ISGS RAISES OVER $40,000 DURING WAR OF 1812
RECORDS PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN

Preserve the Pensions Project to Digitize Important Pension
Records and Provide Free Access to the Public

December 11, 2012 – Springfield, IL. The Illinois State Genealogical
Society (ISGS) is proud to announce that it has completed its recently
launched $10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge with strong
support from ISGS members as well as the genealogical community.

On June 18, 2012, the 200th anniversary of the declaration of the War of 1812, ISGS announced its $10,000 War of
1812 Pension Match Challenge. ISGS made a commitment to match any contribution (up to the first $10,000) made to
the Preserve the Pensions project before December 31, 2012. In addition, Ancestry.com announced that it would also
match all monies donated during the campaign, resulting in all contributions being quadrupled. A total of $40,000 to be
donated to the Preserve the Pensions project will result in 88,888 additional pages of the War of 1812 Pension and
Bounty Land Warrant Application Files being digitized over the next few months.

The Preserve the Pensions campaign (http://www.preservethepensions.org), sponsored by the Federation of Genea-
logical Societies (http://www.fgs.org) along with Ancestry.com, Fold3 and the National Archives, seeks to raise over
$3.7 Million needed to digitize the War of 1812 pension files that are currently stored in the National Archives and make
them freely available online. With over 180,000 Pension files in this historic record set and over 7.2 million pages, ac-
cess to these records will benefit not only genealogists and family historians, but a variety of researchers. In addition, the
digitization project will help preserve and halt further damage to these historical documents. The files are being digitized
as funds become available and many files are already viewable by visiting http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/.

ISGS President Jane Haldeman notes: “The ISGS board made a strong commitment to the preservation of the War of
1812 Pension Records when it issued the fundraising challenge earlier this year. ISGS thanks all who contributed, espe-
cially those members of the genealogy community who are not members of ISGS. Digitizing these records will benefit
ALL genealogists and hopefully result in more people locating information about their ancestors.”

ISGS is thankful for the support of its many members, contributors, and volunteers.
We wish everyone a joyful holiday season, and a
Happy New Year filled with genealogical discoveries!
**President’s Message**

I’ve been traveling to and from the ISGS Springfield office the last few of weeks. The office is open between 10am and 1pm on Monday and Thursday and I would like to welcome our new secretary Evelyn Edwards. While in the office I was thrilled to be able to meet a couple who stopped by to deliver documents for their Military Certificate applications, eleven applications in all. It was the culmination of a project that had taken many years. The eleven applications were all to honor one serviceman and the certificates were for everyone in the family.

I’ve had the opportunity to sign several Military and Prairie Pioneer Certificates since becoming the ISGS president in November. I was excited to sign ISGS’ first Black Hawk War certificate honoring Jackson Brice a Private in Captain William T. Given’s Company and ISGS’ first War of 1812 Certificate honoring Jacob Crowley’s service. This is especially timely since ISGS’ $10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge has just been fulfilled. This was a challenge that our Immediate Past President Janice Fritsch felt very strongly about. I am amazed at the generosity of the genealogical community. Donations have arrived from numerous states besides Illinois with Hawaii being the furthest one. Because of this effort many more of the 1812 pension applications will be digitized.

The **Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church 1837-1937** is ISGS’ newest free online database. Oriene Springstroh, the former editor of the ISGS Quarterly spent many hours compiling this database and Sheryl Grandt did a terrific job proofreading. This database is a great resource for anyone whose ancestors were involved with the church.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Take care,

*Jane G. Haldeman*

President, Illinois State Genealogical Society

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**Jesse White Announces New Electronic Database for Illinois State Archives**

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White announced that a new online database describing the documents and records maintained at the Illinois State Archives is now available. The database, called Archon, is a searchable finding aid for use in locating important historical information.

“As State Archivist, it is my mission to make Illinois records available and as easily accessible as possible,” said White. “With the use of the Internet, individuals can easily search for records held at the Illinois State Archives. I am proud to make these important historical documents easily accessible with the use of this advanced technology.”

Archon is an open source archival management system that was developed by archivists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is now used by more than 50 institutions across the country. It provides both a way for staff to record descriptive information about collections and a means for the public to view, search, and browse that information in a fully-functional website.

Archon’s public interface shows the most current information that is available to researchers because it is updated automatically once records are received by the Archives. Once information has been entered, it is instantly accessible, searchable, and browsable. The new electronic database can be found at [http://archon.ilsos.net](http://archon.ilsos.net). This new electronic database replaces a printed guide called “Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois.”
ISGS 2012 AWARD WINNERS

On October 20, 2012, five individuals were honored by the Illinois State Genealogical Society for their outstanding achievements in the field of genealogy. President Janice Fritch presented the awards at ISGS’s annual conference – Family History In Profile – in Rockford, Illinois:

Mrs. Rita Welsh, Oregon, IL, is a retired librarian for the Lee County Genealogical Society. Her wonderful memory for the local, and not so local, facts made her invaluable to researchers visiting the library in search of their “roots.” Rita was an outstanding example of loyalty, efficiency and willingness to do all she could to help people find their needed information.

Mrs. Rita Welsh
Special Recognition

D. Patrick Gorman, Dixon, IL, has helped military veterans from all over the world with their research, from the Civil War era through and including World War II. He has even found records for many foreign citizens who enlisted and fought for our country. He has been instrumental in obtaining and having markers placed for many veterans even though they may be buried in their homeland.

D. Patrick Gorman
Community Service Award

Merrill and Sheryl Prange, Fults, IL, have worked on 12 different cemeteries over the past 15 years that no one else wanted to take care of. They cut brush, mow, and repair headstones. They create an index of the stones for each new cemetery to share with the county genealogy society. They are not paid, but do this out of the goodness of their hearts.

Merrill and Sheryl Prange - Community Service Award

Thomas MacEntee, Chicago, IL, is a genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogy research and as a way to connect with others in the family history community. He is also the Webmaster for ISGS. Utilizing over 25 years of experience in the information technology field, Thomas writes and lectures on the many ways in which blogs, Facebook, and Twitter can be leveraged to add new dimensions to the genealogy experience.

Thomas MacEntee - Volkel Medal of Honor

According to Janice Fritsch, ISGS President: “Every year ISGS honors members of the genealogical community who have given beyond the ordinary, and this year is no exception. Thank you to those who submitted nominees for an ISGS award and congratulations to all the award winners!”

ISGS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

The following officers and directors were elected at the ISGS annual 2012 Conference in Rockford, IL October 20th.

2013 Officers: L to R, back: Outgoing President Janice Fritsch, Treasurer, Michele Claypool; Secretary, Tammy Spearie; 1st VP, Tony Burroughs; President, Jane Haldeman. L to R, front: 2nd VP, Susan Pope; 2015 Directors, Kristy Gravlin and Becky Higgins. (For a complete listing of 2013 Board members, visit www.ilgensoc.org/about.php)
ISGS VOLUNTEERS ALERT!

As we approach 2013, ISGS’s open positions list has grown due to various life changes we all experience, including a death in our “family,” and the creation of new positions. ISGS fully supports its board members serving in capacities that interest them, which can necessitate moves to new committees, leaving vacancies.

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.

Church Records Committee Chair: The Church Records project identifies Illinois church repositories by denomination and assembles files containing church history and record access information. Contact Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

Newsletter Editor: The Editor of the ISGS Newsletter receives articles and information for publication via email, and produces a newsletter six times a year (bimonthly). Experience with page layout design and writing/editing is desirable. Contact Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

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 InDesign is desirable. Contact Judy Milde, Editor, isgsquarterly@ilgensoc.org

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. Contact Julie Tarr, isgseducation@ilgensoc.org

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. Contact Julie Tarr, isgseducation@ilgensoc.org

Website Committee Chair: (This is not a webmaster position) This position monitors the ISGS website for errors, ease of use, etc. and notifies the Webmaster of any needs. Contact Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

Website Indexing Committee: Indexing projects are based on member submissions, ISGS holdings or other resources. Volunteers will scan images, and upload images and/or data to be indexed. Let us know if you would like to be involved! Contact Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

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. Contact Susie Pope, isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

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. Contact Janice Fritsch, isgspresident@ilgensoc.org

View Upcoming Genealogy Events
http://www.ilgensoc.org/events.php
Every 2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. CST.
Featuring some of the best-known speakers
in the field of genealogy today!


March 12, 2013—Back to Your Roots:  Planning A Successful Heritage Research Trip, with Lisa Alzo  Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8438226523594802432

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

And don't forget to spread the word by printing out a few copies of our webinar flyer to hand out at your local society meetings. The flyer can be accessed at http://ilgensoc.org/upload/menu/2012webinarbrochure.pdf

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

ISGS Website Update

Have You Used the ISGS Forums Yet?  
The ISGS Forums are a feature of the ISGS website where members can ask questions and hold discussions on a variety of genealogy-related topics. ISGS members can post messages and other ISGS members can respond to messages. Check it out at http://ilgensoc.org/forum.php.

Surname Research Database
The list of surnames researched by ISGS members keeps growing and is now over 750 names! Add your name by visiting http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=114

Have You Logged In At The ISGS Website?  
If you have not received your ISGS Member Login Instructions, please contact the ISGS Webmaster at isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?  
If you have suggestions, questions or comments on the ISGS Website, you can use the Website Suggestion Form at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=87 or email the ISGS Webmaster at isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org

Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church: 1837—1937 Database

The Illinois State Genealogical Society is pleased to announce a new database entitled Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church 1837-1937 Database (ICEC Records 1837-1937). This record set is a genealogical index to the book History of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church 1837-1937 and contains close to 12,000 records, all available free to the genealogy community.

The database records are listed in "page order" for those wanting to see the records as they appear in the book. In addition, the database can be searched by Surname, Given Name/First Name and Field/Appointment, and results can be displayed in ascending and descending order.

A special thanks to ISGS members Oriene Springstroh and Sheryl Grandt who spent almost a year compiling this important research database.

Submit a query to the ISGS Quarterly—members free, nonmembers $5.00 isgsquarterly@ilgensoc.org
Jan Tarbet—Lake Zurich, IL
Carol Tyler—Flossmoor, IL
Lynell Cannell—Rockford, IL
Cynthia Fraser—Lakeville, MN
Marilee Heaslip—Machesney Park, IL
Sharon Ortner—Champaign, IL
Robert Roll—Capron, IL
Laura Landis—Redondo Beach, CA
Yolanda Weisensel—Rockford, IL
Sandra Kjernes—Edgerton, WI
Judith Wojtynek—Lake In The Hills, IL
Rachael Mellen—Peru, IL
Katherine Barbaro—Rockford, IL
Suzette Murray—Naperville, IL
Jean Walker—Hereford, AZ
Whiteside Co. Genealogists—Sterling, IL
Richard L. Mannes—Scottsdale, AZ
Vicki Roberts—Crystal Lake, IL
Grace Hertz—Laurens, IA
Patricia McKenzie—Champaign, IL
Angie Kelly—Downers Grove, IL

Jonah Jung—Marshfield, WI
Randy Nickell—Wheaton, IL
Newberry Library—Chicago, IL
Cindy & Joe Bresnahan—Chicago, IL
Loris & Cheryl Rayner—Chicago, IL
Batavia Public Library—Batavia, IL
Linda Weichel—Naperville, IL
Gary Johnson—Chadwick, IL
Linda Henderson—Muskego, WI
Francine Irvin—Vernon Hills, IL
Patricia Rogers—Loves Park, IL
Mary & Eilert Buhr—Milford, IL
Carolyn Erickson—Rockford, IL
Sara Taylor—Elgin, IL
Carol Williams—Presque Isle, WI
Pam Taylor—Midlothian, IL
Ruth Ann Conley—Washington, IL
Polo Public Library District—Polo, IL
Susan Harrison—Berwyn Heights, MD
Victoria Essenmacher—Perry, MI
Sarah Zeigler—Dumfries, VA

Pass the word!
Invite someone to join the Illinois State Genealogical Society!

Join or renew online at http://ilgensoc.org; click on Join ISGS!, select your membership type, then renew online or print your membership form and mail to ISGS.

Ron Colson & Kathryn Arnold-Stauffer—Mount Morris, IL
Pamela Safriet—O’Fallon, IL
Harlen Bruens—Bloomington, IL
Linda Horn—West Bend, WI
Michael Harrington—Warreenville, IL
Sandra Barnett—Springfield, IL
Ronald Roselli—Grayslake, IL
Deborah Olson—Volo, IL
Cranston Byrd—Zion, IL
Cynthia Kavanaugh—Mundelein, IL
Susan Lasher—Lake Villa, IL
Catherine J. Carlton—Woodstock, IL
Dana Vassos—St. Charles, IL
Roger G. Perkins—Peoria, IL
Arlene Basten—Richmond, IL
Bill Boyer—Dallas, TX
Debra Mieszala—Libertyville, IL
Teresa McMillin—Inverness, IL
Mary Vidlak—Williamsburg, VA
Maggie Church—Federal Way, WA

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**ISGS Executive Committee  Elected Officers 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jane Haldeman</td>
<td>2013 Directors—Ann Wells, Annabelle Bradshaw, Dan Dixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice-President</td>
<td>Tony Burroughs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
<td>Susan Scoville Pope</td>
<td>2014 Directors—Karl Moore, Jennifer Holik-Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Michele Claypool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Tammy Snavie</td>
<td>2015 Directors—Jayne Cates, Becky Higgins, Kristy Gravlin</td>
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**Contact ISGS**

ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195  
Executive Office: Illinois State Archives Bldg., 2nd Floor  
Website: [http://ilgensoc.org/index.php](http://ilgensoc.org/index.php)  
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**Address Changes**

If you have a change of either a 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.

**ISGS Office Hours**

Mondays and Thursdays from 10am until 1pm