists and their Quest for Structured Family Life in America
3rd Place: Emilee M. Marks – A Puzzling Puzzle
HM: Susan R. Anderson – They Were Soldiers in the War of Independence
HM: Elaine Thomas – Family Ties
HM: Roccie Hill – A Snapshot of my Iowa Family History

Cat 6 – Poetry
1st Place: Wendy Wilson Spooner – My Father, My North Star
2nd Place: John Newmark – The Genetic and Synthetic

Submitted by Tina Sansone, Competition Coordinator
Elevate Your Genealogical Education to New Heights

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from the field’s top educators

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The Family History Law Library
Taking Your Research to the Next Level
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Virginia from the Colonial Period to the Civil War: Her Records, Her People, Her Laws
Researching in Washington, D.C., without Leaving Home
Utilizing a Full Array of Sources for Researching Your Norwegian, Danish, and Icelandic Ancestors
Settlers in the New World and Immigrants to a New Nation: Researching Ancestors from Overseas
DNA Boot Camp: Practical Application
Refining Internet and Digital Skills for Genealogy
Adding Social History to Your Genealogy
You be the Judge: A Practicum Using Standards to Evaluate Genealogical Work
The Coaching Lab: Forensic Genealogy from Inquiry to Affidavit
Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum

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John Philip Colletta, PhD, FUGA
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Angela Packer McGhie, CG

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January 22-27, 2017
Registration opens July 9, 2016, 9:00 AM MDT
SLIG.ugagenealogy.org
ISGS Governing Board Meetings
Open to Members

Saturday, 19 November 2016. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL, 10:30 AM

Saturday, 18 February 2017. Conference Call via Go to Meeting, 10:30 AM

Saturday, 20 May 2017. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL 10:30 AM

Saturday, 19 August 2017. Fountaindale Library, Bolingbrook, IL 10:45 AM

Everyone is welcome to attend any Governing Board meeting.

ISGS
Join or Renew Your Membership Online: It’s EASY!
You can renew your membership online at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=8, or mail your renewal to
ISGS Membership Renewal, PO Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195. Individual/Associate/Subscription:
$35, Joint (two people at same address): $40

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.
Your email is how you will receive this newsletter and other “blast emails”. Please keep your email
current.

Contact ISGS
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195 Executive Office: IL State Archives Building,
2nd floor
Office Telephone: (217)-789-1968
Website: ilgensoc.org, Facebook: facebook.com/ILGenSoc, Twitter @ILGenSoc#ISGS
Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Advertise in Newsletter
ISGS online newsletter is published in January, March, May, July, September, November. Advertising is
available by contacting the advertising chairperson at isgsadvertising@ilgensoc.org.

Newsletter Articles
Please send articles for the newsletter to isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org. Pictures are welcome (not in a pdf
please). Just include your caption with names, places, details. Deadlines: end of the month prior to publish.
Illinois State Genealogical Society
2016-17 Governing Board

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2nd Vice President: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal
Recording Secretary: Laura Kovarik, Naperville
Treasurer: Christina Bannon, Homer Glen

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2017 Directors: Karl Moore, Pawnee; David Kent Coy, Decatur; Tony Burroughs, Chicago
2018 Directors: Kristy Gravlin, Plano; Barbara McKean, Springfield, Rick Shields, Ottawa

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Jayne Cates, St. Charle

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Advocacy: Terry Feinberg, Freeport
Conference: Laura Kovarik, Naperville
Education: open
IL Local Society Liaison: Kim Hanks, West Peoria
Marketing & Publicity: open
Membership: Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville
Publications: open
Website: open

Ex Officio Representatives
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Illinois State Archives: Dr. David Joens, Springfield
Illinois State Historical Society: William Furry, Springfield
Illinois Secretary of State: Dr. David Joens, Springfield

Special Committee Chairs & Other Appointments
Advertising: open
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Church Records: Donna Hartwig, Peoria
Family Bible Records: Kristy Gravlin, Plano
Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Indexing Coordinator: Clyda Ogle, Gilbert
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