Illinois Flag Celebrates 100 Years

Plano’s Super Costume Day

Where are the five original hand-made flags requested by Mrs. Ella Park Lawrence? “Three feet by five feet in size, they were made of silk taffeta and bound with a yellow fringe.” The design was painted on each flag using oil-based paints and distributed to Secretary of State Lewis G. Stevenson, Governor Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne, Illinois State Historical Society, National Headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Illinois State Organization DAR. Is one still hanging in the Henry Knox Room at the Knox County Courthouse?

The first official state flag was adopted July 1915 after Miss Lucy Derwent’s entry design was chosen and State Senator Raymond D. Meeker introduced the bill that was to legalize the flag. “The measure passed both Houses of the General Assembly and automatically became a law on July 6, 2015, when Governor Dunne failed to affix his signature to the bill.”

The second official state flag was initiated by Chief Petty Officer Bruce McDaniel of Waverly, Illinois then serving in Vietnam. Without the word “Illinois” it was indistinguishable from other state flags hanging in his mess hall. A bill to amend the original flag act of 1915 was sponsored by Representative Jack Walker of Lansing and was passed by the General Assembly and approved by Governor Richard B. Ogilvie 17 September 1969. This authorized a new flag to carry the word: ILLINOIS.

Article submitted by Jayne Cates, ISGS President
Picture submitted by Kristy Gravlin, ISGS 2015 Director
Featured Speaker

Paula Stuart-Warren, CG℠, FMGS, FUGA
Professional genealogist specializing in genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting, and writing. Her lectures, research, and consultations for individuals, societies, law firms, and Indian tribes seeking records and advice has taken her to many states, courthouses, archives, historical societies, and libraries.

Friday Dinner Speaker

Geoffrey Baer
Multiple Emmy award-winning Public Television writer, producer and program host Geoffrey Baer is known for his masterful storytelling, conversational style, and contagious enthusiasm.

Other Presenters: Tony Burroughs, FUGA; Thomas MacEntee; Ruth Ann Abels Hager, CG℠, CGL℠; Carol Chandler; Grace Dumelle; George Findlen; Janis Minor Forté; Jane G. Haldeman; and John C. Heider
Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act – both on the national and state levels – is a gift to genealogists. It puts in writing and reinforces the truth that we have a government by the people, for the people. What these laws state very clearly is that all of those public records at courthouses and state archives, city and village halls throughout the land belong to us, the public, the people. They are OURS.

I first learned about these laws when I went for my degree in journalism. One of the classes I had to take was Law of the Press. In that class it was drilled into us fledgling newspaper, radio and TV reporters that we had a right to get our hands on public records in almost all instances. Government had to have a very sound and strictly limited reason to withhold any of those records.

Fortunately, genealogy records often fall outside those reasons because those reasons almost all have to do with protecting individuals’ right to privacy and confidentiality. Most genealogy records relate to long-deceased individuals and events. When it comes to researching more recent facts, such as adoption and death records, you may run into an exception. But all deeds and wills are open records, and every citizen is entitled to see any such document in any state. That is why they are called PUBLIC RECORDS.

Many of you reading this will think, of course. I know that. But there are a lot of people who don’t realize this fact. Unfortunately, many of those who are in the dark about our public records belonging to the public are the people who are working at those courthouses and city halls. Some of the clerks in small towns have never even heard of a Freedom of Information Act. When a genealogist comes in and asks to see some long-forgotten document, these keepers of the records see it as an annoyance, or an intrusion into THEIR domain. And they come up with all kinds of excuses to keep us out. One of my favorites was related to me by a woman who had tried to view some deeds in a small town hall out West. The clerk on duty there told her she would first have to get approval from the town’s historical society, which was located just down the street, but unfortunately, it was closed that day.

There is no provision in that state’s Freedom of Information law about historical society approvals, but if you don’t know about the law, you won’t be able to fend off these types of impediments to your research.

Although many, many clerks are welcoming and even go out of their way to help us genealogists track our ancestors, we have to be prepared for those who invent reasons to deter us from our quest. That is why I strongly advise anyone heading out to do extensive research through original records to first get a copy of the Freedom of Information Act of the state where you will be doing research. Then, if you do run into one of these creative roadblocks, you will be knowledgeable about your rights. In the State of Illinois, you can find our Act at: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85&ChapterID=2.

Written by Valerie Burd
FGS announced at the NGS (National Genealogical Society) May Conference in St. Charles, Missouri and on their FGS blog (FGS.org) that Julie Cahill Tarr, Pekin, Illinois, is the new Managing Editor of the FGS FORUM. The FORUM is the FGS quarterly electronic journal that provides current information “essential to the informed genealogist”.

The FGS blog at FGS.org states that Julie “has been writing and editing professionally for over 15 years. In 2011, she began providing professional genealogical services, which include writing, editing, and researching. In addition to providing these services to individuals, much of her time is dedicated to educating others through her writing.” Julie is the managing editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly too.

Julie’s Associate Editor is Jennifer Alford.

Congratulations to both these ladies!

To see more about this exciting news, go to FGS.org and click on the FGS Voice Blog, dated Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Sandra Parker, Chair of Prairie Pioneer Certificates notes that ISGS has 3856 approved Pioneer applications! Will you be the next? Congratulations to these new Pioneers added to the list:

Martha Patsy Ives Brockett, White County, 1839
Lewis Barker, Gallatin County, 1808
Jezrell Wellington Bean, Kane County, 1855
Josephine & Amalia Kress, Kane County, 1855
James Campbell Story, Morgan County, 1830

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

Death Certificate Records: ISGS can help!

ISGS offers members & non-members the service of retrieving copies of death certificates from the IL State Archives for a nominal fee. The death certificates available are deaths between 1916-1947 and those that are found in the IL State Archives Death Certificate Index. To find out more of how to access this service, go to ISGS’s website (www.ilgensoc.org) and click on ISGS Services on the left bar and then Death Certificate Lookup or email isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org.

2015 Family History Conference
Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

Saturday, August 8, 2015, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Logan A College, Carterville, IL


Speaker: D. Joshua Taylor

Sessions include Bridging the Gap, Finding Ancestors in the US between 1780 and 1830, Essential Technology for Genealogists, The Modern-Genealogist: Timesaving Tips for Every Researcher, Online Resources for Colonial America
Welcome New ISGS Members

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/Subcription: $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.
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.

ISGS Board Volunteers Needed

• Publicity Chair: This committee disseminates information about ISGS and its activities to stimulate interest in the Society and genealogy; coordinates the preparation of press releases, flyers and other promotional materials, and implements the ISGS Social Media Plan.

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

• ISGS Archivist: The Archivist coordinates activities to properly preserve and maintain the private records of the Society at the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, IL. These records do NOT involve the society’s public genealogical holdings at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Susie Pope at isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org. Say yes if she emails or calls you!!

Indexing Project

The newest ISGS project is indexing ledgers from the IL Dept. of Registration and Education 1877-1952. Volunteers need a computer with CD drive, Microsoft Excel, and Internet. If you are not already in our database of indexers, please contact Becky.

Becky Higgins, Indexing Coordinator at bhiggins9@gmail.com

ISGS 2015 Fall Conference

Our conference team, with local host the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago, is creating another great fall event! It will be held at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn, 23 and 24 October. We always appreciate the help volunteers give us in monitoring sessions, working at the registration desk, and various other areas. Please email Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org if you would like to be a part of our team.

ISGS/FGS 2016 Conference

Local/Regional Marketing person needed.

ISGS is serving as the Local Host society for next year’s FGS national conference in Springfield, IL, 30 August - 3 September. We have a special need for a local/regional marketing person to work with Thomas MacEntee, FGS’s National Marketing Chair. Contact Local Host Conference Chair, Laura Kovarik, laura.kovarik.2016@gmail.com for more information.
14 July, 2015 “Dissect Obituaries for New Clues”, Presenter: George G. Morgan, 8:00 PM, Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/723818762217470209


8 September 2015 “Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving”, Presenter: Michael Lacopo, 8:00 PM. Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5664379703628947969

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

Charles Dobias of Carlyle, Illinois has been appointed Military Certificates Chair.

Translations from German, Dutch, and French to English

Gordon Hartig
P.O. Box 2744
Evansville, IN 47728

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

Moultrie County Historical & Genealogical Society announces their Corndog Kickoff
2015 Benefit Auction for the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation
Saturday, July 11, 2015 Richard T. Orr Building/Illinois State Fairgrounds
$30 at Door: Children under 12 free when accompanied by adult.
Call 217-725-8047
Be Prepared When Planning Library Visit!

In my work at the Madison County Archival Library, I spend much of my time assisting researchers. It is the best part of my job and I am thrilled when a researcher leaves my facility with new information.

But frequently, the most difficult part of my job is to determine what the researcher is trying to find. Are they researching a particular surname? Do they know the time period the family was in the area? Are they looking for vital records? Maps? Family Histories? Burial locations? Answers to these questions will make the research much more productive for everyone.

When you are planning a visit to a new facility, try to determine what that facility has to offer. Check their website or make a phone call to the facility and ask what they have in their collection, including what time period is covered. For example, our facility has several old plat maps and plat books. The first plat map of the entire county was published in 1861. If you are looking for land that your ancestor owned 1840-1850, you won’t find it at our facility. You will need to go to the county recorder’s office.

Ask about special collections. Did your ancestors own a business or live in a particular home for many years? Many facilities have histories of local businesses and historic homes including photos and anecdotes.

Is there a religious affiliation? Churches publish histories of their congregations which often include photos and histories of the families.

Bring information with you that might help verify dates or names. My ancestors were German and all of the families seemed to use the same first names and repeat them generation after generation. Without at least a ‘cheat sheet’ of names and dates, I am soon lost in the John’s, George’s, Mary’s, and Catherine’s.

If you are looking for a particular item such as an obituary, a marriage date, etc., focus on that search first and then look for other information. But remember that you may need to take an indirect approach rather than a direct one. For a female ancestor, you might need to research the males in her family (husband, brothers, uncles, etc.) to gather additional information. So have those names and years handy also.

So remember the Boy Scout motto and “Be Prepared.”

Happy Researching!
written by Mary Westerhold

---

Contribution Match to ISGS

If you’re thinking about making a donation to the Illinois State Genealogical Society, please also consider checking with your employer to see if matching funds are available for employee charitable contributions. Many corporations offer this incentive to encourage their employees to contribute to not-for-profit programs; more than half of all Fortune 500 companies will match employee donations. Your contribution can have twice the impact in supporting ISGS by tapping into this source of funding that’s often overlooked.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-exempt to the extent of the relevant law.

Written by Margaret Truax
Announcing: McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society 2015 Summer Conference

11 July 2015 at McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois

Nationally known speakers include Debbie Parker Wayne, Thomas MacEntee, Greg Phelps, Jane Haldeman, Craig Pfannkuche, Ray Johnson, and Maureen Brady.

Register online www.mcigs.org/conference.

Questions? email registration@mcigs.org

Governing Board Meetings: Open to Members

2014-2015 ISGS Schedule for Executive Board and Governing Board Meetings

15 August 2015 Executive Board 8:30 AM Governing Board 10:00 AM
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois

24 October 2015 Annual Meeting at the ISGS Conference Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn, 9333 South Cicero Avenue, Chicago

Everyone is welcome to attend any Governing Board meeting (10:00 AM). Please make the annual meeting a priority!

Honors and Awards

It’s not too early to begin thinking about people that have dedicated themselves to genealogy in some way. If you know of someone who should be recognized for their work in our field, fill out a form. One submission has been turned in so far. July will be here before you know it. Please fill out the forms located on the ISGS website: http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=63
Please contact Linda Wallin at isgswards@ilgensoc.org and submit all nomination forms to her at this email.

REGISTER NOW! ISGS 2015 FALL CONFERENCE

The ISGS 2015 Fall Conference will be held on 23 and 24 October at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Geoffrey Baer will be the guest speaker at the Friday night banquet. The Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago is co-hosting this conference with ISGS.
Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society is sponsoring “Climb Your Family Tree” – a three-part series of classes on:

Saturday, July 25th  
Saturday, August 29th  
Saturday, September 26th

Topics covered will include Vital Records, Immigration, Naturalization, Federal Census, Military Records, Online Genealogy, and Writing/Publishing Your Family History.

All classes will be held at the Butterworth Educational Center, 701-12th Avenue, Moline, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Bring any family information you have gathered to each class to use in our workshops.

Cost: RICIGS members – free     Nonmembers - $30

Questions? Call Linda Polich (309) 236-1985 or Lorraine Hathaway (309) 787-1826

Registration deadline for the series is July 15, 2015.
Seating is limited – fill out the form below, and mail it with your check today!

Name: ________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________________________________
E-mail: ________________________________________________________
RICIGS Member? Yes____ No____

Mail this form, along with your check made payable to RICIGS, to: Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 3912, Rock Island, IL 61204-3912
Coles County Genealogical Society
The Coles Co., IL Genealogical Society
Coles Co., IL Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 592
Charleston, IL 61920-0592
E-Mail: colescoil75@gmail.com
Charleston Carnegie Public Library second floor
712 -6th St., Charleston, IL 61920.
Phone number 217-345-4913
Hours: Monday- Thursday: 10am-8pm; Friday: 10am - 6pm;
Saturday: 10am - 5pm; Sunday: 1pm - 5pm
The Society/Library is one block South on 6th St. from
Coles County Court House in Charleston. Genealogical research material is available for researching, and
copying is available on site. The Coles County Court House and Coles County IL. Genealogical Society is
within walking distance for your family genealogy research.

The Coles County, IL. Genealogical Society is making great progress with changes for the better.to make sure
when you come, volunteers will be able to help you with all those genealogy questions.

You are invited to come and check us out. We have a wonderful, delightful genealogy room, air conditioned
with a big comfortable area. Bring your computers, notepads and enjoy your day in the Coles County
Genealogy Room. Here's some of what you can find:

• Family files for all to research and make copies.
• Coles County histories, cemetery notebooks, and marriages up to 1930 notebook, newspaper clippings of
families
• Several small town books on schools, farmers, and etc.
• Church records in Coles County
• Hutton Township records from Sam Sargent on microfilm. Sam Sargent wrote about many of the local
residents. The Sargent farm was moved from Hutton Township to Lincoln Log Cabin State Park in Pleasant
Grove Township here in Coles County.
• Family history books that were donated to our society. Who knows? Your family history may be here on the
shelf waiting for you to come in and discover more of the family.
• High school yearbooks, E.I.U. yearbooks, many of the books date back to very earlier years.
• Charleston, Mattoon, and other surrounding towns’ city directories.
• Out-of-state research materials with census, marriages, histories, cemeteries and more for those researchers.
• Newspapers on microfilm start around 1850. You can find anniversaries, obits, celebrations, write-ups on
families in Coles County, IL.

Our Society has a newsletter that is mailed out January, March, May, July, September, December with all the
events and history from our Genealogy Society and up coming events and meetings.

The Society "Welcomes All" to come and hear the guest speakers. On May 17, 2015, Mr. Robert Sterling gave a
talk on Cassius Clay. A truly interesting talk about Cassius Clay who had descendants here in Coles County,
Illinois and surrounding counties. It was great to hear and get that extra input with pictures of the family that
no one had seen.

For a complete list of items for sale, contact the Cole County, Illinois Genealogical Society or go to their
website at colescountyilgensoc.org.
Written by Coles County Genealogy Society Corresponding Secretary Kathy Hartley
Submitted by Sandy Barnett, ISGS Society Liaison
Using Google Earth for Genealogy  
January 13, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Lisa Louise Cooke

Basic Scandinavian Research  
February 3, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Diana Crisman Smith

Finding Your Femme Fatales: Exploring the Dark Side of Female Ancestors  
March 10, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Lisa Alzo

Using Evernote as Your Primary Tool for Capturing Notes and Ideas  
April 14, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Drew Smith

Need Direction? Try City Directories!  
May 12, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Jean Wilcox Hibben

Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves  
June 9, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Ron Arons

Dissect Obituaries for New Clues  
July 14, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with George G. Morgan

School Daze – Finding and Using School Records to Trace Our Ancestors  
August 11, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving  
September 8, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Michael Lacopo

Polish Genealogy – Four Steps to successful research  
October 13, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Steve Szabados

In-laws and Outlaws: The Bylaws of Talking About The Family Skeletons  
November 10, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Janet Hovorka

The US Federal Census: Good, Bad and Ugly for Genealogists  
December 8, 2015 at 8pm (Central) with Gary Smith

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.

How do I attend the webinar? After you sign up for a session, you will receive an email that provides instructions to join the live broadcast online at the scheduled date and time. A reminder email will be sent a few days prior to the scheduled webinar with the same instructions.

What if I cannot attend the live broadcast? We understand that the live broadcasts may not fit into your schedule. If you are an ISGS member you will have to access the recorded version of past webinars through the Members Section of the ISGS website, to watch at your convenience. Not a member? Join ISGS at http://bit.ly/joinisgs.

Learn More & Register

For a description of each webinar, or to register, visit http://bit.ly/ISGSWebinars.

Top Archived Recordings

Recordings of all past webinars are available to ISGS members through the Members Section of the ISGS website. Some of our top webinars from 2012, 2013, and 2014 include:

- Treasures and Hidden Secrets of the Illinois Regional Archives  
  Luana Darby

- Going Nuclear: DNA Discoveries to Trace All Lines of Descent  
  Debbie Parker Wayne

- 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists  
  Thomas MacEntee

- Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan  
  J. Mark Lowe

- Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective  
  Laura Prescott

- Digging Through Documents Word by Word  
  Debra Mieszala

- Going Digital: Organizing Your Research Files Electronically  
  D. Joshua Taylor

Lutheran Orphanages in Addison, Illinois

The following three pages are excerpts from Addison-Village of Friendship, A Centennial Commemorative Book of Addison, Illinois, 1884-1984 published by the Addison Centennial Commission (page 34-37). You can view the entire book at this link: http://addisonadvantage.org/visitors/images/Addison-VillageofFriendship.pdf

Jeannette Paradiso, curator at the Addison Historical Museum in Addison, Illinois has given permission to reprint these pages and share with you the picture on this page. For more information, you can email her at museum@addison-il.org

Submitted by Darlene Hinkle, ISGS Church Records Chair
The Lutheran Orphanage

When the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod held its convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 1872, one of the speakers mentioned the desirability of establishing an orphan home near the Addison Teacher’s Seminary. The purpose was for the Seminarians to have practical experience teaching the orphans, but no action was taken.

A reporter attending the convention mistakenly released the news to his paper that a decision had been made to build an orphanage in Addison. Donations for the “Addison Orphanage” began to arrive at Zion Church. The church leaders read this as a sign that such an institution should indeed be established in Addison.

By June 27, 1873, thirteen Lutheran congregations organized the Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Asylum Association of Northern Illinois with the Reverend A. G. G. Franke of Zion as president. The Association was legally incorporated on August 13, 1873.

Pastor Francke and Friedrich Leeseberg of Addison had already purchased 38 acres of land west of the Teacher’s Seminary for the proposed orphanage-farm.

There was a small home on the property and because three orphans were already waiting at Francke’s parsonage, that home was dedicated on October 13, 1873, as the orphan home. Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Albers acted as temporary houseparents.

A new building, erected about one mile west of what was then considered Addison (343 West Lake Street today), was dedicated on October 28, 1874. It was named the Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Home and was designed to house 50 orphans or half-orphans of the Lutheran faith living in the Northern Illinois District. The Home grew so rapidly that wings were added to both ends of the first building and other buildings were added in 1875, 1878, 1890, 1897, and 1922. By 1900 the orphan population had risen to 97 children and by 1927 it peaked at 140 children.

The orphans attended Addison’s West District Lutheran School from 1873 until 1940 when the two child care facilities on Lake Street merged.

After Easter in 1898, a laboratory school was set up in the seminary lecture room for 54 orphans in grades 1-4 but the older ones still attended St. Paul school. On December 8, 1901, a special teacher training facility, built on the Seminary grounds just south of the Seminary itself, was dedicated. Fifty orphans between the ages of six and ten attended this school until the Seminary moved to River Forest in 1913.

The orphans, like the seminarians and most other Addison residents, walked 2½ miles east of town to Zion Lutheran Church for Sunday morning services. This was almost impossible to do in bad weather, so the orphans attended chapel on Sunday at the Seminary. In 1906 Zion granted the Addison group a release and they immediately began building St. Paul Lutheran Church. Some of the finances for this church came from the Orphan Home Association and some came from the Synod on behalf of the Seminary and the Orphan Home.

The children were taught the virtues of the simple life, provided with suitable jobs to do around the home and farm, allowed time for wholesome play and given religious instruction.
With few exceptions, the orphans remained in the home until they were confirmed at age 14. After that they were more or less “indentured” to Lutheran families in the area, and were taught farming, housework and various trades. When they reached 18 they were considered ready to earn their own livings.

While much of the foodstuffs for the orphanage was provided by the orphan farm, members of the congregations from the area sent staple food items, canned goods and produce from their gardens, farms and orchards. They also made clothing, sheets, pillowcases and quilts for the children. Often women's groups held bazaars and bake sales and donated the proceeds to the orphanage. For many, the care of these youngsters became a labor of love.

In 1877 the Orphan Home Association conceived the idea of holding an all-day, outdoor festival on the orphanage grounds to interest more Lutherans in the work of the orphanage, to provide a festive day for the orphans and their guests and to earn some money doing it. The first such Festival was held that year on the second Sunday in September. Benches were set up outdoors for the joint church service with local bands providing music for the singing of hymns. Lunches were served. Games, stunts, and contests were held. Tours were conducted throughout the buildings and grounds. And, usually, a baseball game was held in the afternoon.

The Orphan Festival drew in 5,000 people that year and was such a hit, it was decided to make it an annual affair. Some people arrived in the area the night before to stay over with friends and relatives; others traveled from the Chicago area by train to Elmhurst and hired teams and wagons to bring them the rest of the way.

The popularity of these festivals was one of the driving forces in getting the Illinois Central Railroad to run a spurs line into Addison in 1890, the cost of which was shared by Addison residents, the Seminary and the Orphan Home Association. After the spurs line was built, it was not unusual for 10,000 people to come for the Festival. As many as ten trains of twelve cars each made the trip to Addison on Festival Day, also referred to as the Kinderheim Picnic in later years.

After the Lutheran Child Welfare Association was formed in 1940, less emphasis was placed on institutional care for orphans. Most orphans were placed in adoptive or foster homes. As a result the Orphan Festival was discontinued in 1957.

Many people contributed in various ways to make the Lutheran Orphan Home a success during its long history, but special tribute should go to the Superintendents, or Waisenelterns, of the Home: Mr. and Mrs. J. Harmening, (1874-1891); Teacher and Mrs. E. Leubner, (1891-1902); Reverend and Mrs. H. Merz, (1902-1917); Reverend and Mrs. E.A. Klaus, (1917-1922); Reverend and Mrs. M.K.C. Vetter, (1923-1937); Reverend Theodore Thormahlen, (1937-1940).
“The Annual festival at the orphan home was a time to see relatives and friends who did not live close by but who came out to Addison on that day. Sometimes I worked at the picnic making sandwiches which were sold during the day. We would get up early and start working at 7 AM making the sandwiches which were sold for 15¢ each. Usually we worked until sometime in the afternoon and for our labors were paid $2.50.”

Louise Balzer

George Albright, truck driver for the Lutheran Child Welfare Association in the 1940s. He drove all over Illinois to pick up food and clothing donations for the orphans.
Genealogy News
It’s an Exciting Summer for Irish Genealogy!

“The entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms held by the National Library of Ireland (NLI) will be made available online – for free – from 8th July 2015 onwards. On that date, a dedicated website will go live, with over 390,000 digital images of the microfilm reels on which the parish registers are recorded.”

“Typically, the parish registers include information such as the dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of the key people involved, including godparents or witnesses. The digital images of the registers will be searchable by parish location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed by the NLI.”¹

Images, yes images - not an index or transcription - for FREE! For a list of the parish registers that were digitized consult: http://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx

Go n-éirí an bóthar lear! [Good Luck!]


Submitted by Dawn Henry, ISGS Genealogy Committee Chair

---

Wisconsin Historical Society Obituaries

The Wisconsin Historical Society offers thousands of obituaries available for genealogists on their website. Go to www.wisconsinhistory.org and type in obituaries in their search box.

---

FGS 2015 Webinar Series

The Federation of Genealogical Societies has announced their webinar series to support continuing education for societies and individual genealogists. Go to their website at FGS.org to find the list of webinars. The webinars are free and available to the public for 30 days. After 30 days, the webinar will be found in the members only section. “How to Keep Your Volunteers Happy, Helpful” is still available on their website.
9 July 2015: Peoria County Genealogical Society, 
Dr. Jeff Hancock presents “IRAD Records at WIU”, Peoria Public Library North Branch, 6:30 PM, www.peoriacountygenealogy.org


11 July 2015: CAGGNI, Schaumburg Township District Library, “DNA” with Alan & Michelle Wilson, 10:30 AM, caggni.org


12 July 2015: Bensenville Community Public Library, presenter Rose Lehne presents “Climb Your Family Tree”, benzlib.org


18 July 2015: CAGGNI, Schaumburg Township District Library, Tina Beaird presents “Pinning Down Your Past”, 10:30 AM, caggni.org

18 July 2015: CAGGNI, Schaumburg Township District Library, Ann Ellen Barr presents “Family Tree Maker” at 12:45 AM, caggni.org

28 July 2015: Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society, presenter Bill Hannan “Looking for Black Hawk or Someone Like Him”, 7:00 PM, Butterworth Education Center, www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgism/

1 August 2015: North Suburban Genealogical Society, Michelle Bray Wilson presents “Genes for the Genealogist”, Northbrook, nsgsil.org


6-9 August 2015: Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe Convention, Gatineau, Quebec, https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html


11 August 2015: ISGS WEBINAR, 8:00 PM, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG presents “School Daze-Finding and Using School Records to Trace Our Ancestors”, Register https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6372036382381853697


8 September 2015: ISGS WEBINAR, 8:00 PM, Michael Lacopo presents “Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving”, Register https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5664379703628947969

17-19 September 2015: The New York State Family History Conference, Liverpool, NY, NYSFHc.org


13 October 2015: ISGS WEBINAR, 8:00 PM, Steve Szabados presents “Polish Genealogy-Four Steps to Successful Research”, register https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/81133681672090865

23-24 October: Illinois State Genealogical Society 2015 Fall Conference, Oak Lawn, ilgensoc.org

24 October 2015: Nordic Family Genealogy Center, Dr Dan Hubbard presents “Writing a Family History”, www.swedishamericanmuseum.org

10 November 2015: ISGS WEBINAR, 8:00 PM, Janet Hovorka presents “In-laws and Outlaws: The Bylaws of Talking About the Family Skeletons”, register https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/104132033723100418


Friday Dinner Speaker
Geoffrey Baer
Multiple Emmy award-winning Public Television writer, producer and program host Geoffrey Baer is known for his masterful storytelling, conversational style, and contagious enthusiasm.

Featured Speaker
Paula Stuart-Warren, CG℠, FMGS, FUGA
Professional genealogist specializing in genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting, and writing. Her lectures, research, and consultations for individuals, societies, law firms, and Indian tribes seeking records and advice has taken her to many states, courthouses, archives, historical societies, and libraries.

Other Presenters: Tony Burroughs, FUGA; Thomas MacEntee; Ruth Ann Abels Hager, CG℠, CGL℠; Carol Chandler; Grace Dumelle; George Findlen; Janis Minor Forté; Jane G. Haldeman; and John C. Heider

Co-host: Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago
http://www.aaghsc.org/

Hilton Chicago/Oak Lawn
9333 S. Cicero Ave
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
(708) 425-7800
Reservation Room Block
(2015 ISGS Conferences) $119.00 per night
FRIDAY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

AFTERNOON

Noon  REGISTRATION AND VENDOR BROWSING

1:30  1A Burroughs: Tracing Your Ancestors Through Chicago or Other Cities and Towns - Whether they lived in large cities or small towns, city dwellers can be tracked from year to year. While following this trail, genealogists can pinpoint deaths, marriages, migrations, and also discover occupations and employers. Methods, records, sources and case studies will be presented.

1B MacEntee: After You’re Gone - Future Proofing Your Genealogical Research - Have you ever considered what will happen to your years of genealogy research once you’re gone? Learn how to ensure that your hard work carries on.

1C Heider: Saving Pieces of History - John C. Heider, professional gravestone conservator, will talk about gravestone repair and cemetery conservation in our “silent cities.”

2:30  BREAK AND VENDOR BROWSING

3:00  2A Hager: Finding the First Landowner: Using Family Maps, Texas Land Survey Maps and HistoryGEO.com - These three user-friendly resources have revolutionized and simplified the search process for the first landowner in the public domain states and Texas. Was an ancestor a first landowner in those states? You won’t know until you check.

2B Forté & Haldeman: Loose Women, Policy Queen Pins and Black Ewes - Is there a black sheep in your family? Gangsters and crooks in your ancestral closet? These ‘persons of ill fame’ usually produce more paper records than do the law-abiding citizen of the community. Generally, these dark shadowed individuals are of the male persona and called ‘black sheep’. But occasionally, these shady characters are of the ‘weaker sex’ known as the ‘black ewes’.

2C Findlen: The Wisconsin Historical Society Library & Archives: What Is In It? Everything!! - This talk describes the holdings of interest to genealogists in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives (two repositories in one building), and the services they provide to make your contact with them a pleasant one.

4:00  VENDOR & SOCIETY SHOWCASE

6:00  RECEPTION & DINNER WITH SPEAKER - Geoffrey Baer: They Came to Chicago

SATURDAY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MORNING

8:00  REGISTRATION AND VENDOR BROWSING

8:15  ISGS ANNUAL MEETING - All members of ISGS are encouraged to attend. Non-members are also welcome although only ISGS members may vote.

9:00  WELCOME & OPENING SESSION - Stuart-Warren: Why Do I Descend From THESE Families?

9:30  BREAK AND VENDOR BROWSING

9:45  3A Stuart-Warren: Genealogy Goldmine: Records of Old Settlers Organizations - This lecture acquaints researchers with the wealth of information that can be found in many of the records of pioneer settler organizations. Finding places of origin and settlement dates for our migrating ancestors is often difficult, but these records may provide help.

3B Burroughs: Don’t Get Burned: Getting Around the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 - The entire city burned in 1871, but many records survived to search for your Chicago ancestors. Learn which records survived, and methods of getting around the fire to break through your Chicago brick wall.

3C Chandler: The Orphan Train: The History & The Personal Side of the Story - Carol first heard about the orphan trains when a friend of hers was told by her mother that her grandmother came west on an orphan train. She had never heard of them and the subject piqued her interest. She has been researching this important part of our history since 2008.

10:45  BREAK AND VENDOR BROWSING
11:15  4A  Stuart-Warren: The WPA Era: What it Created for Genealogists - During tough economic times in the 1930s and 1940s, government programs put many people to work. The Works Progress/Projects Administration created a goldmine of records that are useful for today’s genealogists. WPA record transcriptions, courthouse and manuscript inventories, indexes, city/county histories, and histories of businesses and families may exist for your ancestral locale.

4B  MacEntee: Citing Sources & Evaluating Evidence - You’ll learn how to use the source citation templates, evidence evaluation features, as well as how to add/remove features to create a customized research log of your own. We’ll cover how to look at a record and evaluate the evidence to determine if it proves or disproves the proof point. Finally, you’ll see how you can add new source citation templates, add new columns and more.

4C  Hager: Tools for Discovering Missing Links: Dred & Harriet Scott, A Case Study - Researchers dream of finding a missing link to further their research. When that wonderful event actually happens, a look at the successful techniques can be beneficial. In the case of Dred and Harriet Scott, research uncovered significant new information about them and their family—beyond the Dred Scott Decision. Can these same research techniques help you?

AFTERNOON

12:15  LUNCH & ISGS AWARDS PRESENTATION

1:45  5A  Stuart-Warren: Finding & Using Manuscripts and Special Collections Repositories - So you have checked census, probate, church, naturalization, and other records. The obituaries, marriage, birth, and death records have also been located. Yet, you still have too many blank spaces on your family group sheets. You still don’t have enough of the story about some ancestors to really know who they were. Your next step might be using manuscripts and checking out special collections in various repositories. Learn more about these treasures.

5B  Dumelle: Newberry Library - 125 Years of Genealogical Gems - The stacks of Chicago’s Newberry Library bulge with maps, family papers, genealogies, railroad archives and much, much more. Learn what’s available for your U.S. and European forebears and how to access it in person or from a distance. Special mention will go to ChicagoAncestors 2, the library’s updated site for finding Windy City kin by address.

5C  Forté: Researching the Digital Library on American Slavery - Covering the period of 1767 to 1867, the DLAS is an on-line multi-topic searchable database of abstracts of court petitions and legislative actions for all southern counties, state legislatures and the District of Columbia. These court documents contain a wealth of genealogical and life-style information.

2:45  BREAK AND VENDOR BROWSING

3:15  6A  Stuart-Warren: Midwestern & Plains States Level Census Records - Many Midwestern and Plains states have superb state census records. Learn about the indexes, the many personal details these censuses include, locating the censuses, and alternate sources.

6B  Burroughs: From Census to Slavery - Most African American researchers try to leap from census records to slave research, bypassing a multitude of records in between. A broad foundation between now and the Civil War will increase the probabilities of success during the slavery period.

6C  MacEntee: The Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning From Mistakes - Frustrated with the way you originally researched your genealogy? Were you a name collector? Did you not care or not even know about citing sources? Now there’s hope and you get a “do-over” to include sound research practices and methodologies as well as new templates, tools and the latest technology to create a better body of family history research.

Conference Speakers:
- Geoffrey Baer
- Tony Burroughs, FUGA
- Grace Dumelle
- George Findlen
- Janis Minor Forté
- Ruth Ann Abels Hager, CGSM, CGLSM
- Jane G. Haldeman
- John C. Heider
- Thomas MacEntee
- Paula Stuart-Warren, CGSM, FMGS, FUGA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Postmarked or Online by Oct 5, 2015 ISGS</th>
<th>Postmarked or Online after Oct 5, 2015 Meals NOT Guaranteed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri &amp; Sat Sessions (w/Sat Lunch)</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Session ONLY</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Session ONLY (w/lunch)</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday Banquet (NOT included in above prices)</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISGS Membership: Individual - $35; Joint - $40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CONFERENCE FEES *No refunds after October 5th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday Banquet (Purchase separately)**
- Grilled Lemon Herb Breast of Chicken
- Vegetable Phyllo Purse
- Sliced Sirloin of Beef

**Saturday Lunch (included in registration fee)**
- Roast Beef & Provolone
- Smoked Ham & Cheddar
- Grilled Portobello

**PLEASE CIRCLE THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m. 1A 1B 1C</td>
<td>9:45 a.m. 3A 3B 3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. 2A 2B 2C</td>
<td>11:15 a.m. 4A 4B 4C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m. 5A 5B 5C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m. 6A 6B 6C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Register online at www.ilgensoc.org or make checks payable to ISGS and mail with this form.
Questions? Email: ISGSconferences@ilgensoc.org
The Illinois State Genealogical Foundation was established in 2012 as a wholly non-profit tax-exempt corporation, organized and chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois, with charitable and educational purposes.

All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible per Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of the foundation is to

- Assist in developing and increasing educational opportunities for the genealogical and historical community of Illinois
- Provide service for students and organizations whose primary interest involves the study and education of genealogical and historical events in Illinois
- Encourage gifts of money, property, historical papers and documents, and other material having educational, artistic, scientific and/or historical value and by such other proper means as may be determined. The Foundation will receive, hold, and administer such gifts with the primary intent of serving the genealogical and historical community in Illinois.

The Illinois State Genealogical Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members.

Shirley Aleguas, Waverly, IL          Steve Black, President, Phoenix, AZ
David Kent Coy, Decatur, IL          Michele Claypool, Champaign, IL
Mary Lou Delahunt, Galesburg, IL     Gary K Hargis, North Aurora, IL
Jean Jung, Waterloo, IL              Carole McCarty, St. Charles, IL
George F. Perkins, Normal, IL

An annual meeting of the Foundation is held each year according to the by-laws.

The Foundation is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and other organizations to contribute to genealogical and historical research and educational opportunities relating to people and events associated with Illinois. Projects will be selected for funding based on specific criteria to be developed by the Board with the intent of making information available to researchers and genealogists. The initial strategy is to build the assets in the Foundation and then begin providing funding/grants for various genealogical research projects in the state.

For further information about the Foundation, contact any of the Foundation Directors or Steve Black, President at 623-466-3545 or steve.black531@gmail.com,

ISG Foundation address: 906 Switchgrass Lane, Champaign, IL 61822
Illinois State Genealogical Society
2014-2015 Governing Board

Officers
Presidential: Jayne Cates, St. Charles
Vice President: Michelle Claypool, Champaign
2nd Vice President: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal
Recording Secretary: Barbara McKean, Springfield
Treasurer: Shirley Aleguas, Waverly

Directors
2015 Directors: Janice Fritsch, Sandwich; Becky Higgins, Streamwood; Kristy Gravlin, Plano
2016 Directors: Darlene Hinkle, Amboy; vacant; vacant
2017 Directors: Karl Moore, Pawnee; Valerie Burd, Yorkville; Tony Burroughs, Chicago

Immediate Past President
Jane Haldeman, Naperville

Standing Committee Chairs
Conference: Joan Kitchen-Murray, Peotone; Newsletter: Kim Hanks, West Peoria; Finance & Budget: Vacant; Publications: Margaret Truax, Aurora; Honors and Awards: Linda Wallin, Palatine; Publicity: Catherine Carlton, Woodstock; Illinois Society Liaison: Sandra Barnett, Springfield; Quarterly: Julie Cahill Tarr, Pekin; Long Range Planning: Vacant; Society Archives: Vacant; Membership: Anita Boyd, Winfield; Website: Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville

Ex Officio Representatives
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library: Gwen Podeschi, Springfield; Federation of Genealogical Societies: Janice Fritsch, Sandwich; Illinois State Archives: Dr. David Joens, Springfield; Illinois State Genealogical Foundation: Karl Moore, Pawnee; Illinois State Historical Society: William Furry, Springfield; Illinois Secretary of State: Dr. David Joens, Springfield

Special Committee Chairs & Other Appointments
Advertising: Julie Cahill Tarr, Pekin; Illinois Bicentennial: vacant; Bylaws/Policy/Procedure: Michelle Claypool, Champaign; ISGS 50th Anniversary History: co-chairs: David Kent Coy, Decatur; Julie Cahill Tarr, Pekin; Cemetery Records: Becky Higgins, Streamwood; Church Records: Darlene Hinkle, Amboy; ISGS IL Legislative: Valerie Burd, Yorkville; Thomas MacEntee, Chicago; Military Certificates: Charles Dobias, Carlyle; Fall Conference 2015-Michelle Claypool, Champaign; Office Liaison: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal; Family Bible Records: Kristy Gravlin, Plano; Parliamentarian: David Kent Coy, Decatur; Fall Conference 2016: Laura Kovarik, Naperville; Prairie Pioneer Certificates: Sandra Parker, Bloomington; Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville; Website Administrator: Paul Lyn-Waitsman, Princeton

Office Secretary-Evelyn Edwards

Illinois State Genealogical Society