Discovery of 1840 Menard County Census

Illinois Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White announced that his office has found the original 1840 27 page hand-written state census for Menard County along with Menard County officials. The census was found in a county vault across the street from the Menard County Courthouse in Petersburg. Abraham Lincoln lived in New Salem, just south of Petersburg in present day Menard County, from 1831 to 1837. We are proud to say that a few of President Lincoln’s associates are listed on this newly discovered census. Those include Lincoln’s teacher Mentor Graham, Bowling Green, who helped teach Lincoln law, & James Rutledge, who encouraged Lincoln to run for the state legislature in 1832.

With the 1840 census, genealogists and family historians can access information on early Menard County, including the names of the heads of households and the number of people living in each household. According to the census, the county had 11 mills and three distilleries. The census shows the population of Menard County as 4,481; 2,381 males and 2,086 females. Of the males, 648 were reported as liable for militia service. There were fourteen African Americans listed as living in the county. This included seven African Americans listed as indentured servants, which in 1840 Illinois could be seen as coded language for slaves.

Very few copies of the early state censuses exist. Until the discovery of the Menard County 1840 state census, the Archives held similar enumerations for only 37 counties of the 87 that existed at that time.

Other historic documents in the vault include an early land tract book (1827 – 1848), delinquent tax lists (1850 – 1870), a tax assessment abstract (1850 – 1857) and a county order book (1848 – 1873).

The 1840 census has been cleaned and flattened by State Archives staff. It will be microfilmed and scanned to make it available to researchers and genealogists at both the Menard County Clerk’s office and the Illinois Regional Archives Depository located at the University of Illinois at Springfield.
ISGS Members:

Extending a warm fuzzy THANK YOU to those that organized and executed the O’Fallon, Illinois Conference.

Preparations are already under way for the Annual ISGS Conference to be held October 23-24, 2015 in Oak Lawn, IL. The conference chairperson is in place and volunteers are entering the dates on their calendars. Sponsorship and underwriting are sought to assist with the cost of speakers etc.

The ISGS conference chair will be taking advantage of local genealogical gems to make the conference enticing.

A special THANK YOU to Jane Haldeman for her guidance as ISGS President during 2012-2014. Her car will probably like a little rest.

With the holiday season around the corner, have you thought about giving a gift of membership to ISGS, a contribution to one of the ongoing projects of ISGS in someone’s name, or purchase one of the publications or certificates as a lasting memento to the recipient? Information is found on: http://ilgensoc.org.

As in any organization, volunteers are making a difference in the accomplishments of the society. With expanding prospects that have been considered by the governing board, you can make contact with the office to share your interest and skill level for writing, finance, technology, legal or …..whatever is in your blood after the genealogical passion and would like to volunteer to assist your ISGS.

Jayne Cates
Jane Haldeman, President of ISGS, attended the evening meeting of the Elgin Genealogical Society in October where she was to give the presentation “Dusting Off Those Court Records”. The Elgin members surprised Jane with a check in the amount of $1000 collected by the Elgin Genealogical Society (EGS) members to be used to Preserve the Pensions of the War of 1812. The Society officers challenged their members to raise $250 which would be matched by the EGS and sent to ISGS. In one month, EGS members exceeded the challenge and their Board met to increase the matched amount allowing for the donation of $1000.

Reminder: The fragile records of the soldiers who served in the War of 1812 are being digitized. For EVERY dollar YOU donate, ISGS will match it with another dollar. To donate, go to the ISGS website at www.ilgensoc.org and look for War of 1812 donations tab on the left under the blue HOME.
The Madison County Historical Museum & Archival library, located at 715 North Main Street in Edwardsville, IL, is owned by the Madison County Historical Society and operated in conjunction with Madison County Government. As the Research Manager at the archival library, I would like to explain how we can help you with your research.

The historical society has been collecting artifacts, documents, maps, photos, and books relating to Madison County history for nearly 100 years. Our collection at the archival library includes

• Thousands of photos in files and photo album;
• Vertical files containing information on families, towns, churches, etc.;
• Map & plats from early 1800s to current;
• Books and family histories relating to Madison County and surrounding counties;
• Cemetery inventories;
• Microfilm of three Edwardsville newspapers - Edwardsville Spectator, Edwardsville Intelligencer, and the Edwardsville Democrat;
• Indexed newspaper clippings in scrapbooks and other sources;
• Madison County Poor Farm records beginning in the 1880s until it closed in 1950s;
• Probate Files beginning approximately in the early 1900s.

While we currently use a card catalog as an index to our collection, we are in the process of digitization. Our photos are currently being scanned and the catalog of both the archival library and the museum is being entered into a database to be available for online searching.

In addition, the historical society publishes a bimonthly newsletter featuring an aspect of Madison County history. These are mailed to members of the society and back issues are available free on our web site.

We are open to the public Wednesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and encourage researchers to visit us. Our trained staff will help you find the materials in our facility. We also accept research requests via phone (618-656-7569), mail, or email (mtwesterhold@co.madison.il.us).

For more information, check out our web site at www.madcohistory.org or our facebook page at www.facebook.com/madcohistory.

written by Mary Westerhold
Welcome New ISGS Members

Marianne Moll, Morton, IL
Sandra Kiferbaum, Glencoe, IL
Bryce & Roszeta Monroe, Athens, IL
Stanley Pritchett, Castle Pines, CO
Sandra Jones-Stanicek, Aurora, IL
Patricia Stoudt, Orion, IL
Jeannie Benson, Plano, IL
Jerry & Marilynn Jensen, Janesville, WI
Nancy Hershberger, Arlington Heights, IL
Richard Rose, Canyon Country, CA
Stan Wilson, Baltimore, MD
Debra Waggoner, Grand Island, NE
Cheryl & Richard Chamblin, Decatur, IL
Flagg Township Historical Society & Museum, Rochelle, IL
Kenneth Alexander, Evanston, IL
Sandra Keegan, Altamonte Springs, FL
Patricia Marshall, Winter Park, FL
Betty J. Nelson, Oakdale, CA
Kathy Burfield, Pecatonica, IL
Jean Wistedt, Illinois City, IL
Nancy Babb, Rochelle, IL
Carol Blohm, Janet Bend, Patricia Wirth, Anne Sears, Carole Nagle, Laurie A. Swimm, Lynne R. Schlink, Paul Lyn-Waitsman

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/Society/Library: $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.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join in the FUN!

With the generous help of its volunteers, ISGS is poised for continued success. Many volunteer positions are open and 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:
ISGS's newest project indexing ledgers from the IL Dept. of Registration and Education 1877-1952. Volunteers need a computer with CD drive, Microsoft Excel, and Internet.
Contact Becky Higgins, Indexing Coordinator at bhiggins9@gmail.com.

Thanks to these newly appointed ISGS volunteers
Dawn Carey Henry-ISGS Genealogy Chair
Howard Manthei-ISGS Finance & Budget Committee Member

Susie Pope, ISGS 2nd Vice President reports that the ISGS volunteer database includes 107 volunteers with 71 from Illinois, 34 out of state and 2 international (Israel and Netherlands).

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 and reports to the ISGS Governing Board.

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

• **Website Committee Chair:** This committee monitors the ISGS website and makes changes and updates as needed.

• **ISGS Archivist:** The Archivist coordinates activities to preserve and store the historical documents of ISGS which are housed in Springfield at the Illinois State Archives.

For more information or to VOLUNTEER, contact Susie Pope at isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org. Say yes if she emails or calls you!!
2nd Tuesday of every month, 8:00 PM CST featuring some of the nation’s best known speakers in the field of genealogy!

THE FOLLOWING WEBINARS ARE SPONSORED BY FAMILYSEARCH

11 November 2014 - Evaluating What You Have Found: The Third Stage of Research
Presenter: Barbara Renick
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4615403822237603330

9 December 2014 - HeritageQuest Online - The Ins and Outs
Presenter: C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7159116276516038146

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

Connect with FGS
FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (FGS): Starting Nov 6th at 9PM ET, FGS will go live in a monthly 30-minute Google+ Hangout on Air, Connect with FGS, featuring FGS 2015 Conference Speaker interviews, FGS Ambassadors, and special FGS guests & news. Check the FGS Voice Blog to see who will be on the first episode!

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

Use your mouse to wave over any link, email, or website and you can click to get to that site from the newsletter. All links are live! Have Fun!!

Item of Note
Searching for your ancestors in a town or city? Have you ever used a city directory in your research? City directories existed before phone books, and have an alphabetical listing of residents. They were published not just for large cities like New York, but also for towns, especially the larger ones or a county seat. At the archival library where I work, we have city directories dating back to 1858 for a town whose population at the time was less than 6,000. By the early 1900s, city directories were published annually and often included a listing of farmers on rural routes located near the town.

The directory is not just a listing of residents and their addresses as we see in a phone book. While the information varied from year to year and by the company that produced the directory, the listing included name and address of the resident, name of their spouse, number of children, occupation, where employed, and whether the individual owned the home. Usually, by age 18, a child still living at home will have a separate listing.

In addition, there is a separate street by street listing. Every street in town is listed along with the resident/business located at each address. By using the street listing, you can see who your ancestors’ neighbors were. This can help explain relationships, marriages, and seemingly random people in old family photographs.

And, yes, city directories are still published today.

written by Mary Westerhold

Genealogy Events: complete event information, go to ISGS website, events


13 November, 2014: Peoria County Genealogical Meeting, “Using GPS in Graveyard”, 6:30 PM, Peoria Public Library North Branch, bgesmith@juno.com

15 November, 2014: ISGS Governing Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL


19 Nov 2014: Decatur Genealogical Society Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM Scovill Banquet Hall, Tickets $17.50 each available at the DGS Library, Email DecaturGenSoc@att.net

23 November, 2014: St. Louis Genealogical Society, Book Jamboree, their office 1:00 -3:00 PM, www.stlgs.org

6 December, 2014: Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, meeting 1:00-4:00 PM, John A Logan College Library

9 Dec 2014: ISGS Webinar: C. Ann Staley presents “Heritage Quest Online-The Ins and Outs”, 8:00 PM www.ilgensoc.org

21 February 2015: ISGS Governing Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL


1-3 May 2015: Lincoln Funeral Re-Enactment, lincolnfuneraltrain.org 150th Anniversary Commemoration

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

28 May-1 June 2015: Carl Sandburg Institute of Genealogy, www.sandburggenealogy.com

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


31 August-3 September 2016: Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Springfield, Illinois
Announcing: 1st Carl Sandburg Institute of Genealogy
28 May-1 June 2015, Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois
www.sandburggenealogy.com

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Facebook
www.facebook.com/sandburgenealogy

Nationally known genealogical research experts presenting the following tracks:

*Refining Internet and Digital Skills for Genealogy-Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi’s List

*Advanced Methodology and Analysis-Michael John Neill of Genealogy Tip of the Day

*The Advancing Genealogist: Research Standards, Tools, and Records-Debbie Mieszala, CGSM

*Germanic Research Sources and Methods-Teresa McMillin, CGSM

Governing Board Meetings: Open to Members
2014-2015 ISGS Schedule for Executive Board and Governing Board meetings

15 November 2014 Executive Board 8:30 AM Governing Board 10:00 AM
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois

21 February 2015 Executive Board 8:30 AM Governing Board 10:00 AM
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois (weather permitting)

16 May 2015 Executive Board 8:30 AM Governing Board 10:00 AM
Site to be determined

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!
# 2015 Webinar Series

## Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 13, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Using Google Earth for Genealogy</strong> with Lisa Louise Cooke</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Basic Scandinavian Research</strong> with Diana Crisman Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Finding Your Femme Fatales: Exploring the Dark Side of Female Ancestors</strong> with Lisa Alzo</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Using Evernote as Your Primary Tool for Capturing Notes and Ideas</strong> with Drew Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Need Direction? Try City Directories!</strong> with Jean Wilcox Hibben</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Understanding Our Families, Understanding Ourselves</strong> with Ron Arons</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Dissect Obituaries for New Clues</strong> with George G. Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 11, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>School Daze – Finding and Using School Records to Trace Our Ancestors</strong> with Peggy Clemens Launzen</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Using Tax Records for Genealogical Problem Solving</strong> with Michael Lacopo</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>Polish Genealogy – Four Steps to successful research</strong> with Steve Szabados</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>In-laws and Outlaws: The Bylaws of Talking About The Family Skeletons</strong> with Janet Hovorka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8, 2015</td>
<td>8pm (Central)</td>
<td><strong>The US Federal Census: Good, Bad and Ugly for Genealogists</strong> with Gary Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## 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](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](http://bit.ly/joinisgs).

## Learn More & Register


## 2015 Webinar Sponsor

[FamilySearch](http://familysearch.org)

## 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


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Seventeenth Annual Conference on Illinois History
September 24–25, 2015, Springfield

Proposals for individual papers or panels on any aspect of Illinois' history, culture, politics, geography, literature, and archaeology are requested for the Conference on Illinois History. The Conference welcomes submissions from professional and avocational historians, graduate students, and those engaged in the study of Illinois history at libraries, historic sites, museums, and historical societies.

Proposals for teacher workshops. Are you a teacher who has created an innovative, comprehensive, or timely curriculum on some aspect of Illinois' history, culture, politics, geography, literature, or archaeology? Share your expertise with other teachers at the Conference on Illinois History. The conference is accredited by the ISBE for Professional Development Hours.

To submit your proposal for a paper, panel, or teacher workshop, send:
A summary of the topic
A one-page resume of participant(s)
Paper summaries should include a description of major primary and secondary sources used.

The deadline for proposals is March 11, 2015.

Send proposals to:
Conference on Illinois History
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701
Phone 217/524-6045, Fax 217/785-7937; E-mail: shanta.thoele@illinois.gov
www.illinois.gov/ihpa/Involved/Pages/Conference.aspx

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
NEW BOOK: “What’s in a Name? History and Meaning of Wyckoff”

Dr. M. William Wykoff announces a book that he is selling on the Amazon book website. This is a book “which should be of interest to descendants of many early Illinois settlers. There are tens of thousands of descendants of Pieter Clasessen Wyckoff in America, and many were early settlers on farms around the towns of Pana, Paris, Peoria, Paxton, Ontario, Trivoli, Rantoul, and Urbana.” Dr. Wykoff claims the reader will be “surprised to learn the true story of a young Frisian orphan emigrant” which he reports about in his book. You may purchase the book on the Amazon website. For more information, contact Dr. M. William Wykoff at mwwykoff@gmail.com.

Bloomington Normal Relatives See Medal of Honor Given to Civil War Hero

“The Pantagraph” reports that relatives of First Lt. Alonzo Cushing will receive the Medal of Honor he earned at Gettysburg more than 150 years ago. The full article with pictures can be found at the newspaper’s website: http://www.pantagraph.com/lifestyles/family/b-n-relatives-to-see-medal-of-honor-given-to/article_0800b1ce-88c8-5ed8-8978-d5b11c7e95fd.html

Sara Cushing will speak on the researching journey her family has taken that culminated in President Obama awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Alonzo Hereford Cushing posthumously at the November 18th McLean County Genealogy Society meeting. Feel free to attend, 6:30 PM, McLean County Museum of History Building, 200 Main Street, Bloomington, IL in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the 2nd floor. For more information: www.mcgs.org

National Genealogical Society (NGS) would like to invite you to exhibit at the 2015 conference which will be held in St. Charles, MO from 13-16 May 2015.

Exhibit booths are $290 for a business or non-profit 10’ x 10’ booth and $230 for a society/association 10’ x 10’ booth. The Exhibit Hall will be located at the St. Charles Convention Center. For booth availability please see the floor plan at http://fp37.a2zinc.net/clients/NGS/NGS2015/public/eventmap.aspx.

If you would like to exhibit, please follow the directions for purchasing a booth online at http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/exhibit/.

For more information, contact Erin Shifflett, Conference Manager, eshifflett@ngsgenealogy.org
Forgotten Chicagoans Rediscovered

8000 Names Identified in Lost Chicago Cemetery

The names of over 8000 people who may have died penniless or without family in the long forgotten Cook County Cemetery have been rediscovered and are now available free to the public.

The Cook County Cemetery was located at what is now the intersection of Irving Park Road and Narragansett Avenue on Chicago’s Northwest Side between 1861-1922. The cemetery was first called the Cook County Poor Farm Cemetery or simply “The County Ground at Jefferson” (c.1847), which later became Cook County Cemetery (c.1875) and then finally Chicago State Hospital Cemetery (c. 1912), located on the grounds of the institution commonly called “Dunning”. The Read Dunning Memorial park was built in 2001 on a portion of the cemetery.

After 20 years of transcribing Cook County death certificates, coroner’s reports, Cook County Board of Cook County Commissioner reports, Cook County Charity reports, and portions of two surviving cemetery ledgers, a compiled database of all known bodies at the “Dunning” site is now available to all as a searchable database. Many entries reveal the names of family members, sex, race, occupation, place of residence, date cause and place of death, date of burial, grave number, undertaker, and reference information such as death certificate or coroner.

“It is important to make these names available”, said Barry Fleig, cemetery historian and genealogist, “so that those forgotten in life, will be not forgotten in death.”

Over 38,000 bodies were interred in Cook County Cemetery and were seemingly “forgotten” until remains were unearthed by builders in 1989 while constructing a housing development. Those buried in Cook County Cemetery comprised the poor, the insane, the young, victims of violence, Civil War veterans, and many simply were unknown. 117 were identified as those who died in the Chicago Fire of 1871. While many died on the streets of Chicago, a number died in one of the institutions at Dunning including the Cook County Poor House and Farm, the Cook County Insane Asylum, the Cook County Infirmary, or the Cook County Hospital for Tuberculosis. Only a few fragments of grave markers endured.

Now, for the first time, anyone will be able to search for a long lost grandparent, great grandparent, uncle, aunt, or other relatives who may have seemed to have disappeared from the Chicago area or died at the Dunning Institution. The Cook County Cemetery at Dunning database may be able to give back some dignity to those that remained forgotten for so long.

For more information on Cook County Cemetery and to access this free searchable database, please visit www.CookCountyCemetery.com. Click on the tile “Database of known burials”.

Written by Barry A. Fleig
barry.Fleig@CookcountyCemetery.com
Many people ask how the large Cook County cemetery containing over 38,000 bodies could have been forgotten.

To understand, we must look at its history. The cemetery began in the 1850’s to serve the Cook County Poor House and Insane Asylum, on the grounds of the then Cook County Poor Farm. The cemetery was the principle place of burial for all the poor and the indigent of Chicago and Cook County. The largest and oldest portion of the cemetery, consisting of over 20 acres of graves was located just south of the first Cook County Poor House and insane asylum then located just west of Berteau (4200 north) and Narragansett.

The cemetery grew rapidly and another section, the 5.7 acre “New Grounds”, opened in 1890 just north of the intersection of Irving Park and Oak Park Avenue, containing about 17,000 dead. Part of this section of the cemetery was covered over when Oak Park Avenue was built in the 1930’s. Cook County Cemetery operated until 1912 when the property was sold to the state of Illinois for $1. The land was renamed Chicago State Hospital and the cemetery, renamed Chicago State Hospital Cemetery, fell into disuse in even though some burials were made into the 1930’s. Being a cemetery of the poor and forgotten, and being "behind the walls" of a mental institution, the cemetery, like many of those buried there, was largely unknown to the public, neglected and forgotten.

After 1912, several new State hospital buildings were erected over unmarked graves. In 1935, workers went home ill removing bodies encountered while constructing the large Horner building. Caskets were removed in the 1960’s from the ground to permit construction of the Durso building. Many graves were discovered in and around the Adolescent Village on the northeast corner of Irving Park and Oak Park Avenues.

County burials after 1912 continued at the new Cook County Cemetery on the grounds of Oak Forest Hospital on the far south side. Today, the poor and indigent are buried in various Chicago area cemeteries under contract to Cook County.

The state of Illinois opened a permanent Read-Dunning Memorial Park on one portion of Cook County Cemetery in December 2001, over 12 years after the rediscovery in March of 1989.

Historic cemeteries and construction interests often clash in urban areas, but has never occurred to such a large extent as with Cook County Cemetery at Dunning. Those buried there were forgotten in life, forgotten in death, rediscovered, and now recommitted to the earth.

Written by Barry A. Fleig

barry.Fleig@Cookcountycemetery.com
The ISGS was pleased to see at least 35 who attended the 2014 Conference in O’Fallon, Illinois, were there to volunteer as well as to learn some new things. A large meeting, such as we enjoyed at O’Fallon, does not happen overnight...nor without many volunteers. It was a success because the following ISGS members and spouses of members donated several hours of their time to make it an easily managed, and educational, program.

We all want to thank the following for their efforts and cooperation with one another! Tell them how they made a difference to your conference the next time you see individuals that you know:

Angela McGhee, Becky Higgins, Betty Schatz, Carol Sterr-Lehman, Cathy Carlton, Cheryl Winter, Darlene Hinckle, Dawn Henry, Don Truax,

And Donna Hartwig, George Edmund, James Murray, Jane Haldeman, Janis Forté, Janice Fritsch, Jayne Cates, Jim Higgins, Joan Kitchen Murray,

And also John Hartwig, John Miller, Kristy Lawrie Gravlin, Linda McCall, Linda Swisher, Loren Carlson, Margaret Truax, Mary Schatz, Mary Westerhold,

As well as Michelle Claypool, Pam Safriet, Pat Edmund, Sandy Barnett, Sara Taylor, Sondra Mille, Susie Scoville Pope, and Vicki Mattson.

Because this group gave up time that could have been spent in class sessions, or in touring the displays from all over, or evenings at home, the Conference went smoothly. Many of the volunteers also watched for “vacancies” and offered to fill in for people who were late or absent. We had few who were not able to come because of illness or, in one case, a fall. But others were in a session that ran a bit long, or was at the far end of the hall, etc. When it took them a little while to get to their next assignments, others just filled in. We all thank them profusely!

written by Kristy Gravlin
Among Those That Attended (in no particular order)

ANITA BOYD is a member of and the past membership chair of AAGHSC (the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago.) She also belongs to the Fox Valley Genealogical Society where she currently serves as 2nd vice-president and membership chair. Anita is also currently serving as membership chairperson on the ISGS board. She lives in Winfield, Illinois. She said that in 2006 she saw “African America Lives” hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and decided she too could trace her family. She has documented her family back to the late 1700s in South Carolina and their later removal, in 1834, to Mississippi. A family bible documents births, marriages, and deaths of several recognizable family members and also contains two pages of birth dates (from 1813-1830) for the slave children owned by her family. For half of them, she has identified their mother and/or siblings and one of her goals is to locate their descendants. One family member named in the bible, a great-great grandfather, served in the Army of Northern Virginia (the 48th Regiment, Mississippi Infantry) and she has a copy of the letter ordering that he report to Richmond, Virginia, to General Robert E. Lee. She has a how-to research blog for her county in Mississippi, Sand Creek Sentinel, and for her family, she publishes a quarterly newsletter entitled, “Sand Creek & Beyond” which is mailed to 10 family members and emailed to 125 members of her family.

LOREN CARLSON has called Davis Junction, Illinois, his home for the past 27 years. He said that his interest in family history began twenty years ago after his father died and he found an old family bible with newspaper clippings tucked inside. Now that he is retired he would like to devote more time to pursuing information about his family. Loren is a descendant of John Alden of the Mayflower.

KATHERINE SCUROS is from O’Fallon, Illinois. She is a member of the Monroe County Genealogical Society and the St. Louis Genealogical Society. This was her first ISGS conference. She said that a cousin of her mother did work in the 70’s and 80’s on their German ancestors. She said this triggered her interest and in 2001 she took a genealogy class through her local community college and has been researching her family ever since while updating and correcting the information she was given.

PAM SAFRIET also from O’Fallon, Illinois, was attending her first ISGS Conference. She said that her interest in family began when her mother-in-law asked her to do research on their family. Pam said that her mother was already working on her side of the family and gave her hints about researching. Pam said that once she got started she drove her family crazy asking questions. She said the family came to St. Clair County some years ago and her 2x’s great uncle owned part of the property where Mid-America Airport is now located. Just last week she and her two daughters received their certificates as new members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Congratulations Pam!

LINDA HERRICK SWISHER of Lansing, Illinois, is a member of the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society where she serves on their board. She is a former editor of both their quarterly journal as well as their monthly newsletter. Besides being an ISGS member she is also a member of the Northwset Indiana Genealogy Society since Lansing is right on the Illinois/Indiana border. She has been doing family research for 30 years and a breakthrough came when she found a second cousin’s name on a request at the regional archives in Chicago and has since made contact.

DEANNA REEVES is the recording secretary for the Montgomery County Genealogical Society and they recently published a book that is comprised of a history section, a business section and has just under 500 family histories. Deanna lives in Litchfield, Illinois, an old railroad town that is also famous as part of Route 66. Litchfield is primarily a farming community and at one time coal mining was prevalent. She said that as a child she made a scrapbook for her dad for Father’s Day about the family and while she has always had an interest, it wasn’t until she retired that she really got into doing research.

RON JONES lives in Sandwich, Illinois. He said that he never really thought about delving into his family’s history until his four children started asking him questions that he couldn’t answer. He has been at it for the past five years and said that now that he has 16 grandchildren, he’ll have more to share his information with. Ron retired as the national project manager for IBM.
MARY MATHIS is a nurse and she is also from Sandwich, Illinois. She and Ron share an interest in genealogy. She said that her father has always been the family historian and is still a living resource at age 87. She said that she has always had a love for history but it wasn’t until her mother passed away that she found herself sorry that she hadn’t asked her more questions. Her grandmother and her sister told stories in detail about the Great Depression and gathering coal to heat their home. She said her biggest find was a half-brother who it turns out lives just two blocks from her. Her father was engaged when he left for the service and while he was gone received a “dear john” letter. Mary found this stunning information while going through documents.

JOAN JOHNSON lives in Chillicothe, Illinois, which was known as the “hub” for the Santa Fe Railroad while it was in existence there. They have a much-visited railroad museum open year round. Joan is member of the Peoria Genealogy Society where she serves as membership chairperson. She said she has been interested in finding out more about her family for the past ten years but her German ancestry has been the biggest challenge so far.

MARGARET TRUAX and her husband Don of Aurora, Illinois, were in attendance. She said they enjoy conferences where they learn new things and get to meet new people. Margaret is the publication chairperson for ISGS and a member of the Fox Valley Genealogy Society. She serves on the Aurora Plan Commission Board and is a grant writer and a consultant for not for profit organizations. She has been working on her family history for 40 years, starting when her children were small. She said a lot has changed in ways to gather information since she first got started. Margaret’s husband Don, a retired Lucent Technologies engineer, is interested in historic preservation and willing to tag along on genealogy trips.

GEORGE AND PATRICIA (BUSHMAN) PERKINS have been working together on family history for the past 52 years and George has, to date, written six books. Together they have attended 105 state and national conferences, having not missed a state conference since 1976! He has been a lecturer at universities and many state conferences. George is the past president of ISGS and currently serves on the Foundation board. He has been teaching genealogy classes since 1975 through adult education. These classes are now offered through Heartland Community College, Normal, Illinois. He is a professional archivist and genealogist. They have belonged to the McLean County Genealogical Society since 1973 and the Lee County Genealogy Society for many years. George has served as president of MCGS twice. Pat has served as publicity director and recording secretary and is up for election to serve as president next month. With them genealogy is truly a family affair.
DIANA BOHANNON lives in Lebanon, Illinois, and has been a member of the St. Clair County Genealogy Society since 1988. McKendree College is located in Lebanon and is the oldest college in the state having been founded in 1828 as the Lebanon Seminary. Diana became interested 34 years ago when her mother showed her some quilting patches and in the bottom of the box was the travel pass of her great-grandfather from when he came to the United States from Germany. Alex Haley’s movie and book, “Roots” also had a big impact on her. She then took genealogy classes at the community college. She loves attending conferences because she can pick up tips and learn new ways to find information.

CAROL STERR-LEHMAN of Joliet, Illinois, is a charter member of the Will/Grundy Genealogy Society, which she helped start in 1982. Over the years she has held various positions and presently is a member of the Publicity Committee. She also served on the ISGS board for five years as a Director, Genealogist, and Query Chairman. She said her Irish ancestors came to Illinois in 1840 and her German ancestors came in 1881. Carol enjoys the conferences as she always finds something to interest her and she said the vendors are always great. Her father was a railroad man so this year's lecture, “Railroad Men and the Records They Left Behind” and “Journey Along With Our River and Canal Ancestors” were of particular interest to her.

DAWN CAREY HENRY is from Naperville and this was her 3rd conference. She was especially interested in learning more about migration patterns presented by J. Mark Lowe. Dawn is a member of the Fox Valley Genealogy Society. She became interested in learning more about the family when her children asked when their ancestors came to America. Her extended family gave her files filled with great information and she was “hooked.” She has since learned that her husband’s father’s side came from France in 1849 and her Irish side of the family came to the United States through New York in 1842.

JUDITH SAMUEL is a member, and current president, of the 250 member Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago. Judith loves to attend conferences to get new information and to talk with attendees about research ideas. She also can’t resist the vendors and what they have to offer. She said she has always had an interest in her family history and in 1980 she started documenting the oral histories she heard at family reunions. She also began to research her ancestors and has documented over 2000 members. A huge breakthrough came when an unknown cousin in South Carolina, contacted her after seeing her online family tree. He had the deed showing that her great-great grandfather, Peter Hughes, was sold in 1838. He invited her to South Carolina, where they visited the church and cemetery founded by her great-great grandfather. His name is inscribed on the church cornerstone. She shares these and other “finds” with delighted family members and said some day she would like to publish a book on the family history. She said, “there is definitely a story there.”

JOY WHITSON UPTON is definitely a lady with many hats and many accomplishments! Joy lives in Du Quoin, Illinois, where she was born and lived the first seven years of her life. For forty-one years she lived in Troy, Illinois. She is the State Librarian for the Illinois State Organization, NSDAR. She is also an Honorary Life Members of ISGS after serving as president and in various other positions. She is a current member of the National Society Daughters of the Union, National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and Illinois State Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century. Joy assisted in the establishment of the genealogy department in the Madison County Genealogical Society, Edwardsville, Illinois, the St. Clair County Genealogy Library in Belleville, Illinois and the Troy Genealogical Society. She started cataloging the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois’s book collection. She is a retired high school librarian; taught genealogy classes in two community colleges and is currently teaching four classes for John A. Logan College.

JACKIE LYELL was at the ISGS conference representing the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, based in Carterville, Illinois, at the John A. Logan College. Jackie has been a member since 2005 where she served as president. They have a membership of 400. She said she comes from a great family of storytellers and whenever she visited her grandmother they would stay up until the wee hours talking about family. Her grandfather’s life is another story. Unwilling to share much about his life his side of the family has been the proverbial “brick wall.”
JANET ANDERSON said that she enjoyed the ISGS conference and appreciated the work involved in making it a success. She divides her time between her home in Sycamore and her parent’s home in Watseka, Illinois, where she helps out with them and her other family members also living there. Janet taught high school mathematics in DeKalb, Illinois, for twenty-five years and two years in Iroquois County and one in Kankakee County, Illinois. Although she retired from teaching in 2011 she continues to do K-12 technology staff development and works with pre-service math students each semester at Northern Illinois University. She said that her mother did years and years of work on their family members as well as an aunt, and she learned from them both. Now she and her mother work together on family history. Janet and her mother are members of the Iroquois County Genealogical Society where Janet serves as corresponding secretary. She and her mother collect and cut out obituaries for the society and to date their society has over 72,000 obituaries. The society is located in the old Iroquois county courthouse and their impressive collection of cemetery indexes, land records, newspaper microfilm, marriage and death records and more are stored in what was once the courthouse vault. To see what is happening with the society you can contact their website, or like them on Facebook or check out her amazing blog, Searching Genealogy in Iroquois County, Illinois at oldcourthouse.blogspot.com!

CHERYL WINTER is a three year member of the Elgin Genealogy Society. She said that four generations of her family have lived in the Chicago land area. She has been working on her family history since the 1980’s off and on but now that she is retired she is working on it non-stop. She said she was enjoying the conference and that there is always something new to learn.

LOUISE BLUFF is with the Marissa (Illinois) Historical and Genealogical Society that was formed in 1969. She said that their collection is housed in what was formerly an Academy and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum and library in this historic building holds an extensive genealogical collection. Anyone wishing to visit may call 618.295-2562 or 618.295-2559 for an appointment. Their group is small with 45 members, 12 patrons, and several libraries making up their membership. The basic principles of the society are to foster the research of the family roots and to preserve and maintain historical records and cultural values for educational purposes. Janet is a retired school secretary with four grown children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. This is the last year she and her husband will enjoy being Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus where they live in Sparta. They want to spend more time vacationing. She has concentrated on her mother’s family that came to Randolph County in the 1850s and have remained in this area. Her dad’s grandmother was either Cherokee or Shawnee Indian but she hasn’t solved that mystery yet. She said she really enjoys genealogy as it is so much fun and she never gets tired of looking for answers.

SONDRA MILLER is a retired schoolteacher, living in Springfield, Illinois. She said she became interested in learning more about her family when she was a senior in high school. She said the family would sit around the table after Sunday dinner and tell stories. She was given a shoebox full of pictures of her ancestors and this started her quest to learn more about these people. Her mother was just as interested and would go to courthouses and cemeteries with her. She said she loves attending conferences; she gets so much from the speakers.

Pictured here: SUSIE SCOVILLE POPE (left), ISGS 2nd Vice President and ANGELA MCGHEE, Immediate Past President, Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHGSC)
VIKI FAGYAL and her 96½ year old mother EUGENIA FAGYAL joined us at the ISGS Conference this year. What delightful ladies. Viki completed the book on the Hungarian side of the family last year and now they are working to complete Eugenia’s melting pot side of the family. They have traveled throughout the south and midwest working on Eugenia’s roots that go back to the sixteenth century England. There is not a family member that Eugenia can’t tell you about their entire life history. Eugenia has always had an intense interest in history and after joining the genealogy society in St. Louis she and both of her daughters were “hooked.”

EUGENIA FAGYAL of St. Louis, the oldest attendee at the ISGS conference (96 1/2 years young!). Eugenia has been researching her Hungarian ancestry with her daughters VICKI and CHARLENE. She can tell you the complete history of every family member she’s ever researched!
Congratulations to **ASHLEY MARIE BURNS** who was honored with the Youth Award for her many contributions to the Iroquois Society. She attended with her grandmother **MARY BUHR** Iroguois Genealogy Society President. Also pictured ISGS President **Jane Haldeman**.

**PAT STOUDT** of Orion, Illinois, and her young granddaughter, **AMBER HIGBEE**, of Davenport, Iowa, were conference attendees. Pat takes her grandchildren on family vacations and ties in family research with these trips, a wonderful way to interest the younger generation! Amber made a poster in 4th grade showing her family members and with grandma’s help has become an avid genealogist. She was observed taking notes during various lectures at the conference. Years ago Pat was given a cousin’s work on the family and with more available online was able to correct and update this branch before beginning on others.
JUDITH VAN DUSEN has been a member of the Elgin Genealogical Society for more than 20 years and has held all of the offices during this time and is currently serving as treasurer. She has lived in Elgin for more than thirty years. She is also a genealogist and research volunteer at the Elgin Historical Museum. Judy received the Special Recognition Award at the ISGS Conference after being nominated by the Elgin Genealogical Society. Judy is well known for her work with the Elgin Genealogical Society and the surrounding communities. She is also busy assisting researchers at the Gail Borden Public Library, indexing funeral home, probate and divorce records. Judy also serves as a Commissioner on the City of Elgin’s Heritage Commission. She posts to the Society’s Facebook page. Judy became interested in family history when she found out that an ancestor of her husband’s brother-in-law took part in the mutiny aboard the Royal Navy Ship HMS Bounty in 1789. The movie, “Mutiny on the Bounty” starring Marlon Brando was made in 1962.

LINDA WALLIN (left), chairperson of the Honors and Awards Committee at ISGS pictured with JUDY VAN DUSEN and JANE HALDEMAN, President ISGS. Judy was the recipient of the Special Recognition Award for her work with the Elgin Genealogical Society and for her contributions to the City of Elgin and surrounding communities.

KRISTY GRAVLIN, retired school teacher and very involved ISGS board member is from Plano, IL the famous Plano Molding city. Kristy is in charge of bible records. Her family came to Illinois from New Jersey via the Erie Canal in 1837 settling in Yorkville, IL where family remains to this day. Lured here by fertile farm land theses hardy farming pioneers flourished. All in all twenty-one family members came during the first few years.

SANDY PARKER retired as the elected clerk of the circuit court of McLean County. Sandy became interested in genealogy while helping those that came to her office to find records they were seeking. She lives in Bloomington. Sandy is in charge of the Pioneer Certificates for ISGS.
J. MARK LOWE, presenter

SANDY PARKER and JOAN KITCHEN-MURRAY

GWEN PODESCHI, presenter

MICHELLE CLAYPOOL, ISGS 1st Vice President
ISGS Governing Board at Fall Conference

Governing Board who attended the conference: Back row, l to r: Becky Higgins, 2015 Director; Sara Taylor, 2014 Director; Angela Boyd, Membership Promotion Chair; Tony Burroughs, 2017 Director; Jane Haldeman, Past President; David Kent Coy, Parliamentarian; Michele Claypool, 1st VP; Mary Westerhold, 2016 Director; Darlene Hinkle, 2016 Director. Front row, l to r: Kristy Gravlin, 2015 Director; Jayne Cates, President; Sandra Parker, Prairie Pioneers Chair; Susie Scoville Pope, 2nd VP; Margaret Truax, Publications Chair.

ISGS Honors and Awards 2014

Special Recognition Award: Paul R. Rickert, Fox Valley Genealogical Society

Special Recognition Award: Judith Van Dusen, Elgin Genealogical Society

Community Service Award: Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society

Volkel Medal of Honor Award: Tony Burroughs, ISGS Governing Board Member, CEO Center for Black Genealogy

Youth Award: Ashley Marie Burns, Iroquois County Genealogical Society

State Genealogical Society
2014-2105 Governing Board

Officers
President: Jayne Cates, St. Charles
1st 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; Daniel Dixon, Auburn; Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville
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; Membership: Anita Boyd, Winfield; 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; Finance & Budget: Vacant; Website: Vacant

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; Bylaws/Policy/Procedure: Michelle Claypool, Champaign; Cemetery Records: Becky Higgins, Streamwood; Church Records: Darlene Hinkle, Amboy; Education: Thomas MacEntee, Chicago; Fall Conference 2015-Michelle Claypool, Champaign; Family Bible Records: Kristy Gravlin, Plano; FGS/Fall Conference 2016: Laura Kovarik, Naperville; Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville; History: David Kent Coy, Decatur & Julie Cahill Tarr, Pekin; ISGS IL Legislative: Valerie Burd, Yorkville; Military Certificates: Daniel Dixon, Auburn; Office Liaison: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal; Parliamentarian: David Kent Coy, Decatur; Prairie Pioneer Certificates: Sandra Parker, Bloomington; Website Administrator: Paul Lyn-Waitsman

Office Secretary-Evelyn Edwards

Illinois State Genealogical Society

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