Enter the 2013 ISGS Ancestor Photo Contest

One of the most common questions asked about the ISGS website seems to be: “Who are those people in the photos at the top of the page?”

The photo to the left and all the photos you see in the header of the ISGS Website were winners in our 2012 ISGS Ancestor Photo contest. ISGS is happy to announce the 2013 ISGS Ancestor Photo Contest and asks this question: Wouldn’t it be great to see your own ancestors’ photos up there?

Between April 1 and May 31, 2013, ISGS is asking members to submit photos of their own ancestors for use on the ISGS website. If your photo is selected, it will be displayed on a rotating-basis in the top banner of the ISGS website along with other member-submitted photos starting on or just before July 1, 2013. You can view all the previous years’ winners at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=156.

Not only will you be credited with the photo submission, but you’ll also be able to provide a brief biography of the person or persons in the photo.

Visit the 2013 ISGS Ancestor Photo Contest page at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=71 and use the entry form to submit your photos. Or go to http://ilgensoc.org/upload/menu/ISGS_Photo_Release.pdf to print out the form and submit your ancestor photos today!

NOTE: You must be a member of ISGS to participate in the 2013 Ancestor Photo Contest.

About.com 2013 Genealogy Readers’ Choice Awards - Best State Genealogical Society: ISGS!

Readers nominated their favorites for the 2013 About Genealogy Readers’ Choice Awards and then voted from among the finalists in eleven categories. Voting was open from February 19 through March 19, 2013, with winners announced on March 27, 2013. The polls were audited and validated. And the winner was .... the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

According to About.com, “This very involved state genealogical society was lauded for its “great quarterly journal” and “free monthly webinars,” but most especially for its matching member donations to the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions Project, to the tune of $10,000. It is also important to note that while the Indiana Genealogical Society did not make the list of Readers’ Choice finalists, they were also nominated for matching $10,000 in member donations to the Preserve the Pensions project.
President’s Message

I just attended the RootsTech family history and technology conference in Salt Lake City hosted by FamilySearch.org. One theme that RootsTech focused on this year was telling your story. How often family members ask us, “What have you found?” and, “When are you going to write your book?” I know that often the answer is, “When I get done with the research.” We all know that the research never seems to end, there’s always something else out there about our ancestors just waiting to be discovered. It’s hard to stop and tell their story now, just with what we have discovered at this moment.

RootsTech presenters told of many ways to share and preserve those stories. You don’t have to write that novel about your entire genealogy. Writing a story about an event in one of your ancestor’s lives is a way to begin. A blog is a great way to share that story for all of your “cousins” to read and maybe they’ll have other stories to share with you.

I know several Illinois genealogical societies have writing groups. This is a great way for members to get ideas about what to write and to have the support of their friends while doing it.

Another way to share information about your Illinois ancestors is in the ISGS Quarterly. Please contact our editor at isgsquarterly@ilgensoc.org to learn more about what you need to do.

Help bring your ancestors back to life by recording their story in some form so your children, grandchildren and great-great grandchildren will know them.

Take care,
Jane G. Haldeman
President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

Illinois Cemeteries Location Database Online

By Becky Higgins
ISGS Cemeteries Chair

Have you looked at the Illinois Cemetery Locations database on the ISGS website yet?

If not, now is a good time to check it out and help us at the same time. We want to make this database as accurate as possible and really can’t do that without assistance from our Illinois members and guests, especially those familiar with the cemeteries in their local counties.

The request is really quite simple. Go to the database (directions below) and look at the information given for the cemeteries in your County. If you find an error or have additional information, email me, Becky Higgins at: isgscemeteries@ilgensoc.org and I’ll do my best to make the updates as quickly as possible. If a local genealogy society has publications of transcripts from any of these cemeteries or has posted readings or photos online, please give me that information so we can direct researchers to that detail.

Here’s how to access the database:
1. Go to the ISGS website.
2. On the left sidebar, click on the blue bar titled Free Databases.
3. From the list choose Illinois

Cemetery Locations.

4. Leave the Cemetery Name box blank; click on the arrow to the right of the County box and choose the desired County.

5. Scroll through the various cemeteries. An “eye” icon in the Actions column indicates additional information; click on the “eye” to see more. Only 50 cemeteries are presented per page so be sure to look at all the pages for your County.

I hope you enjoy the database as it is and are willing to help us make it even better.
ISGS VOLUNTEERS ALERT!

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 Quarterly Design and Technical Editor:** The Design and Technical Editor works with the Quarterly Editor to produce a polished publication. A working knowledge of design and layout principles and the use of Adobe In-Design is desirable.

**Membership Committee Members:** ISGS’s Membership Committee is in the process of verifying members’ email addresses. Since emails sometimes bounce, we follow up with phone calls to make sure we have the correct addresses. We do not want our members to miss any ISGS news or other benefits! If you can help us make some calls, please let us know!

**Youth Creative Contest Coordinator:** The Education Committee would like to implement an annual youth creative contest in 2013. The contest will have three categories (writing, artwork, and photography) and three age group divisions. The Coordinator will fill in the details, and help to implement it.

**Writers:** Part of the ISGS mission is to educate its members and the public. The Education Committee needs volunteers interested in sharing their knowledge by writing educational articles and guides. We have a lot of ideas on the table, but we need your help to make them a reality.

**Honors & Awards Committee Chair:** The chair solicits nominations from individuals and societies for each of the ISGS annual awards. The nominations are discussed in committee and finalists are presented with awards in the fall.

**Church Records Committee Chair:** The Church Records project identifies Illinois church repositories by denomination and assembles files containing church history and record access information.

**Long-Range Planning Committee Chair:** This committee considers plans for the improvement of the Society. They solicit suggestions from the membership, make regular reports to the Board, and present projects for action.

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**ISGS Researcher’s Guide Available**

A new online resource is now available to ISGS members — the *ISGS Researcher’s Guide*. Originally published in 2001, this updated guide lists contact information for all 102 Illinois County Offices, many genealogy societies, and genealogists.

Located at the ISGS website ([http://www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org)) in the “Members Section”, this database can be searched to readily locate handy contact information. According to Howard Manthei, ISGS Publications Chairperson, “This is the first of several projects that the Society is in the process of working on that will provide electronic access to a number of our publications.”

If any edits are needed to a listing or if you wish to add yourself (as a genealogist) or organization to the *Researchers Guide*, contact Howard Manthei at: isgspublications@ilgensoc.org.

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**ISGS Newsletter Deadlines**

- May-June 2013 Issue
  - Articles/ads due: May 1
- July-August 2013 Issue
  - Articles/ads due: July 1
- September-October 2013 Issue
  - Articles/ads due: September 1
- November-December 2013 Issue
  - Articles/ads due: November 1

Email all articles & photos to Newsletter Editor at: isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org

Email all ads to Advertising Chair at: isgsadvertising@ilgensoc.org
Do you have a few suggestions for the ISGS Website?
The website committee is eager to hear your thoughts! If you have suggestions, questions, or comments on the website, please use the Website Suggestion Form at [http://www.ilgensoc.com/cpage.php?pt=87](http://www.ilgensoc.com/cpage.php?pt=87) or email the ISGS website Chair at: ISGSWebsite@ilgensoc.org.

New Additions to ISGS Website
We’ve added or updated the following pages to the ISGS Website:

- [ISGS Webinars](http://www.ilgensoc.com/cpage.php?pt=87) – Members Section: for ISGS Members, the handouts and recordings for two more webinars (Best Genealogy Present You Can Give Yourself: Citing Your Sources by Harold Henderson, CG, and Back to Your Roots: Planning a Successful Heritage Research Trip by Lisa Alzo) are available in the Members Section.

- Surname Research Database


Have You Logged In At The ISGS Website?
Did you know that almost half of our over 1,300 members have never logged in at our website? If you have not received your [ISGS Member Login Instructions](mailto:isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org), please contact the ISGS Webmaster at [isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org](mailto:isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org).

Kentucky Genealogical Society Announces August 3 Seminar
The Kentucky Genealogical Society (KGS) is pleased to announce that the presenter at this year’s KGS Seminar on **August 3, 2013** will be J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA.

The seminar will be held at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, KY.

Mr. Lowe is an award-winning professional genealogist, instructor, author, blogger, and research consultant for several televised genealogical programs, including the popular “Who Do You Think You Are” series. He specializes in Kentucky and Tennessee research and shares his genealogical expertise – along with his southern style and sense of humor – with diverse audiences throughout the nation.

Mr. Lowe will present four enlightening, entertaining sessions:

1. **Ready-Set-Plan!** – Master a simple technique for splitting difficult research problems into manageable segments – and staying focused in the process!

2. **Finding Your Landless Ancestors** – Not every forebear made it into the deed books. Discover how to identify and track those who didn’t own land.

3. **Out on a Limb** – Is your research leading nowhere? Learn how to review your findings, sharpen your techniques, evaluate your sources, and map a new course.

4. **Coffins, Urns and Zip-lock Bags** – What can burial customs and cemetery stories tell us about our ancestors and our culture?

Details about Mr. Lowe, the seminar agenda, and seminar registration are available online at [http://www.KentuckyGenealogicalSociety.org](http://www.KentuckyGenealogicalSociety.org).

FGS Update
**Registration** for the FGS Conference August 21-24, 2013 in Fort Wayne, IN is now open. Register by **July 1** to take advantage of the earlybird price.

Since the first two conference hotels filled quickly, a third conference [hotel](http://www.FGSconference.org) has been added, the Holiday Inn Fort Wayne-IPFW & Coliseum, and that one is still taking reservations. Additional Fort Wayne hotels are listed on the FGS website.

Get all the up-to-date information on the conference website:

[https://www.fgsconference.org/](https://www.fgsconference.org/)
Join Us . . .

Spread the word about our free webinars by printing copies of our webinar flyer to hand out at your local society meetings.

The flyer can be accessed at http://ilgensoc.org/upload/menu/2013_webinar_Brochure.pdf

ISGS Monthly Webinars

2nd Tuesday of every month, 8:00 p.m. Central Time
Featuring some of the best known speakers in the field of genealogy!

April 9, 2013 — Digging Through Documents Word by Word, with Debra Mieszala
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3231307790843086592

May 14, 2013 — Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective, with Laura Prescott
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6182542135328835840

June 11, 2013 — The Research Calendar: A Resource You Cannot Live Without
Presenter: Luana Darby
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1792803534084357632

July 9, 2013 — Common Surnames: Ways to Identify Your Ancestors in a Crowd
Presenter: Juliana Smith
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5387125736981834496

For the complete list of upcoming webinars, visit: http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234

Please direct any questions to the ISGS Education Committee at isgseducation@ilgensoc.org

Preservation Tip — Advice from the National Park Service

by Curt B. Witcher

It is said that one can find anything and everything on the Internet, and sometimes from the most unlikely sources. Did you know the National Park Service (NPS) publishes technical leaflets to help one preserve, repair, and conserve documents and other artifacts?

Their publications, available for free online, are called “Conserve-0-Grams.” They cover a wide range of topics with simple, easy-to-understand procedures. Intended for NPS staff, they have wide applicability for many everyday preservationists. A number of the leaflets are a bit dated, but sound advice and strategies never really go out of date. Check out the website:

www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conservogram/cons_toc.html

[Reprinted with permission]
Welcome New ISGS Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerri Larkin</td>
<td>Three Rivers, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary McCarthy</td>
<td>Elmhurst, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toni Johnson</td>
<td>Springville, UT</td>
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<td>Evelyn Cowan</td>
<td>South Holland, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Cowan</td>
<td>South Holland, IL</td>
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<td>Darcey Finley</td>
<td>Marengo, IL</td>
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<td>Carol Lussky</td>
<td>Elgin, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Malooley</td>
<td>Terre Haute, IN</td>
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<td>Julie Clark</td>
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<td>Cindy Anderson</td>
<td>Eagle Grove, IA</td>
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<td>Hilarie Pozesky</td>
<td>Oak Park, IL</td>
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<td>Catherine Strong</td>
<td>Geneseo, IL</td>
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<td>Jaclyn Wertis</td>
<td>Tulsa, OK</td>
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<td>Carol Musur</td>
<td>Hawthorn Woods, IL</td>
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<td>Debra Meyer</td>
<td>Gold Canyon, AZ</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Parrott</td>
<td>West Frankfort, IL</td>
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<td>Gail Cassel</td>
<td>Pueblo, CO</td>
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<td>Frances Woodson</td>
<td>Darien, IL</td>
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<td>Valerie Hansen</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td>Liz Brooks</td>
<td>Cape Coral, FL</td>
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<td>Regina Jones</td>
<td>Lindenhurst, IL</td>
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<td>Mary Hoyer</td>
<td>Rolling Meadows, IL</td>
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<td>Allen Johnson</td>
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<td>Shirley Shaw</td>
<td>Kingsland, TX</td>
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<td>Ann McDonald</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn, IL</td>
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<td>Leslie Rankin</td>
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<td>Chrystal Dagit</td>
<td>Pekin, IL</td>
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<td>Misty Ellis</td>
<td>New London, MO</td>
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<td>James &amp; Judy West</td>
<td>Urbana, IL</td>
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<td>Carol Pieper</td>
<td>Sierra Vista, AZ</td>
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<td>Paula Peddicord</td>
<td>Williamsville, IL</td>
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<td>Cathy S. Mosley</td>
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<td>Trace Rankin</td>
<td>Jaconson, CA</td>
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<td>Colleen Graham</td>
<td>Reseda, CA</td>
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<td>Laurann Bibbs</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Frank Klen</td>
<td>Coal City, IL</td>
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<td>Terri Cameron</td>
<td>Springfield, IL</td>
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<td>Leonard P. Lucas</td>
<td>Carbondale, IL</td>
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<td>Lynn Reener</td>
<td>Litchfield, IL</td>
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<td>Afro-American Gen. &amp; Historical Society of Chicago</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Ann ORourke</td>
<td>West Covina, CA</td>
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<td>Genealogy Society of So. IL</td>
<td>Carterville, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belva &amp; Kevin Dodd</td>
<td>Quincy, IL</td>
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Using the “Find a Grave” Website

By Martin W. Johnson

I’ve been doing a lot of research on Findagrave.com. If you haven’t tried it out yet, I will provide the steps below.

1. Go to [http://findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)
2. You register as a user & submitter.
3. At the main page, top left categories -
   A. You can do a person search, which usually does not find anyone.
4. Each cemetery grave entry has a findagrave number & submitters name.
   - You can click “Edit” & submit a correction & request the grave be transferred to your findagrave number for your management.
   - Or just ask the person to correct or add information (Or tell them about a grave number link.) (I like to add good biographies.)
   - You can also click on the submitter’s name & send an e-mail to them.
5. You can submit a name & information for any cemetery or grave.
   - You can post a grave picture, person’s picture, biographies etc. (Crop pictures and borders first before submitting).
6. If you manage the grave memorial, you can click on Edit or Biography and add information.
   - You can click on Edit Links and add a father or mother or spouse’s findagrave number.
   - Then anyone can click on a noted link & go back in time in findagrave entries. (Even to a grave in Europe.)
7. Pictures can be added to the website at any time.

View upcoming Genealogy Events
www.ilgensoc.org/events.php
What’s Your Story?

Every family’s got one…

...a story that is. What’s yours? Was your ancestor an Illinois native or did he pass through, stay briefly and then move on? Where did she live? What kind of work did he do? What clues did your ancestors leave to mark their path in, around or across this state? Have you considered sharing your ancestor’s tale in the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly?

This publication is dedicated to publishing a wide range of original articles with an Illinois connection and we’d love to hear yours. If you have a story you’d like to share please contact our editor at isgsquarterly@ilgensoc.org. We’ll let you know what you need to do to bring your family’s story to life.
ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers 2013

President: Jane Haldeman
1st Vice President: Tony Burroughs
2nd Vice President: Susan Scoville Pope
Treasurer: Michele Claypool
Recording Secretary: Tammy Spearie

2013 Directors: Ann Wells, Annabelle Bradshaw, Dan Dixon
2014 Directors: Karl Moore, Jennifer Holik-Urban
2015 Directors: Jayne Cates, Becky Higgins, Kristy Gravlin

Contact ISGS
ISGS, PO Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195
Executive Office: Illinois State Archives Bldg., 2nd Floor
Website: http://ilgensoc.org/index.php

ISGS Office Hours
Mondays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Newsletter Published in
January, March, May, July, September, November

• Newsletter article contributions are due the 30th of the month prior to publishing.
• Advertising options available. Contact the Advertising Chair at: isgsadvertising@ilgensoc.org
Newsletter Editor: isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org

Renew Your Membership Online
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: $30
Joint (two people at same address): $35

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.