Madison County Recorder Creates Index to Civil War Discharge Papers

The Madison County Recorder's Office in Edwardsville has created an on-line index listing the names of Madison County Civil War soldiers who recorded their discharge papers there following the war. More than 140 Madison County Civil War veterans had their discharge papers recorded in the Recorder's office after the war so they would have proof of service to receive their pensions.

The discharge papers contain a wealth of information about the veteran, including a physical description, the company, regiment and captain they served under, the term of service, their birthplace, age at discharge, occupation and location of enlistment. Some of the papers also list individual battles the veterans participated in.

The Madison County Recorder's office has recently undertaken preservation and access measures for the documents, including scanning, indexing, and re-housing of the documents into Archival quality protective sleeves.

The Recorder's office was assisted in the indexing project by students of Dr. Erik Alexander, a Civil War professor at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Dr. Alexander offered extra credit to his students who participated.

The index is currently available online at http://www.co.madison.il.us/Recorder/PDF/CivilWarPDFs/CivilWarIndex.pdf. The documents themselves will also be available online in the future. Copies of the actual documents will be available for a fee.

Anyone who would like a copy or has questions about the documents can contact Casey Weeks at 618-296-4507 or clweeks@co.madison.il.us.
Between the banks of the Nishnabotna and the Nodaway Rivers in southwest Iowa lies much of the most fertile farmland in the world. During the great migration of Swedish immigrants in the middle of the 19th century, a young Irishman named James Thomas Foy met his Swedish wife on the boat coming over. They settled in Montgomery County, Iowa. My Aunt Maxine told me he was a tailor with five children. She loved to tell the story that he was drafted into the Union army during the Civil War, but was never happy as a soldier. He returned home at one point and hid in the attic. He was found and returned to the war. Then, she told me, he got pneumonia and died. This was the story that got me interested in my father's ancestors. Much of it, I was to find out, was not true, but the truth was just as interesting to me.

The first thing I learned was that Thomas was born in Rochester, New York (15 Oct 1819-17 Mar 1907), not Ireland. He is listed as a farmer in the 1880 and 1885 censuses. He couldn't have died during the Civil War because he had all seven children after the war. One of those children was Minnie. It is possible that he was dishonorably discharged, but I haven't been able to validate that yet. He married Emma Helena Hannor (15 Aug 1851-8 Aug 1931), who was born in Gassen Sacken Kalmar Lan Vasregotland, Sweden, on 5 Mar 1877 in Cambridge IL. (Obituary)

Andrew Roll came from a line of Swedish immigrants as well. As his father entered the country, they asked his name. He looked up at the words Roll Call on the wall and replied his name was Roll. This was according to a man named Don Peterson, whom I met at the Scandinavian Museum in Stanton, IA. His wife, Janis Esther Roll Peterson, later wrote me that he moved to Lenox and died young.

Andrew Roll (1872) fell in love with the young Minnie Mae Pansy Foy (1873-11 Oct 1893) and they wed 16 Nov 1892. I was thrilled when a cousin sent me a copy of their wedding invitation.

Into this world, Mae Roll was born on October 11, 1893. Her mother died in childbirth. Her father blamed Mae Roll for her mother's death and deserted her. She was baptized over her mother's casket, according to my unreliable aunt. There is no birth certificate in the Montgomery County Courthouse. Her grandmother and two aunts raised her in their boardinghouse. They taught her how to quilt.

Mae was the first woman in Stanton, Iowa to cut her hair short. She met Rudolph (Rudy) Bernard Wallin (11 Jul 1888-8 Aug 1912), whose family owned the local hardware store. They fell in love and got married on 8 Aug 1912.
Minnie Mae Pansy Roll Wallin continued...

Claes Henrik (Henry) Wallin (6 Oct 1849-6 Oct 1871) built them a house and they had two children: Bernard Kenneth (22 Mar 1913-26 May 1993) and Ruth Maxine (6 Sep 1915-22 Jun 2009). All of his brothers and sisters went to college and got professional degrees, but Rudy was called home to run the store when his father died. According to Maxine, in 1933, Rudy took a deposit of $800 to the local bank. On the way home, he heard of the bank’s failing. He lost the hardware store and never recovered financially. He became a severe alcoholic, often needing help getting home from the bar from Ken. Although they were poor, Mae never refused a meal to a hungry person. She never turned them away because one of them might be Jesus. The hobos must have marked their house, although they never found the mark. Mae was an active member of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and quilted with a group of women there.

In 1949, Mae and Rudy moved to Omaha. She was not allowed to participate in the quilting group in her new church because she had failed to pay her apportionment in Stanton. She had a quilt rack set up in her basement, however, and continued quilting. She could finish a full-size quilt by hand from start to finish in two to three months. Every bed in her house had a beautiful quilt on it. Rudy gave up drinking and worked in a hardware store well into retirement.

We would visit in the summer, and I would get to sleep on the screened-in front porch under one of Mae’s complex, beautiful quilts. As I lay awake, looking for my favorite fabrics, I could hear train whistles in the distance.

Mae was too proud to take the checks my dad would occasionally send her. She and Rudy lived on social security in Omaha, which was about $125 a month at that time. For weeks before and after a visit from our family of five, she would scrimp on her own groceries so that she could serve meat every night.

She also suffered from low self-esteem all of her life. After serving us a meal, she would eat in the kitchen by herself. When asked in 1970 how much she would charge for quilting someone else’s quilt, she said, “Oh, I charge $30. Do you think that’s too much?” She was critical that she had trouble getting 10 stitches to the inch, although her work was meticulous.

Mae lived alone in the house in Omaha after Rudy died in 1967. She missed him every day until she herself died in 1971.

This story got me started in genealogy. I spent two or three summers driving around Iowa tracking my mother’s and father’s families. After retiring, I was able to spend even more time tracking the family, especially with the help of the Swedish genealogist at the Arlington Heights, IL library, once a month. I joined ISGS and met a whole new group of friends, learned new skills and took on some service work for the organization. It has been a very rewarding journey.

written by Linda Wallin
Welcome New ISGS Members

Debbie Dullinger, Harrisburg, IL
Cyndy Bray, Newman, CA
Elaine Drury, Vancouver, WA
Ron & Suzanne Shaffer, Yates Center, KS
Donna Skubic, Orland Park, IL
Pam Broviak, Geneva, IL
Glorianne Marshall, Sacramento, CA
Muriel Tew, Pueblo, CO
Kerry Carmichael, Stephens City, VA
Robin McQuiston, Bellevue, WA
Barbara Harris Dickerson, St. Helens, OR
Sandy Stadtherr, White Bear Lake, MN
Dr. Kelly Woestman, Pittsburg, KS
Sylvia Rogers, Chicago, IL
Gregory Grant, Reisterstown, MD
Patricia Schwartz, Plano, IL
Lee County Historical & Genealogy Society, Dixon, IL
Marilyn Huffmann-Anderson, Sterling, IL
Lois Dickenson, Charleston, IL
David Kenney, Orion, IL
Wendy Hardin, Pekin, IL
Kip Sperry, Provo, UT
Doreen Marvin, Naperville, IL
Barbara Flint, Toledo, OH
Jacki Turner, Centerview, MO
John Buck, Mesa, AZ
Sharon Barden Garber, Midlothian, VA
Jennifer Habley, Berwyn, IL
Charles William Meiser, Sault Sainte Marie, MI
Donna Marks, O’Fallon, IL
Margaret Ali, Lombard, IL
Bill Heaton, Champaign, IL
Gwen Brunson, Amarillo, TX
Stark County Genealogy Library, Toulon, IL
Valerie Gebhardt, Springfield, IL
Cheryl Rothwell, Palm Coast, FL

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.
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**

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 Board Volunteers Needed**

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

- **Long Range Planning**: This committee considers plans for the improvement of ISGS. The committee solicits suggestions from the members, reports to the ISGS Governing Board, and present projects for action.

- **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!!
ISGS Quarterly

The Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly is read by over 1000 members and is held in many libraries throughout Illinois 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

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

Sandra Parker, Chair of Prairie Pioneer Certificates notes that ISGS has 3863 approved Pioneer applications!

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
Poor Farms & Almshouses in Illinois

Every county in Illinois had one, whether it was called an Almshouse, a Poor House, or a Poor Farm. Their purpose was the same—to care for those who could not care for themselves. The quality of care and the size of the institutions varied considerably throughout the state. In those counties that had “Poor Farms”, the buildings were located on a working farm and the inmates (as they were called) were expected to work if they were able.

What records are available for the researcher for these institutions? The website http://www.poorhousestory.com/IL_CountyList_arch.htm includes a list of records available at the various IRAD facilities in Illinois, the number of microfilm rolls if the records have been microfilmed, and searchable name indexes when available. Original records may also be found at local historical societies, genealogical societies, or courthouses.

What can you find in the records? That varies by year and the keeper of the records. The early records are often basic and include such information as name, entry date, residence, age, reason for being a pauper, and discharge date. Later records usually include much more information such as parents’ names, place of birth, address of next of kin, etc.

While many people passed through the Poor Houses in Illinois, many also died there. At the Poor Farm in Madison County, there was a cemetery on the grounds and the place of burial was recorded as “Potters Field.” However, there was a period of several years when cemeteries throughout the county were required to accept indigent burials and the name of the cemetery is noted in the records. Like the cemetery on the Poor Farm grounds, no headstones were ever erected and frequently the exact location of an individual grave has been lost to history.

Why should you consider checking these records? The Poor Houses were the social services of their time. They were often the last, desperate hope for shelter, food, or medical care. In the records that I have seen from one county in Illinois, the residents were the elderly, the insane (including those suffering from dementia), the poor, the sick, women with young children and no husbands or income, and single men who were injured in industrial accidents. They might have stayed for a few days, be transferred to other facilities, come and go every few months, or stay for several years.

While these records won’t account for every “lost” ancestor, they might at least give you a clue or a new direction to pursue. So be sure to check them out!

written by Mary Westerhold
**Governing Board Meetings: Open to Members**

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

- **16 May 2015**  Executive Board 8:30 AM  Governing Board 10:00 AM
  Central Baptist Church, 4th and Jackson in Springfield

- **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!

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**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](http://www.mcigs.org/conference).

Questions? email registration@mcigs.org

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**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: “They Came to Chicago”. The Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago is co-hosting this conference with ISGS. Other genealogy speakers include Paula Stuart-Warren, Tony Burroughs, Thomas MacEntee, Carole Chandler, among others. Registration opens June 1, 2015.

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**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](http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=63)

Please contact Linda Wallin at isgsawards@ilgensoc.org and submit all nomination forms to her at this email.
ISGS Education Committee Chair Thomas MacEntee, provides this list of Free Only Genealogy Education Resources. This resource was developed as part of a lecture Thomas delivered to the American Library Association’s Mid-Winter Conference held in Chicago, Illinois on Friday, January 30, 2015.

Resource List

- **Ancestry.com – Learning Center**
  Large collection of resources geared towards beginners; start with First Steps section. Some resources focus on Ancestry.com-specific tools, but the majority cover general genealogy and family history topics. Includes valuable Research Guides for specific topics, ethnicities and geographic locations.
  [http://www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS](http://www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS)

- **Ancestry.com – Livestream Channel**
  Live web broadcasts as well as recordings. “Face-to-face instruction plus research advice and family history tips from the experts at Ancestry.com.”
  [http://www.livestream.com/ancestry](http://www.livestream.com/ancestry)

- **AncestryK12**
  Classroom genealogy resources at no cost for K12 schools

- **Archives.com – Expert Series**
  Although no longer updated, this “Learn from Experts” series of over 200 articles covers the gamut of genealogy topics from Getting Started to Research Methodology.

- **Board for Certification of Genealogists- Skillbuilding**
  Although geared towards professional genealogists and certification candidates, this site provides valuable articles, information and lessons on genealogical research methodology.

- **DearMYRTLE**
  “Your friend in genealogy,” DearMYRTLE offers many different learning channels for genealogists of all levels. Resources include a webinar archive, live online events such as Mondays with Myrt and Wacky Wednesdays, Also visit the DearMYRTLE You Tube channel for recordings of previous live events.

- **Evidence Explained**
  A companion site to the reference book Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, with “QuickLessons” and resource focused on historical analysis, citation, and source usage.
  [https://www.evidenceexplained.com/](https://www.evidenceexplained.com/)

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• **FamilySearch Learning Center**  
  Educational resources from the FamilySearch website; “browse hundreds of online genealogy courses to help you discover your family history.”  
  [https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html](https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html)

• **Genealogy Do-Over**  
  A free self-paced 13 week program focused on sound genealogical research practices. Lots of tips, links to resources, and even a Facebook group with over 3,500 members.  
  [http://www.genealogydo-over.com](http://www.genealogydo-over.com)

• **National Archives and Records Administration – Resources for Genealogists**  
  A variety of resources for beginners interest in family history research.  

### Online Courses

• **Brigham Young University Independent Study – Online Courses**  
  Free, self-paced, online courses including Introduction to Family History Research  
  [http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/free.cfm](http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/free.cfm)

• **About.com – Genealogy: Introduction to Genealogy**  
  Free, self-paced genealogy course for beginners complete with quizzes.  

### Blogs

• **Adventures in Genealogy Education**  
  Resources for genealogical education conferences, institutes and workshops.  

• **Genealogy Tip of the Day**  
  A different helpful tip on genealogy research provided each day.  

• **Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems**  
  Free videos, webinars and articles on getting started with genealogy and family history research.  

### Wikis

• **Ancestry.com Family History Wiki**  
  A wiki containing Ancestry.com content as well as content from *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy and Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*.  

• **FamilySearch Research Wiki**  
  A crowdsourced Wikipedia-like resource offering over 80,000 articles on genealogy and family history. Non-profit organizations including libraries can “adopt” a wiki with a logo link back to their website.  

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Webinars

• **GeneaWebinars**
  A listing site of upcoming webinars for the genealogy community. Includes a Google-based [calendar](http://www.geneawebinars.com) with upcoming webinars, both free and fee-based.

• **FamilySearch – Family History Library Webinars**
  Free genealogy webinars scheduled periodically and presented by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

• **Florida State Genealogical Society – Poolside Chat Series**
  Free monthly genealogy webinars on the third Thursday evening of each month, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

• **Illinois State Genealogical Society Webinars**
  Free monthly genealogy webinars on the second Tuesday evening of each month, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

• **Legacy Family Tree Webinars**
  Although a subscription-based education channel with over 200 recorded webinars and over 800 pages of syllabus materials, free live webinars and recordings are provided each week.

• **Minnesota Genealogy Society**
  Free monthly genealogy webinars on the first Wednesday of each month, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

• **MyHeritage Webinars**
  Free webinars covering general genealogy topics from MyHeritage.

• **New England Historic Genealogical Society – Webinars**
  Online educational webinars covering general genealogy topics and NEHGS resources.

• **Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar Series**
  Free genealogy webinars provided twice a week on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

• **Utah Genealogical Association – Virtual Chapter**
  Free monthly genealogy webinars on the third Thursday evening of each month, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

• **Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Webinars**
  Free monthly genealogy webinars on the third Tuesday evening of each month, open to the public; recordings available to society members only.

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Calling All Indexers!

Looking for some interesting volunteer work; work that gives you complete flexibility in hours and doesn’t require leaving your home? Have you always wished you could provide useful information to other genealogists without trudging off to yet another meeting?

If so, ISGS has the job for you! All you need is a computer with a CD drive and Microsoft Excel 97 or above. With that equipment, you can be part of an important project which will make available an index to the Illinois Register of Physicians & Accoucheurs from 1877-1952. The index will be made available on-line and will be linked to the actual image page which contains much more information than the index.

A big thank you to our current volunteers! They have completed four volumes and are finalizing volumes five and six. However, there are fifteen volumes altogether which means we’re not quite halfway finished. The more hands on keyboards the sooner this wonderful data will be accessible to genealogists around the world.

It’s easy to get started. Just contact me at the email below; include your mailing address as there is one form which requires a signature. Once that formality is out of the way, I’ll be able to send you a CD and detailed instructions.

Give it a try. There’s nothing like the satisfaction of knowing you doing a great service while sitting comfortably at home in your PJs and slippers.

Becky Higgins – bhiggins9@gmail.com
ISGS Indexing Coordinator

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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
2015 Webinar Series

Online Educational Opportunities for the Genealogist!

Schedule

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.

2015 Webinar Sponsor

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


Family Story in a Special Object…

This Parcheesi Board is hanging in our Portland house on a wall painted pepto bismol pink chosen by my granddaughter when she was five years old. My granddaughter took the photo to send me this memory. The Parcheesi Board is well used, and I remember well all the times I spent with Grandma Dora learning to play Checkers and Parcheesi well enough that it could happen—that I would win!

written by Kristy Gravlin

International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE)

The International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) is reminding writers IN ALL MEDIA (magazines, newspapers, journals, websites, blogs) that the 2015 Excellence-in-Writing Competition is now open for entries through 15 June 2015.

The competition is open to both MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS of ISFHWE; both published and non-published authors may enter (see category list below). Members of ISFHWE receive a discount on the entry fee (after logging in to the ISFHWE members’ corner; new members allow up to ten days to receive login information). The categories are columns, articles, genealogy newsletter, unpublished authors, unpublished material-published authors, poetry.

Winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in each category will be awarded a cash prize and a certificate. Certificates may be awarded for Honorable Mentions. The awards will be announced in September 2015.

Entries must be submitted in PDF, Word, WordPerfect, or JPG format by e-mail in time to meet this deadline. Please note: Footnotes will not count toward word count. Send entries to: Competition@ISFHWE.org

Appropriate entry fee(s) - and membership dues to receive the discount - may be paid via PayPal on the ISFHWE website at ISFHWE.org

Full information on the competition is available on the ISFHWE website in the “2015 Excellence-in-Writing Competition - Information and Online Entry Form” link, which leads to: http://www.isfhwe.org/competition.php

For questions, contact the Competition Coordinator at: competition@ISFHWE.org
**The Scotch-Irish**

This term refers to those Presbyterian Scots who settled in Ulster (modern day Northern Ireland) during the seventeenth century. From these approximately 200,000 original settlers, up to 2 million of their descendants eventually immigrated to North America.

The Scotch-Irish left Ulster as a result of neo-mercantilist British economic policies in the region, requirements that they pay 10% of their income to the Anglican Church, ongoing friction with their Catholic Irish neighbors, and greater economic opportunity in the New World. Although the Scotch-Irish settled throughout the colonies, they concentrated most heavily in Pennsylvania.

Websites:

http://www.greencastlemuseum.org/Local_History/scotch-irish.htm

http://www.scotch-irishcentral.org

http://www.ancestryireland.com/

Books:

*Scotch-Irish Family Research Made Simple*, R.G. Campbell

*Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America*, Charles Knowles Bolton

*Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry*, Kathleen B. Cory

*The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania*, Wayland F. Dunaway

*Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research*, Margaret D. Falley

*The Scotch-Irish in America*, Henry Jones Ford

*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, John Grenham

The Scotch-Irish Foundation, The Scotch-Irish Society of the USA, P.O. Box 181, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, 610-527-1818 (information taken from The Scotch Irish Foundation flyer)
Montgomery County, IL History and Families, Volume 1

An exciting new book available that features a historical timeline of Montgomery County and its communities from the 1800’s through today including over 700 historic photos.

Mail $64.95 plus $6.50 shipping per book to Montgomery County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 212, Litchfield, IL 62056 or call 217-556-6777.

Congratulations on your published book!

Montgomery County Genealogical Society Research Center is open April through October Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

3334 N. Historic Route 66, P.O. Box 43, Litchfield, IL www.mcgsil.com

St. Clair County Genealogy Society

This Society has just finished microfilming Belleville Mount Hope Cemetery’s burial records. The seven reels are located at the main branch of the Belleville Public Library’s Archives and Reference Section.

The Society is now transcribing the microfilm and can use volunteers. Email www.stclair.ilgs.org

Learn about the Illinois State Archives on Illinois Stories

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nt9yHDWE_A&feature=youtu.be

Congratulations to ISGS Board Member Julie Cahill Tarr -

Julie won the Crestleaf.com’s “Guess My Family Heritage Blogathon”!

http://crestleaf.com/blog/winners-announcement-guess-family-heritage-blogathon-contest/

ISGS Board Member Tony Burroughs on History Channel!!

The History Channel marked the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War by creating a new documentary for this event.

ISGS Board Member Tony Burroughs was interviewed for the second episode. Watch for Tony in Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color!

http://www.history.com/shows/blood-and-glory-the-civil-war-in-color

Congrats Tony!!

ISGS President Jayne Cates recommends the Illinois State Archives newsletter-For the Record. Jayne says she has been able to use the local new records information to help in her research. Check it out! http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/archivespub.html

The National Genealogical Society’s (NGS) 2015 Conference, Crossroads of America, is coming to the St. Charles Convention Center 13-16 May 2015. St. Louis Genealogical Society (www.stlgs.org) is the local host.

Pre-conference events begin on Monday, 11 May 2015 with a tour of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). On Tuesday, 12 May, research opportunities begin with all day events including Librarians Day, German Studies and tours to Daniel Boone’s home and the Lewis and Clark boathouse, among others.

Opening day begins with J. Mark Lowe. The four days of the conference will be filled with dozens of interesting talks on a multitude of topics aimed at researchers of all skill levels. Participants can learn more about skill-building, migration, uncommon as well as more familiar records, researching in particular states, maps, ethnic research, immigration, use of technology, and more. Each day will offer small group workshops with hands on participation. Luncheons, evening activities, vendors along with the presentations make this a great event.

Registration is open. Go to http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org

written by Ilene Murray, Publications Director. Printed in St. Louis Genealogical Society’s December 2014 Newsletter
How Church Records Help Others

Oriene Springetroh, Aurora, Illinois, shared that she was fortunate that one of her lines descended from members of the German Evangelical Church, which started in Pennsylvania, and was brought to Illinois in the early 1800s. While investigating the history of the church she became acquainted with the church newspaper, *Der Christliche Botschafter*, which provided obituaries for some of her ancestors and news of their lives. A church history, filled with names of the ministers as well as other contributing members was not indexed. Oriene indexed it and placed it on our ISGS website as a free searchable database. Check it out at [http://ilgensoc.org](http://ilgensoc.org).

Dorothy Jeanblanc, Polo, Illinois, found that the church with the records she needed was closed. Not knowing where to turn she traveled to the church cemetery and was able to get the information she needed.

Jo Ann Minert, Farmington, New Mexico, while researching her husband’s line at New Minden, Washington County, Illinois, was able to get the baptismal and birth records she was seeking from a very helpful clerk. She was also given a church history. It saddened her though that at the adjoining cemetery the headstones that were broken off were placed in a pile in the back of the cemetery.

Diane Minor from Plano, Texas, has several branches of her tree that lived in Peoria County, and she was successful in getting sacramental records from the Diocese of Peoria archives that helped her to verify dates, locations, and witnesses to different events in her ancestors lives especially those whose birth dates were before the mandatory 1916 registration filing. She said that all of the parish records in that Diocese are now on microfilm. The link to their website to request a form is: [http://www.cdop.org/pages/AArchivesOffice.aspx](http://www.cdop.org/pages/AArchivesOffice.aspx). The cost is $10 for each request. She said the nuns are very helpful and quick about turning requests around usually taking just a few weeks. The older records are in Latin but the nuns will do a translation of the records. She also noted that the some of the priest’s handwriting is terribly hard to read.

Kathy Jones, Dixon, Illinois, was thrilled to find the original German and Irish records of her ancestors on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and with a little help with the translation now has the marriage and baptismal records of her great-great grandparents and some of their siblings.

Jared Olar, Peoria, Illinois, knew nothing about his dad’s family. His father’s parents were immigrants from Eastern Europe and didn’t speak much about the Old Country. Due to the war and the Communist take over all contact with the relatives was lost in the 1940s and none of the correspondence survived. Through his grandfather’s baptismal certificate Jared had in his possession, he found he was from Tereblecea, a Romanian village, now located in the Ukraine. Through the Family History Center he systematically began collecting records of his paternal ancestors, which enabled him to compile extensive family trees back to the 1700s and early 1800s. Even more delightful, his new knowledge had enabled him to locate and reconnect with some of their long-lost cousins. Jared said this was all made possible because of the detailed records of the Orthodox Church they knew of because of grandfather’s baptismal certificate.

Thank you to all of you that shared your success stories with us. I hope that some of us will gain from your experiences! After checking FamilySearch, Ancestry or other Internet sources contact the genealogy society in the county your ancestors resided. Ask for the names of the local churches and their contact numbers and good luck in your search! If you would like to offer your success story I can be contacted at [http://ilgensoc.org/church](http://ilgensoc.org/church) or at dhinkle42@gmail.com.

Happy hunting!

Darlene Hinkle, Church Records chairperson
Genealogy Events: for complete event information, go to ISGS website, events


9 May 2015: CAGGNI, Schaumburg Township District Library 10:30 AM, Sandy Imyak presents “The Master Genealogist”, 12:45 Kate Thommes Presenters Workshop caggni.org

13-16 May 2015: NGS Conference, St. Charles, MO, ngsgenealogy.org

14 May 2015: Peoria County Genealogy Society meeting, Gary Lisman presents :The Story Behind The Peoria State Hospital, Bartonville, IL”, www.peoriacountygenealogy.org


16 May 2015: CAGGNI, Schaumburg Township District Library, 10:30 AM, Dr. Dan Hubbard presents “Researching at Appomattox Courthouse: Genealogy through the lens of the Civil War”, caggni.org


15 June 2015: Deadline for International Society of Family History Writers and Editors: ISGHWE.org


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


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


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
Always Learning Something New
By Floyd Ham

In 2003, I joined the Stark County Genealogical Society (SCGS). Many of my ancestors were early day residents of Stark County and I was amazed at the information housed in the SCGS library on Main Street in Toulon just across from the Courthouse. Despite living in Stark County for over 58 of my nearly 70 years, I was never interested in genealogy or local history. Now I am obsessed.

My question is “why aren’t you?”

The SCGS is a group of volunteers that gathers, preserves, categorizes and indexes the many records associated with the people who were born, married, died or lived in Stark County. And we need some new blood.

We gather weekly to work on our collections and to assist visitors or inquisitors with their genealogical research. One cannot describe how excited we get when we find what someone wants. Sometimes we become even more excited when we find something we were not expecting.

A recent example of a “search” involved trying to locate an obituary or death record for an out-of-state member. She wanted to know all there was to know about Robert Perry and his wife, Ellen Johnston Perry. Robert had been born about 1811 in Ahoghill, County Antrim, Northern Ireland and died in Toulon in 1877. Ellen was also born in Northern Ireland in 1821 and died in Toulon in 1899. They had come to the US in 1839 and had raised a family of 9 children.

Their eldest daughter, Mary Perry was born in Ireland and came here with her family as a baby. She married Patrick Nowlan in 1862 in Toulon and gave birth to 5 girls (Ada, Anne, Bess, Emma and Alice) and a boy (Arthur), before moving to Hastings, NE. Bess was our inquisitor’s grandmother.

We found many personals noting visits by Bess to our area to visit family, several family obituaries, land purchases and probate records for the Nowlans but very little for Robert Perry. Despite the Perry name being quite prominent in the history of our county as recorded by Leeson and in the records of the Toulon Congregational Church; we never found any birth, baptismal or christening records which our inquisitor was seeking.

Cannot always find what we want
Some success and some failure but one must never give up; often times additional information surfaces when we look in another direction for something else and we just plain stumble over it; albeit months or years later. In this case it was about two years later.

This happened just last week while reviewing the newly digitized Stark County News, we stumbled on something incredibly exciting.

While browsing the News for relatives or news accounts of the aforesaid Patrick Nowlan, we found a really exciting gem about one of his nephews.

Dr. David Nowlan, a brother of Patrick Nowlan, was born in 1842 in Goshen Township on the family homestead just outside of Lafayette. He had studied at the local schools, enlisted as a private in Company B, 37th IL Vol Inf Reg [otherwise known as the Fremont Rifles] and served 38 months participating in many engagements including at Pea Ridge, the Battle of Prairie Grove, the siege at Vicksburg and numerous other skirmishes in Arkansas and Texas.

After the war, David Nowlan came home to farm and study medicine in the evenings. He married Mary Cedelia Smead in 1867 and fathered three sons—Robert D. in 1870, Brete Cassius in 1878, and Edward Rosseau in 1881. He moved to Jasper County, Iowa in the mid 1870’s before settling in Pocahontas County. He passed in 1908.
Our curiosity begins to build

Now comes the excitement….Edward Rosseau Nowlan took a course in electrical engineering at the Iowa State University [Then known as Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts] in Ames, Iowa. Following this he accepted a position with the Western Electric Company in 1900 in the Hawthorne Works in Chicago, having charge of one of the office departments.

The history of the Western Electric Company as written in the Encyclopedia of Chicago by Mark R. Wilson is as follows: It was founded to service the telegraph industry in 1869 in Cleveland but began operations in Chicago with just 20 employees. By 1880, they employed 105 men and 20 women.

In 1881, the firm was purchased by the American Bell Telephone Co. (the company that would become AT&T); it was renamed the Western Electric Company and became Bell’s manufacturing arm, later to be known as Bell Labs.

By the turn of the century, this facility employed about 5,300 workers. In 1904, when annual sales neared $32 million, the company relocated to suburban Cicero, where it had built a large new manufacturing complex known as the Hawthorne Works. By 1917, this facility employed 25,000 people, many of them Cicero residents of Czech or Polish descent, making it one of the largest manufacturing plants in the world.

This Hawthorne Plant [now Cicero] was housed in 100 buildings on 113 acres of prairie land and soon became a “self-sufficient city, with a hospital, fire brigade, laundry, greenhouse, a brass band, running track, tennis courts, gymnasium, an annual beauty pageant and a staff of trained nurses who made house calls.” The company was exceptional for the benefits offered its employees in salary and extraordinary benefits. The average wage of an employee was considerably more that the average wage of other factory workers and was regarded as a place where you could maintain employment for your working life as well as a factory which would employ your sons and daughters for many years. The plant was not only the major employer and set many a standard for how to treat its employees, but through its sheer size, it stimulated employment for thousands more who supplied the factory and met the needs of the employees.

Just before the turn of the century, many departments began to have “company picnics and outings.” These outings were so successful that by 1915, they included not only employees and their immediate families but had expanded to include more distant relatives, friends and neighbors.

The company picnic planned for July 24, 1915 was to take place as had several picnics before in Michigan City just 38 miles across Lake Michigan. Over 7,000 tickets had been sold and the company had chartered a fleet of five excursion boats to ferry the celebrants to and from Michigan City.

The S.S. Eastland, known as the "Speed Queen of the Great Lakes," was part of that fleet and because of delays in boarding the previous year, the SS Eastland was scheduled to be the first to load and depart for the picnic grounds. Everyone had been urged to arrive early so that they could enjoy as much time across the lake as possible.

But a few minutes after 7 am, men, women and children were boarding very rapidly, with two federal inspectors keeping careful count, per normal practice. The Eastland was licensed to carry 2,500 passengers plus crew. As a steady drizzle began to fall, many of the women, especially those with young children, took refuge below decks. In the main cabin, a band played for dancing; on the upper deck, passengers jostled to find seats or leaned against the railing, calling out to arriving friends.

As the Eastland filled with passengers between 7:10 and 7:15 a.m., it began to list to port, away from the wharf. The movement didn’t seem to alarm the partygoers, but it caught the attention of the harbormaster and some other observers on land; however, the 275-foot-long boat righted itself, if only briefly. At 7:23, it listed even further to port. Water poured through the open gangways into the engine room. The crew there, realizing what was about to happen, scrambled up a ladder to the main deck.
Unthinkable Disaster

At 7:28 a.m., the Eastland listed to a 45-degree angle. The piano on the promenade deck rolled to the port wall, almost crushing two women; a refrigerator slid to port, pinning a woman or two beneath it. Water poured into open portholes in the cabins below deck. The most deadly shipwreck in Great Lakes history had begun. A calamity that would take more passenger lives than the sinking of the Titanic (820 passengers and 693 crew lost) and or the Lusitania (788 passengers and 402 crew lost). For several days and weeks afterward the estimates of those lost climbed to a thousand, then 1,200 and higher. A final accounting appears to be about 844 according to the Eastland Disaster Historical Society.

It so happens that the aforesaid, Edward Rosseau Nowlan, his wife Ellen Walsh Nowlan, a sister of his wife, Mary Walsh and two cousins were aboard the Eastland and tossed into the Chicago River.

The Stark County News reported on July 28, 1915 that the great Chicago disaster of last Saturday morning in which nearly a thousand people lost their lives by the overturning of the SS Eastland in the Chicago River had been the main topic of conversation since it happened. Many had friends or acquaintances who were in the employ of the Western Electric Company and suspected to be involved in the disaster. The many lists of dead and rescued were eagerly scanned. The News continued “It may be of interest to some of our readers to know that among the rescued were Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Nowlan, who were saved after all hope had been abandoned.

Mr. and Mrs. Nowlan were in water up to their neck, expecting every minute would be their last, until finally rescued. A cousin hung by a rope for nearly half an hour before being saved, and the others clung to the rail until taken off.

The News also reported that on August 5, the theater in Toulon showed films depicting the disaster and detailing the rescue efforts. Would that someone here had kept a copy of the film? For nearly 100 years later, no one could find a copy.

Disaster Video found—lost 100 years

The Chicago Tribune breathless reported on February 8, 2015 [yes…less than two months ago] that the “First known film clips emerge of 1915 Eastland disaster.”

It seems that a UIC graduate student Jeff Nichols found the footage while researching his dissertation on Chicago during World War I. While looking through archived footage at the EYE Film Institute in the Netherlands, he came across video clips of the SS Eastland on the Chicago River sandwiched between clips of ceremonies and marching soldiers. An amazing 55-seconds of moving pictures of the Eastland disaster; validated by comparisons to contemporaneous published newspaper stills.

Seventeen days later, a recent NIU masters graduate, Alex Revzan, found a second video while searching the British Pathé film archives site in London. Both these short videos can be viewed by accessing the Eastland Disaster Historical Society website located at http://www.eastlanddisaster.org/.
More Connections to Toulon

Now to finish this long and winding tale. We already noted that a film showing the disaster was shown in Toulon on August 5, 1915—a simple fact meaning almost nothing to us. Yet that film and all others have been lost for nearly one hundred years.

We know that the people of Stark County talked about it and at least one family in Toulon received a letter from a survivor. We also found a letter published in the Galva News that was written by a witness, a Mrs. H. F. (Flora Kline) Post. We wonder if others in our area had a connection?

Then we came upon a review of the theaters in Toulon written in a special section of The Stark County News in February 1937 (yes...22 years after the fact). In the history of the theaters, was mentioned that when the Eastland disaster film was shown at the O-Joy-O theater; it was owned by C. B. Claybaugh at the time. The Claybaughs were researched in July 2013 for another inquisitor, Kim Hanks of West Peoria. We immediately made contact with Kim in hopes she could find a shoebox of pictures, letters or notes about the O-Joy-O showing of the disaster. Nothing yet.

However, the aforementioned theater article in the News noted that on May 21, 1915, “a series of motion pictures were taken in Toulon showing the schools, business houses, and numerous individuals. ‘Bride and Groom’ were impersonated by Roy Walker and Enolla Worley, who were shown first purchasing the ring at Cover’s, then leaving the Congregational Church following the wedding. Among the stores visited by ‘the newlyweds’ were Kennedy’s Clothing Store, Sundquist & Son’s, W U Sickles Store, Cox’s Market, Craver’s store, Wheeler’s Hardware, Fell and Van Sickle garage, Walker Bros’ store and Larson’s Café.”

More questions are the result! We did not know there was a motion picture of 1914 Toulon. We had not heard of most of the stores mentioned. And now we are curious; how about you??

All pictures in this article are used with permission from the Eastland Disaster Historical Society. See their website for more information and photographs. www.eastlanddisaster.org

Post note: Should you have any more information regarding this story, please contact Floyd at the Stark County Genealogical Society in Toulon, Illinois, feham@mchsi.com.
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.

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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
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