ISGS President Column

Happy New Year!

2016 is going to be a GREAT Year!

Here are a few highlights to look forward to:

- We are kicking off the new year with an exciting line up of Webinars beginning January 12th and continuing on the 2nd Tuesday of each month – see page 6 for the complete list.

- In April the popular Ancestor Photo Contest will return with winners announced in May.

- Plans are well underway and ISGS is honored to be the Host Society for the upcoming Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference August 31 – September 3, 2016 in Springfield – see page 4 for more information.

Stay connected and up to date by “Liking” and “Following” us on Facebook – Illinois State Genealogical Society

Dawn Carey Henry
ISGS President

200 Years of Illinois History 1818-2018

In 2018, Illinois will celebrate its 200th birthday. In anticipation of this bicentennial celebration, For the Record, the newsletter of the Illinois State Archives, is featuring in each issue a document from the Illinois State Archives’ holdings relevant to a significant event in Illinois history.

Fall 2014 features the first page of the 1818 Illinois Constitution. Digital images can be viewed at www.idaillinois.org.


Farms and Families: Across the Decades

Do You Have A Favorite Farm?

We are looking for photos of your favorite Illinois farms.

During the 2016 FGS Conference, co-host Illinois State Genealogical Society will showcase Farms and Families: Across the Decades. This event, Wednesday, 31 August 2016, 7:00 p.m. will celebrate farms in Illinois, especially Centennial and Sesquicentennial farms. ISGS also wants to celebrate the farms that are important to you. The farm could be one you drive by everyday, one your ancestors lived on when they first settled in Illinois, or one they farmed.

Send a photo, past or present, of a farm that matters to you. All photos received will be displayed at the Wednesday evening event.

To submit a photo, email it to conferences@fgs.org. Please only send photos you hold the copyrights to and put “farm” in the subject line. Include your name, the location of the farm (county or township is fine) and any additional information you may have.
Now is the time to mark your 2016 calendar for the FGS Conference which will be held in Springfield, Illinois August 31 to September 3, 2016.

The Conference local host is the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

The state of Illinois is very important to many family history researchers since so many ancestors came through the Prairie State especially as they migrated westward.

Join us in Time Travel: Centuries of Memories which will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.
Reserve your HOTEL rooms NOW!! for the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2016 CONFERENCE in Springfield, Illinois

Main Conference Hotel
WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD CITY CENTRE
700 E Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701
+1 (217) 789-1530

The conference rate is $129/night, available from August 27 to September 6, 2016. Reserve your room by August 6, 2016 to receive the discounted rate. There is a courtesy bus provided from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport and Amtrak station.

To reserve your room online: Wyndham Group Events: FGS or visit https://www.fgsconference.org/. Phone reservations will be taken after January 1, 2016, while online reservations are currently being accepted.

SOLD OUT! PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD
(a DoubleTree hotel by Hilton)
701 E Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
+1 (217) 544-8800
FAX: +1 (217) 544-9607

The conference rate is $129/night, available from August 30 to September 4, 2016. Reserve your room by August 3, 2016 to receive the discounted rate. There is a connected walkway from this hotel to the Prairie Capital Convention Center. In addition, there is a courtesy bus provided from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport and Amtrak station.

To reserve your room online: Doubletree Hilton Group Events: FGS or visit https://www.fgsconference.org/.

Stay Informed

Between now and August 2016, FGS will make certain that FGS members and conference attendees have the most up-to-date information about the FGS 2016 conference available through various channels:

- More details will be available in future issues of FORUM as well at the conference website, http://www.fgsconference.org.
- The FGS Voice blog, voice.fgs.org, covers a wide range of conference news, updates, special events, details on speakers, lectures, vendors and exhibitors, luncheons, banquet, parking, travel, and research.

Visit https://www.fgsconference.org for the complete conference program or to register after February 1, 2016. You will not want to miss the FGS 2016 Conference as we explore Time Travel: Centuries of Memories!
More Descriptions Added: NARA

As a part of the National Archives and Records Administration’s (NARA) ongoing mission to provide greater access to the records in its custody, staff at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, continue to add descriptions for record series in Record Group 28, Records of the Post Office Department, to the online National Archives Catalog at http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/.

Researchers can learn more information about these records by searching for the title or the National Archives Identifier (NAID). Researchers interested in postal history, local history, governmental operations, and genealogy may find these records useful. A list of 133 newly described record series from is available at www.archives.gov/research/post-offices/ www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/ post-office-dept-descriptions.pdf groups/028.html.


written by Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, taken from NARA newsletter Fall 2015
## 2016 Webinar Series

**Online Educational Opportunities for Genealogy**

### Schedule

All webinars start at 8:00 pm Central time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Webinar Title</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2016</td>
<td>Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process</td>
<td>Drew Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 2016</td>
<td>Reconstructing Black Community Life Through Benevolent Societies</td>
<td>Angela Walton-Raji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8, 2016</td>
<td>Researching in Archives &amp; Libraries: Do’s and Don’ts</td>
<td>Melissa Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2016</td>
<td>Polish Immigration to America - When, Where, Why and How</td>
<td>Stephen Szabados</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14, 2016</td>
<td>Using Social Media to Break Through Brick Walls</td>
<td>Amie Tenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12, 2016</td>
<td>Special Delivery: Using US Postmaster Documents in Family History Research</td>
<td>Jean Hibben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9, 2016</td>
<td>Misbegotten Children; Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate</td>
<td>Peggy Lauritzen, AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 2016</td>
<td>Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Using Occupational Records</td>
<td>Amy Johnson Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2016</td>
<td>Principles of Effective Evidence Analysis</td>
<td>George G. Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2016</td>
<td>Without the Hint - There is No Story</td>
<td>Bernice Alexander Bennett</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 access to 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


### 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 the past include:

- Treasures and Hidden Secrets of the Illinois Regional Archives
  - Luana Darby
- Hunting for Henry - A Case Study
  - Using Collaterals
  - Teresa S. McMillin, CG
- Land Records in Illinois
  - Michael John Neil
- Using Canadian Records to Find Your Midwestern Ancestor
  - Kathryn Lake Hogan
- Newspaper Research - More Than Obituaries
  - Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL


Save $$ on Illinois Death Certificate Lookups!

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


Translators 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](http://www.hartigtranslations.com)
Specializing in Old German Script

Sandra Parker, Chair of Prairie Pioneer Certificates notes that ISGS has 3870 approved Pioneer applications and 5910 certificates issued since its inception! Will you be the next?

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

Charles Dobias, Chair of the ISGS Military Certificates wants to encourage you to apply. 324 Military Certificates have been issued so far. This year 2 Revolutionary War Veterans, one War of 1812 veteran and one Black Hawk War veteran were honored with a certificate.

Welcome New ISGS Members

Marion Jones, Chicago, IL
Thomas Tracy, South Holland, IL
Patrick Deady, Fort Wayne, IN
Kayla Kittleson, Sycamore, IL
Kathryn Keller, Marshall, MI
Vickie Sheridan, St. Charles, MO
Jean Gassoway, Chesterton, IN
Eileen Harvey, Orland Park, IL
Nancy Zimmerman, Mishawaka, IN
William Floyd, Skokie, IL
Barbara Jackson, Chicago, IL
Charmaine Moyer, Palo Alto, CA
Sheila Thayer, Seattle, WA
Christine Olds, Palatine, IL
Julie Benson, Chicago, IL
Suzanne Crippen, Centerville, OH
Christine Manske, LeSueur, MN
Joyce Wicks, Sadorus, IL
Patricia Hartman, Covington, VA
Harold Washington Library, Chicago, IL
Nel Lo Bassett, Springville, UT
Daniel Michael Green, Germantown, TN
Margaret Louis, Henderson, NV
Linda Schub, Warrenville, IL
Pamela Cler, Savoy, IL
Marcia Hicks, Portland, OR
Sandy William, Mesa, AZ
Dennis Schlagheck, Chicago, IL
Phyllis J. Matthews, Walker, MN
Dawn Warning, Rochelle, IL
Richard De Lillo, Sun City, AZ
Marina Dececo, Sun City West, AZ
Sara Phalen, West Chicago, IL
Bradley Omanson, Morgantown, WV
Daniel Nightingale, Philadelphia, PA
G. Dennis Massey, Greenville, NC
Craig Campbell, Poland, OH
Sandy Wallace, Wimberly, TX
Linda Stucker, Irvine, CA
Robert Godare, Rockford, IL
Madelaine Niemeyer, Irmo, SC
Tommy Frederick, AP, Armed Forces-APO
Susanne Farnham-Hieber, Clinton Twp, MI
Debra Lindgren, Chicago, IL
Mark Bedford, Bolingbrook, IL
Nicki Hazzard, Lewistown, IL

Join or Renew Your Membership Online: It’s EASY!

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

Address Changes

If you have a change of either mailing address or an email address or both, it is important to let the ISGS office know. We cannot be responsible for resending issues that could not be forwarded to a new address. Your email is how you will receive this newsletter and other “blast emails”. Please keep your email current.

Contact ISGS

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

Advertise in Newsletter

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

Newsletter Articles

Please send articles for the newsletter to isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org. Pictures are welcome (not in a pdf please). Just include your caption with names, places, details. Deadlines: end of the month prior to publish
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Join in the FUN!

With the generous help of its volunteers, ISGS is poised for continued success. The positions listed below present some interesting and exciting opportunities for you! Please consider helping ISGS achieve its mission to preserve and disseminate Illinois historical and genealogical materials, and to educate and aid those researching their ancestry.

ISGS Board Volunteers Needed

• Publications Chair: This committee coordinates the printing of all ISGS publications except the Newsletter and Quarterly. Inventory is verified and recommendations made to the Board, and files on each publication are maintained.

• Legislative Chair: This committee monitors pending legislation in Illinois that could impact those with genealogical and historical interests, and keeps ISGS, and the genealogical community informed.

• ISGS Quarterly Design & Technical Editor: This position works with the Quarterly Managing Editor, and produces the layout design of the Quarterly. Skills in designing and working with graphics are required.

• 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.

• Long Range Planning: This committee considers plans for the improvement of the Society, solicits suggestions from members, makes regular reports to the Board, and presents projects for action.

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

INDEXING PROJECT

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

Clyda Ogle, Indexing Coordinator at isgsindexing@ilgensoc.org

ISGS/FGS 2016 Conference

Local/Regional Marketing person needed.
ISGS is serving as the Local Host society for next year’s FGS national conference in Springfield, IL, 30 August - 3 September. We have a special need for a local/regional marketing person to work with Thomas MacEntee, FGS’s National Marketing Chair. Contact Local Host Conference Chair, Laura Kovarik, laura.kovarik.2016@gmail.com for more information.
2nd Tuesday of every month, 8:00 PM CDT featuring some of
the nation’s best known speakers in the field of genealogy!

The following webinars are sponsored by FamilySearch.

**January 12** – *Organizing Your Genealogy Research Process*
Presenter: **Drew Smith**
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8573458780274373378

**February 9** – *Reconstructing Black Community Life Through Benevolent Societies*
Presenter: **Angela Walton-Raji**
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8291948619192469250

**March 8** – *Researching in Archives & Libraries: Do’s and Don’ts*
Presenter: **Melissa Barker**
Registration: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1846416843611494402

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

**ISGS Quarterly**

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

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

**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

Federation of Genealogical Societies FORUM is looking for genealogy and society related articles. Go to fgs.org for more information.
Highlights from the ISGS Annual Conference
October 2015 in Oak Lawn, Illinois

Meet Some Attendees

ANN HARRIS, of Willowbrook, Illinois, was a first time ISGS conference attendee. Her grandmother was instrumental in getting her interested in learning about her ancestors and Ann began her own research about twenty years ago. She plans to pass her research on to her three children so that they may know the people they descend from. Through her research Ann found a 4th cousin, living in Tennessee, who told her about their ancestor, an American Revolutionary patriot, buried on the family farm now owned by the University of Tennessee. She has visited the site and has now become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Ann belongs to a genealogy club at the Willowbrook Library.

NORMA ALEXANDER JACKSON has been a member of AAGHC since 1995. A family reunion in 1971 began her interest in family history. Every year thereafter, for seven years, Norma took 3x5 cards to the reunions and recorded births, deaths, marriages, and other pertinent information and then published a booklet for all of her relatives. Norma is semi-retired from government service after spending forty-one years working for the Department of Agriculture, Naval Investigative Services, Social Security and the Army. She continues to work part-time.

KATHLEEN STRICKLAND, a recently returned member of our society is the new managing editor of our ISGS Quarterly!!! We know she will do a great job! Welcome aboard Kathleen! She brings to her new position a wealth of expertise as she worked for ten years at a small publishing house, but left that position to pursue a different business for a couple of years, and then retired. Kathleen married her high school sweetheart from Glenbard East High School in Lombard, forty-four years ago. They live in Lisle, Illinois, where they enjoy working with their two boxer dogs, Mac and Star, who are therapy dogs. They have two married daughters that live near them and one granddaughter that is the light of their life. Since she was in her 20’s she’s listened to the stories that her two grandmothers told and this began the interest in family that started many of us on the ancestry trail. She said she is still trying to figure out which grandmother told which story.
JANET JOHNSON and her sister DIANE JOHNSON, of Lombard, were both in attendance at our conference. This was the second one they have attended. “The Sisters” as they are known have been working together for the last two years on both their paternal and maternal lines ever since a cousin approached them for information on their Polish grandmother who was a citizen of Austria. Janet said that Diane is a better note taker than she is and together they are enjoying their fairly new interest. Janet worked in accounts payable before retiring and Diane worked at Fotomat, a printing center where she did bindery work and made deliveries in the Chicago area. She too is retired. They enjoy traveling and visiting historic sites.

JEAN and K. MALLORY of Geneva, Illinois, have been working on their family lines on and off for the past twenty-eight years. They are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, “Mormons” and submit their work to Family Search/Family Tree. Families are Forever is a doctrine of their church. Jean is retired from AT&T. K. for many years, did package design for major companies. His parents thought they were having a girl they planned to name Kay. Since having a boy surprised them they named him K. He went by his middle name all through school because the teachers insisted. He now goes by K., which he prefers. Another conference they attended was a national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, where they were able to gather a lot of great information. Thinking he was finished with one family line proved K. wrong when on a trip to the Mid-Continent Library in Independence, Missouri, they located a book on his family line that dated back to 1720, which provided hundreds of names for his Family Tree.

JON AND CAROLYN SATRUM are from Downers Grove, Illinois. They both are retired information technology specialist. Of 100% Norwegian heritage, Jon started working on his family lines about fifteen years ago and soon afterwards Carolyn became interested in researching her family. While wanting to accept family stories or questionable documents, Jon learned to be more selective until he could find proof. After several trips to Norway for research he discovered that his entire heritage could be found within a fifteen-mile radius. Over the years he met descendants of families who sailed with his family on the same sailing ship in 1865. Unlike her husband, Carolyn’s family lines go back to multiple countries. Her biggest thrill was visiting her great-grandfather’s hometown in Germany, seeing the house where he was born and the church of his baptism.

COLLEEN (COLE) VANDERHYE, is from Matteson, Illinois, and our ISGS Conference was her first. Colleen has started a monthly genealogy club at the Matteson Public Library where she works as an Adult Services Librarian. Colleen became interested in genealogy while living in Rochester, New York, where she attended college. A class, “Roots: Your Family In American History” spurred her interest in genealogy. She won a grant to attend the University of Stirling in Scotland, where she explored the landscapes of her Scots, Irish, and Italian roots. She now teaches genealogy, technology literacy, and goes over databases most beneficial to her students. Growing up in Rochester, she was one of ten children. Her husband of twenty-five years passed away last year after a short illness. They are the parents of two children. Colleen enjoys traveling, trivia, cooking and learning.
PAULINE DERESS, of Oak Forest, was attending her first conference. She said she is just starting her quest for family information, something she has always wanted to do but never had the time. Pauline said that at our conference she met many kind, friendly, and knowledgeable people. She said she even exchanged phone numbers with several women whom she hopes to stay in touch with. Now that Pauline is retired from banking she is taking the time to locate her European family mainly in Russia. She is a graduate of DePaul University and has twin daughters, three girls altogether.

LESLIE RANKIN was attending her third ISGS conference. She lives in Monticello, Illinois. Her grandmother began the study of her family the old fashion way, writing letters to courthouses and ordering LDS microfilm. When she died Leslie was left with eleven boxes of her papers, which she has spent ten years sorting through. Leslie is an admitted history buff so family history comes naturally to her. She is able to go back five generations on her Frillman line. Her Rankin family, she said, has been involved in every war and major event since Jamestown. She was able to qualify for an Early Settlers Certificate, which was presented to her at a conference in Ohio. She has worked in computer support at the University of Illinois for thirty-two years and will be retiring in two months and twelve days! She plans to then open her own genealogy research business.

LINDA WALLIN of Palatine, Illinois besides enjoying genealogy is also a prize winning poet and enjoys quilting and camping with her three children. Two trips to Iowa to find relatives uncovered a second cousin. She and her family attended family reunions 25-30 years ago, where she has found out that her children’s father is a descendant of General George Armstrong Custer. Linda is a retired Special Education teacher, having taught for twenty-five years. She also taught technology to teachers for ten years at National Louis University. She has three blogs. Wallins Wave, includes whatever she feels like sharing, Living With Geniuses, to which she contributes monthly (this site is for gifted children and adults), and A Boomer Retirement, where she shares family stories. Linda has been a member of ISGS for three years and is the chairperson for the Honors and Awards committee.

YOLANDA P. WHITMAL has lived in Chicago all of her life and taught in the public schools for thirty-eight years in a computer lab where she taught reading, math, and writing developmental skills using computer programs. The Pleasant side of her family meets every two years for family reunions. The earliest reunions were held in St. Louis, Missouri, or Hazelhurst, Mississippi. Now they are held in various parts of the country. Yolanda had an aunt who lived in St. Louis, until age 103 who then moved to Chicago to live with her daughter until her death at age 109. This aunt provided many stories about their earlier ancestors. When Yolanda’s daughter had a school assignment to document her family lineage she did her research by using city directories. Yolanda has been interviewed by each of her three grandchildren for their family history school assignments in person, by telephone and through Skype. Her son also became interested in researching their family. He has, through Ancestry.com, submitted his DNA with good results on his paternal side. A cousin on her Pleasant side of the family also submitted to DNA testing. At present Yolanda is working on both sides of her family and her husband’s family. She started her research in 1999.
PENNY McINTIRE lives in Oregon, Illinois and is retired after teaching Computer Science for thirty-three years at Northern Illinois University. When her grandfather was 97 years old she started compiling the stories he told. Before he died at age 100 she had several pages of research she was able to share with him.

She has found some interesting characters in her family including a 2x great-grandfather for whom she has found seven marriage certificates, no divorces, and only the first wife died before he did (Penny’s 2x great-grandmother). According to family legend, he managed to get a farm and profit from each wife. Another family member ran with the Jesse James gang. Penny is currently applying for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution Society. This was her first ISGS conference and she thought it was great and she said she will be back next year.

THOMAS H. TRACY of South Holland, Illinois, has been a member of AAGHSC since 2001. He is currently serving as treasurer of the African American Genealogy and Historical Society of Chicago. He said that his interest was sparked when he started reading the letters that his aunt kept, sent to her from a cousin in Kentucky telling about the family. His mother’s family is also from Kentucky. He has a niece that is interested in researching their family and they share their work. He is also working on his wife’s side.

Thomas has three children and seven grandchildren. He is retired after working for Ameritech for thirty years, and from the Marine Corps Reserve after thirty years.

PEG KAPUSTIAK started her family history interest with her father some thirty-five years ago in the pre-computer days and has traced most of her family lines back to the 16th century in both the U.S. and Europe. In 1832 her family was the first settler in the Beverly area of Chicago and they still operate a small pioneer neighborhood cemetery. Peg is past president of the Tinley Moraine Genealogist (TMG), a volunteer librarian at South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society (SSGHS) and Collections Manager at Ridge Historical Society (RHS). She is an author and has been a speaker on family history, genealogy and local history for 11 years. She and her husband have three children. Peg worked as a health care manager for many years, the last 12 as department director, before moving to London, England. Before moving to Hong Kong and Singapore, Peg taught at Northern Illinois University. Her family is semi-retired in both the Chicago area and in Venice, Florida.

ELAINE HUNTER maintains a home in Chicago, living most of her life in the Bronzeville area. Elaine has a degree in biology and was in the teaching field for thirty-four years in the Chicago schools. She retired as an assistant principal. Elaine has one son Steven, who is a successful lawyer. When he was in third grade he wrote a story about an Indian tribe not knowing that the chief of this tribe was a part of their family’s history. Elaine’s grandmother helped raise her family after her father died and she told her about her father’s great-grandmother who was kidnapped from slavery by Indians she’s not sure which tribe. On her mother’s side her great-grandmother was a slave until she was a young women. She has run into a roadblock trying to retrace records of her younger years since she doesn’t know the slave owner’s name. Elaine wants to know more about her ancestors but has run into a few brick walls. She has been working on her family history off and on for twenty-three years. Her interest was renewed after our conference in Oak Lawn and is receiving help from other attendees.
JAN CONKRITE lives in Woosung, Illinois with her husband Ray. Jan is a retired school teacher having spent half of her twenty-four years teaching 3rd grade and the other half teaching 4th grade. She retired in 2008. Her interest in family history began while looking through her father’s personal papers after his death in 1981 and found that he had partially completed their family history. She then found out that a cousin has done a lot of research on her Faivre side so she began working on her husband’s family. While visiting the Lee County Genealogy library in Dixon she became interested in volunteering there. She has held the office of recording secretary and corresponding secretary and is the co-editor of the society’s newsletter. She is also the librarian at the historical and genealogical library. Jan also volunteers at the Loveland Community Museum and in the pre-school at her church. Jan and Ray have two children. Their son Matt works in the Chicago area for General Electric and their daughter Christine works at a local mental health clinic. They have four grandchildren. In 2011 her deceased mother and father would have both been 100 years old; so along with her brother and his wife and her sister and her husband, they went back to her parent’s homelands. Jan’s mother came to live in the U.S. from Switzerland when she was a child and her father’s grandfather came from France when he was four years old. Jan’s mother’s relatives still live close to Zurich, Switzerland, and through the Internet connection with a French relative five generations back they toured Servance, France. Jan said she had been to Switzerland before, but visiting all the tiny hamlets that she had been researching in France was a very moving experience.

WILLIAM WHEELER of Spring Grove, Illinois, picked up and has added to his father and great aunt’s research for the past twenty years. Bill started out trying to find his Revolutionary War ancestors. He since has found over six ancestors that fought in the war and has been accepted into the S.A.R. Bill and his wife were engaged on a genealogy cruise in 2007. Bill is a Sr. Manager of information technology at VW Credit, Inc. He also serves on the board of directors for McHenry County Illinois Genealogy Society (MCIGS) as the newsletter editor and webmaster. This was his first ISGS conference.

Interviews conducted by and written by Darlene Hinkle
Map and data provided by Howard Manthei
**Special Recognition Award-L. Charles Westervelt.** L. Charles Westervelt received the special recognition award for his writing. His article “Our Family Hero: The Life and Death of a World War II Aviation Cadet,” was published in the Summer 2014 issue (Vol. No. 2) of the *ISGS Quarterly*. This well-researched and emotionally charged article tells the story of Louis Gerard “Cotton” Bender, of Mt. Pulaski, Illinois, whose love of flying led him to the Army Air Forces during World War II. Mr. Westervelt chronicles Cotton Bender’s life, including his time in the Aviation Cadet Program, which ultimately ended in tragedy. Nominated by Julie Cahill Tarr

**Special Recognition Award-Gayla S. Nieminen.** Gayla S. Nieminen was recognized for her article “The Story of Isaac and Sofi (Aho) Lillberg, Immigrants from Finland,” which was published in the Fall 2014 issue (Vol. 46, No. 3) of the *ISGS Quarterly*. A well-researched article, the story of Finnish immigrants Isaac and Sofi Lillberg, who ultimately settled in DeKalb, Illinois, also provides background information that is helpful to researchers working with Finish ancestors. Nominated by Julie Cahill Tarr

**Community Service Award-Sandy Vahl.** Sandy Vahl founded the Sheridan Historical Society (04 Jan 2010) and continues to make efforts to teach and learn more about the town’s origins and history. She organized the formation of a historical museum, where she hosts seminars on genealogy and history of the town. Events she has spearheaded include Veterans Appreciation Night, Girl Scout Month, and a Historical Business Walk. She has been secretary of the LaSalle County Genealogy Library for five years, and volunteers on weekends to help others find information. She maintains social media for the Sheridan Historical Society on Facebook, and publicity in the newspaper. In addition, she offers assistance to the Fire Department’s newsletter. Nominated by Susan Jania and Kim Janssen
Special Recognition Award-Donna Pond Hartwig. Donna Pond Hartwig is a member of the Peoria County Genealogical Society, serving as Vice-President and President for eleven years. She has been a volunteer since 1989, with duties including transcribing obituaries from newspapers on microfilm and presently serving as Projects Director. In 2010, she chaired the ISGS Annual Conference in Peoria, Illinois. She contributed to a Policy and Procedures Manual, participates in community events, revised the Prairie Roots journal and PCGS Newsletter, and led the group to create a website www.peoriacountygenealogy.org in the spring of 2015. She will serve on the FGS 2016 Conference as Luncheon Chair. Nominated by Kim Hanks and the Peoria County Genealogy Society.

Special Recognition Award-Clyda Ogle. Clyda Ogle has indexed over ten CD’s totaling more than two hundred pages for the Illinois Department of Registration and Education 1877-1952 ledgers. She is presently ISGS Indexing Coordinator. Nominated by Becky Higgins

Special Recognition Award-Andrea Dietz. Andrea Dietz has indexed more than ten CD’s totaling more than two hundred pages from the Illinois Department of Registration and Education 1877-1952 ledgers. Nominated by Becky Higgins
Registration is now open for the National Genealogical Society’s thirty-eighth annual family history conference, Exploring the Centuries: Footprints in Time, which will be held 4–7 May 2016 at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Conference highlights include a choice of more than 180 lectures given by nationally known speakers and subject matter experts on a broad array of topics.

The conference will open with “Ordinary” People, Extraordinary Lives given by Connie L. Lester, Ph.D., Associate Professor in History, University of Central Florida; editor Florida Historical Quarterly; Director, RICHES of Central Florida.

Continuing NGS’s goal of providing quality educational opportunities to its participants, the lectures will cover a wide range of local, regional, and general genealogy topics which will help you build a solid foundation for your family history, fine-tune your research skills, and refine your methodology. Lecture topics covered at the conference will include: Across the Pond, African American, British Isles, Cemeteries, Changing Places, Context, Courthouse Research, DNA, Florida, Florida Military, Gulf Coast and Caribbean, Internet and Technology, Jewish, Land Records, Methods for Success, Military, New York Research, Organizing and Planning, Resources and Repositories, Sharing Your Research Stories, Starting Off, State Research, Tips and Techniques, and Women. The Board for Certification of Genealogists’ Skillbuilding track will again be an integral part of the conference and presented over the four days of the event.

Registration is currently open. To register online, visit the NGS website at http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/register and complete the registration form.

The online searchable program is available at http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/ and the PDF brochure is available at http://goo.gl/w40zSO. The brochure includes an overview of the sessions, tours, pre-conference events, registration times, and rates, as well as general conference and hotel details. Attendees are urged to visit the conference blog at conferenceblog.ngsgenealogy.org, which will feature tips on local and regional research facilities as well as things to do in and around Ft. Lauderdale and updated information on hotel availability and local restaurants.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists.
9 January 2016: CAGGNI DNA SIG with Alan & Michelle Wilson, www.caggni.org


9 January 2016: St. Louis County Library Headquarters Auditorium, Bob Goode presents “How to Use Evernote for Genealogical Research”, 10:00 AM, www.stlgs.org


13 January 2016: DuPage County Genealogical Society, Mark Hayes presents “Transporting the Dead”, www.dcgs.org


23 January 2016: Swedish American Genealogical Society, Kathy Meade presents “Updates to ArkivDigital and Lesser Used Records”, genealogy@samac.org

23 January 2016: McLean County Genealogy Society Open House 50th Anniversary, 1:00-3:00 PM, McLean County Museum of History, www.mcgs.org


28 January 2016: Kane County Genealogy Society, Thomas MacEntee presents webinar “The 15 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists”

31 January 2016: Jewish Genealogical Society of IL, Walter Reed presents “Genealogy Research & Book Research have a lot in Common”, www.jgsi.org


10 February 2016: Fountaindale Public Library, Patricia Biallas presentness “Cemetery Sleuthing”, www.fountaindale.org


13 February 2016: North Suburban Genealogical Society, Teresa Steinkamp McMillan, CG presents “Truth or Fiction? Unraveling a family yarn”, nsgsil.org


25 February 2016: Kane County Genealogy Society, Debra Dudek presents “Billion Graves: Beyond the Basics”

27 February 2016: Swedish American Genealogical Society, Orphan Train video, genealogy@samac.org

5 March 2016: NW Suburban Genealogy Society, Teresa Steinkamp McMillin presents “Reading Between the Lines of the City Directory”, 10:00 AM, Arlington Heights Senior Center, www.nwsgenealogy.org

5 March 2016: Chicago Genealogical Society, Grace DuMelle presents “A Quest for IL State Hospital Records”, 1:30 PM, Newberry Library, www.chicagogenealogy.org

Genealogy Events continued on the next page…
Genealogy Events continued for complete event information, go to ISGS website, events

12 March 2016: DuPage County Genealogical Society, 41st Annual Conference, NIU Conference Center, Naperville, IL, www.dcg.org

19 March 2016: Swedish American Genealogical Society, “Let’s Visit Sweden”, genealogy@samac.org

2 April 2016: NW Suburban Genealogy Society, Diane Dassow presents “Get the Scoop: Interviewing to Gather Family Stories”, 10:00 AM, Arlington Heights Senior Center, www.nwsgenealogy.org

2 April 2016: St. Louis Genealogical Society’s 45th Annual Family History Conference “A Whole New World for Genealogists” www.stlgs.org

2 April 2016: Chicago Genealogical Society, Michael Lacopo presents Spring Genealogy Seminar, 4 programs, 10-4, www.chicagogenealogy.org

4-7 May 2016: NGS annual conference, For Lauderdale, Florida, http: conference.ngsgenealogy.org

7 May 2016: NW Suburban Genealogy Society, George Findlen presents “Researching at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives”, 10:00 AM, Arlington Heights Senior Center, www.nwsgenealogy.org


18 June 2016: CAGGNI, GeneaQuest 2016 Conference, Schaumburg, IL, caggni.org


Governing Board Meetings: Open to Members

Saturday, February 20, 2016 - Conference Call/Virtual Meeting
Details to follow closer to the date
8:30 am Exec Committee Meeting
10:00 am Governing Board Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2016 at ALPL Springfield, IL
8:30 am Exec Committee Meeting
9:30 am Exec & Gov. Social Time
10:00 am Governing Board Meeting

Saturday, August 13, 2016 at Location TBD - due to the State Fair in Springfield
8:30 am Exec Committee Meeting
9:30 am Exec & Gov. Social Time
10:00 am Governing Board Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend any Governing Board meeting (10:00 AM).
DeWitt County Genealogical Society
The DeWitt County Genealogical Society Library, is located in the Vespasian Warner Library in Clinton, IL. We just moved in November 2014 through February of 2015 from the main level of the library to the lower level. We moved to a smaller space so we spent this past year reorganizing & sorting and labeling our collection. We have settled into our new area and only missed about 2 weeks of not being available for research.

We are presently working on our new website www.dewittcountygenealogicalsociety.com. It is up and running but we are still adding information to it. There is a list of our holdings in one section. One of the holdings we have that researchers might be interested in are original Probate Records for our area. This does not include the Wills but has a lot of good information for researchers. We are open Monday through Saturday during library hours and our volunteers are available to help on Thursdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

submitted by DCGS President Beverly Heartsick

Genealogy Society of Southern IL
At the December 5, 2015 meeting, Board Members were elected for 2016.
Selected were:
- President: Jackie Lyell
- 1st Vice President: Phil Stucker
- 2nd Vice President: Dorothy Clutts Rudoni
- Recording Secretary: Julia Mowery
- Corresponding Secretary: Rosemary Mathis
- Treasurer: Melodie Penrod
- Member at Large: Joy Whitson Upton
- Director 2016-2018: Dusty Renee Boner
- Director 2016-2018: Don Riggin

Chicago Genealogical Society
The Chicago Genealogical Society (CGS), a not-for-profit educational organization devoted to celebrating the history of all those who contributed to the development of Chicago and its surrounding area, announces its Writing Contest for 2015–2016. The contest is designed to encourage those with a Chicago connection in their family history to share their genealogical research in narrative format. Submissions may be either a family history that covers three to four generations, or a personal history about life in Chicago, and must demonstrate proper use of genealogical methodology, techniques, and sources. The contest is open to CGS members and non-members alike.

Entries will be accepted September 1, 2015 through May 30, 2016. A panel of our readers will judge the submissions based on quality of writing, originality of research, and range of sources consulted and award cash prizes for First, Second, and Third place. Winners will be announced by September 1, 2016, and the winning stories will be published in Chicago Genealogist, the CGS quarterly members’ magazine.

For more information and guidelines for submitting your story, go to chicagogenealogy.org/contest/
The Lee County Historical Society and the Lee County Genealogical Society merged into one society in October 2014. As many societies have experienced the same members were in both societies and there was a duplicate of resources. The Genealogical Society was the stronger society, and the Historical Society was the older, but had very few volunteers and was not really active. Research was done, and it was decided to merge into one society.

Since the merger the LCHGS has reopened the Old Settlers Cabin at the Abraham Lincoln Park on the north side of the river, and the two libraries have been merged into one complete library at 113 S. Hennepin Ave. The duplicate books have been put on shelves in the lower level of the library. The lower level is available for long term research with scanners, microfilm readers, and computers.

The society is also very proud of the work that has been done by Patrick Gorman in acquiring Civil War tombstones and restoring/replacing GAR Stars at the Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon, Illinois. Pat said the first Civil War tombstone he did was in Binghampton, Illinois at the Binghampton Cemetery east of Amboy, IL about 8 years ago. Since 2011 Pat has been working on replacing and making sure GAR Stars are in the correct lot and grave at the Oakwood Cemetery. He has identified 317 GAR Stars that need to be replaced/restored or placed at the correct lot or grave. There are approximately 30-35 Civil War graves without tombstones. He has sent in 19 applications to request a VA tombstone for their graves. Of the 317 GAR Stars he has identified 66 remaining stars that need to be replaced or restored. The men that work at Oakwood Cemetery have Pat on their “fast dial” when they find a broken star, and he recognizes where they found it. He then does research to figure out who the star belongs to and takes it to Polo, Illinois to be sandblasted. The stars are put on a new metal pipe and then taken to Raynor Manufacturing that donates the powder coating process. After they are powder coated they are positioned where they belong back at the cemetery. After all this process Pat photographs each grave with a flag and the star of the society files.

In the process he has done a total of 470 military stakes. He told us when he would be researching a GAR Star he would come across a Spanish American War Star or a Woman’s Relief Corps emblem and couldn’t help but want to fix these markers. He is constantly on the lookout at the cemetery for military markers that need replacing or fixing.

Submitted by Janice Conkrite, LCHGS Recording Secretary

Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society
113 S. Hennepin Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
News from Local IL Genealogy Societies

Congratulations MCGS!

Celebrating 50 Years of Serving the Genealogical Community
Dallas Genealogical Society 2016 Writing Contest
Opens January 1; Closes March 31

The Dallas Genealogical Society announces that its 2016 Writing Contest will open for entries on January 1, 2016. This is the fourth year the Society has sponsored this contest, which comes with cash prizes.

The contest is open to both members and non-members of DGS, as well as hobbyists and professionals. Only original material not previously published elsewhere in any format is eligible. Entries will be accepted January 1 through March 31, 2016. Winners will be announced in May 2016.

While DGS has a goal of preserving Dallas history, subject matter for the competition may range beyond the local geographic area. Articles may include:
- advanced methodologies and case studies (not limited by geography)
- family histories and genealogies, particularly those linked to North Texas, including those who came from or left to settle elsewhere
- transcriptions, abstracts or indexes of record groups (including family records) not yet filmed or digitized that relate to Dallas or North Texas
- ethnic, house, or military histories related to Dallas and surrounding counties.

Entries will be judged on accuracy, clarity of writing, and overall impact and interest. First prize is $500; second prize is $300 and third prize is $100. Complete Rules are available at: http://dallasgenealogy.com/dgs/publications/pegasus.

Winning articles are eligible to be published in *Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society*. Past winning entries can be read in the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Research Issues of *Pegasus*, which members can access through the DGS website. Use them as examples of outstanding research and writing.

Send entries via email only, with “DGS Writing Competition” in the subject line to: pegasus@dallasgenealogy.org

About the Dallas Genealogical Society
Founded in 1954, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest continuously functioning society of its kind in Texas. The object of this Society is to educate by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy; to assist and support the genealogy section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas; and to collect, preserve, copy, and index information relating to the Dallas area and its early history. The Dallas Public Library has been rated as one of the Top 10 libraries for genealogy research in the U.S. by Family Tree Magazine.

DGS is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation and a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).
Begins January 5, 2016!

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library has placed more than 740 music related pieces online. Go the chroniclingillinois.org and click on collections to see the list of music collections.


8 December 2015: Ancestry to retire Family Tree Maker Software. See the link for more information http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/08/ancestry-to-retire-family-tree-maker-software/.

9 December 2015: Ancestry gives more information and clarifications on their decision http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/09/more-information-on-family-tree-maker-desktop-software/
Sound Genealogical Research – Why Bother?
I freely admit to genealogists of all skill level, from beginner to advanced, that I started out as a “name collector” and didn’t employ the best research methodologies. Over the past few years I’ve taken time to study and use different proven methodologies which the genealogy community considers to be “sound.” For me, my personal family history research is an investment and something that I tend to frequently, with love and with care. It is something I want to pass on to others in my family and ensure my family’s legacy. So why wouldn’t I want to take my time and do it right?

Tracking Your Research
Tracking research is important especially if you want to make the most of your offline research trips to repositories as well as the use of online resources. Each fact or relationship to prove will be logged in a spreadsheet or some other tracking device (depending on your research habits and comfort level). As a result, you should be able to tell which resources you have already used and easily return to your research even after several weeks or months.

Tools to Use
Here are some formats for research logs currently used by genealogists:

- **Genealogy Database Programs:** Software which lets you track your genealogy research. RootsMagic, with a free version available for download, has a Research Log report built in as a feature. It is organized using a series of questions such as “What were you trying to find?” and “What source did you check?” and “What were the results of your search?” Other programs such as Family Tree Maker and Legacy Family Tree have similar features.

- **Note Taking Programs:** Applications that allow you to create notebooks and capture web pages and documents include Evernote and OneNote. Nice features include the ability to take a photo of a document and send it right to the application, and the ability to tag and label information.

- **Productivity Applications:** Similar to Microsoft Office, Google Drive is a free online productivity suite with Document and Spreadsheet components that can be used to produce a research log.

- **Reference Management Programs:** These programs manage bibliographic data and research materials, usually online. Zotero includes web browser integration and generates source citations and Mendely offers similar features.

- **Forms.** There are also resources which offer a variety of free forms including research logs such as Ancestry.com’s Research Extract and Free Genealogy Forms and Charts forms.
Tips and Techniques

• **Understand the “why” of using a research log.** If you are using a research log only because other researchers are doing so, then you’re wasting your time. Understand the benefits of tracking your research journey on paper, in a digital document, or using an online application. You’ll have a better appreciation for the research log and the research process.

• **Select a format that you will use.** There’s no sense in taking the “square peg, round hole” approach and using a format such as an Excel spreadsheet if you don’t like using spreadsheets. You’ll only frustrate yourself and abandon all ideas of using any research log. Try different types and stick with what works for you.

• **Spend time setting up headings or categories.** When taking the spreadsheet approach which relies upon column headings, take time to consider which headings to use.

• **Shoot for a “one pass” goal.** When you find a record or piece of information, note all the information as if you might never find that item again. This means noting the date you found it, location, type of record, etc. You’re only kidding yourself if you say, “Oh, I’ll come back to that later.” Later is often “never” or a time when you need the information right away and it isn’t available.

• **Maintaining a research log is a discipline.** A discipline is created through hard work, practice and repetition until it becomes habit. Realize that you’ll make mistakes the first few entries. Then you’ll become better at entering information accurately and quickly.

Citing Sources

When I first learned about source citations, I didn’t believe they were necessary. I thought they were a waste of time. Over time, I realized the importance:

• **Establish Proof.** Cited material gives credibility to a fact or relationship while proving a connection.

• **Determine Reliability of Evidence.** Some sources are more reliable and make a stronger proof. Compare points of evidence based on their source.

• **Track Records and Resources.** Easily go back and locate records and their repository. This is effective when the original record or a copy is lost.

• **Expand Research.** When encountering a difficult area of research, look for sources that were successful in making a proof and check them again.

• **Discover Conflicts.** Locate contradictions in existing research or when new evidence is found.

• **Understand the Research Process.** When using another researcher’s work, sources can give a glimpse at how that research was developed.

• **Placeholders.** Pick up a research project where you left off by looking at source citations.
Learning the correct way to cite sources is not difficult and there are plenty of resources and even templates in genealogy software programs to speed up the process.

**The Basics of Citing Sources**

Oh if it were easy to state that there was one simple method of citing sources. The truth is that due to the myriad of sources used for genealogical research, it is difficult to develop a “one size fits all” method.

Use a journalist's “who, what, where, why, when” approach when constructing source citations. Most citations use this format: Author, *Title*, Publisher, Locator, Date. For online sources, remember to add an Accessed field listing the URL and the date accessed.

**Using Genealogy Software Templates**

Exercise care when using genealogy database software that has source citation templates. Understand thoroughly how they work from creating a master source to using short sources. Many genealogists prefer to simply craft their own source citations manually and paste them into the Notes field for each data point.

**Creating Your Own Source Citation Templates**

Many genealogists who cite sources on a consistent basis have a few tricks up their sleeves. One main trick: the use of source citation templates. One method is to create a “cheat sheet” with the most frequently-utilized source citations, and creating “blanks” for relevant date. Here is an example for Ancestry.com US Census images, 1850-1940:

```
[Year] U.S. census, [County] County, [State], population schedule, [City], Enumeration District [ED] ____, p. ____ [(penned) or (stamped)], dwelling ____, family ____, [name]: digital images, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed [date]); from National Archives microfilm publication __, roll ____, image ____.
```

Simply copy and paste the text above and then “customize” it with specific data for the record you are citing and evaluating.

**Evaluating Evidence**

Another research mistake resulting in unstable trees filled with questionable and unproven branches: my refusal to really look at the data I was gathering. I didn't discriminate when it came to my finds: If a name was in a book without sources, it went into my family tree. If an ancestor was on someone else’s online tree, it went into my family tree. I was a genealogy data hoarder. My plan now is to look at each document and determine whether or not it proves or disproves each research question.

**Basic Elements of Evidence Evaluation**

Have you ever looked closely at a vital record such as a birth or death certificate? I mean REALLY close . . . every line, front and back, every stray mark? That is what we should do as genealogists but many of us get caught up in the excitement of the find, that our eyes only gravitate towards what we feel matters at that time.
The following fields can be used when working with The Board for Certification of Genealogists’ 
Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources.

• **Source Type**: A source is **Original** if it is the first written statement, photograph, or 
  recording of an event. Subsequent copies are **Derivative** and may be reproduced by 
  hand, machine, camera or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, in microform, as 
  photographs or digital images, or in any other medium that records the image whether 
  transcribed by hand or technology.

• **Clarity**: Use **Clear** If the information can easily be read. Use **Marginal** if information is not 
  clear, is partially obscured and researcher must "guess" at words or letters.

• **Information Type**: Use **Primary** if a piece of information is recorded by a knowledgeable 
  eyewitness or participant in that event, or by an official whose duties require him or her to 
  make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use **Secondary** if information is 
  supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors caused by 
  memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional 
  stress.

• **Evidence Type**: **Direct** evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. **Indirect** evidence is 
  inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

**Putting the Results to Work**

Employing a sound research methodology and using it consistently will greatly improve the 
quality of your research. Once you’ve learned the elements above – for both source citations and 
evidence evaluation – and you continue to practice on various types of documents, you’ll have 
more success in piecing together your family history.

©2015, copyright Thomas MacEntee. Used by permission. All rights reserved. For more 
information, please visit High-Definition Genealogy at http://hidefgen.com.

**Resource List**

• **The Genealogical Proof Standard**
  http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html

• **Excel Version – Genealogy Research Log**
  http://www.geneabloggers.com/genreslog

• **Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources**
  http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld085.html

• **Genealogy Standards: 50th Anniversary Edition**
  http://www.geneabloggers.com/genstandardslegacy

• **Mastering Genealogical Proof**
  http://www.geneabloggers.com/mastergenprooflegacy

• **Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace**
  http://www.geneabloggers.com/eelegacy

• **Evidence Explained Website**
  https://www.evidenceexplained.com/
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE) is reminding writers IN ALL MEDIA (magazines, newspapers, journals, websites, blogs) that the 2016 Excellence-in-Writing Competition is now open for entries through 15 June 2016.

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:

**Category I – Columns.** This is for columns of original content, published on a regular basis, in any medium, published in 2015. Each entry must consist of 2,000 words or fewer. These are entries from the author’s regular column—not features. Note that these may be print or online columns (including blogs).

**Category II -- Articles.** These one-time articles (not part of the author’s column) must have been published in 2015 in a journal, magazine, newsletter, blog or website. Entries cannot exceed 5,000 words. Note that these may be print or online articles, including GUEST entries on a blog. Footnotes are not included in the word count.

**Category III – Genealogy Newsletter.** This category is for society or family association newsletters published in 2015. Entries should consist of two issues, each submitted as a single file in PDF format. The judging will be based on originality, content, visual appeal, writing and editing quality, and accuracy. The award is to the editor of the publication. These may be print or online newsletters. The once-a-year newsletters usually sent at Christmas do not qualify for this competition as two issues from the same calendar year are needed.

**Category IV – Unpublished Authors.** Entrants in this category aspire to be published writers or columnists in the field of genealogy, family or local history. The submissions in this category are original and unpublished, between 500 and 2,000 words. Since these are UNPUBLISHED, blogs are not eligible for this category. The articles should be unpublished at the time they were submitted to the competition.

**Category V– Unpublished material - Published Authors.** This category is for original unpublished genealogically related articles by previously published authors. Entries should be between 500 and 3,000 words. Since these are UNPUBLISHED, blogs are not eligible for this category. The articles should be unpublished at the time they were submitted to the competition.

**Category VI – Poetry.** This category is for original content (published in 2015 or unpublished), that is related to family history. Entries should be no longer than 1000 words and have a title. This may include song lyrics (music is not judged).

Winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in each category will be awarded a cash prize and a certificate. Emailed certificates may be awarded for Honorable Mentions. The awards will be announced during FGS Conference 2016.

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 “2016 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
Finding the Dead: Illinois Death Certificates Lookup Service at ISGS

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

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

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

Requesting a Death Certificate: The Process

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

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

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

Revenues Support ISGS Operations

In the past few years we have seen a marked decrease in income from the ISGS death certificate lookup service. Proceeds directly support ISGS office operations. So remember to take advantage of this service, whether you are a member of ISGS or not!
The Illinois State Genealogical Foundation was established in 2012 as a wholly non-profit tax-exempt corporation, organized and chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois, with charitable and educational purposes.

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

The purpose of the foundation is to

- Assist in developing and increasing educational opportunities for the genealogical and historical community of Illinois

- Provide service for students and organizations whose primary interest involves the study and education of genealogical and historical events in Illinois

- Encourage gifts of money, property, historical papers and documents, and other material having educational, artistic, scientific and/or historical value and by such other proper means as may be determined. The Foundation will receive, hold, and administer such gifts with the primary intent of serving the genealogical and historical community in Illinois.

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

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

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

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

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

ISG Foundation address: 906 Switchgrass Lane, Champaign, IL 61822
Illinois State Genealogical Society
2015—2016 Governing Board

Officers
President: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Vice President: Howard Manthei, Yorkville
2nd Vice President: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal
Recording Secretary: Laura Kovarik, Naperville
Treasurer: Margaret Truax, Aurora

Directors
2016 Directors: Darlene Hinkle, Amboy; Jackie Lyell, Marion; Donna Pond Hartwig, Peoria
2017 Directors: Karl Moore, Pawnee; David Kent Coy, Decatur; Tony Burroughs, Chicago
2018 Directors: Kristy Gravlin, Plano; Angela Cathey McGhee, Chicago; Barbara McKean, Springfield

Immediate Past President
Jayne Cates, St. Charles

Standing Committee Chairs
Conference: Joan Kitchen-Murray, Peotone
Finance & Budget: Rick Shields, Ottawa
Honors and Awards: Linda Wallin, Palatine
Local Society Liaison: Sandra Barnett, Springfield
Long Range Planning: Open
Membership: Anita Boyd, Winfield

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: open
Bylaws/Policy/Procedure: Howard Manthei, Yorkville
Cemetery Records: John Heider, Monticello
Church Records: Darlene Hinkle, Amboy
Education: Thomas MacEntee, Chicago
Family Bible Records: Kristy Gravlin, Plano
FGS 2016 Conference Local Host Chair: Laura Kovarik, Naperville
Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Illinois Bicentennial: Open
Indexing Coordinator: Clyda Ogle, Gilberts
ISGS 50th Anniversary History: David Kent Coy, Decatur
ISGS IL Legislative: open
Military Certificates: Charles Dobias, Collinsville
Office Liaison: Susan Scoville Pope, Normal
Parliamentarian: Janice Fritsch, Sandwich
Prairie Pioneer Certificates: Sandra Parker, Bloomington
Website Administrator: Open

Office Secretary-Evelyn Edwards