FGS & ISGS 2011 Springfield “Old Fashioned Prairie Social”

Susie Pope, Mary Lincoln (Pam Brown), Jane Haldeman, President Lincoln (Fritz Klein)

The Prairie Aires

Dan Dixon, Janice Fritsch, Carole McCarty
Susie Pope & David Kent Coy (ISGS Local Conference Chairs)

Larry Pepper hosting the Illinois Wheel of Fortune
Greetings,

The FGS conference was the most successful in recent history with about 2,000 participants. 109 people decided to become members of ISGS and 52 people renewed their memberships. ISGS received numerous compliments and everyone who helped in the ISGS booth had a great time meeting people and sharing their knowledge of Illinois genealogy and history. A well-deserved thank you goes to all who had anything to do with the execution of the conference and a thank you to all who participated in any way at the conference.

October is Family History Month. From the online archived 18 Jun 2001 *Ancestry Daily News* Curt Witcher says, "The concept of designating October as 'Family History Month' began several years ago. It originated with the Monmouth County Genealogical Society, whose aspiration was that during this month, societies would do something special to draw attention to and promote family history. Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia all passed 'proclamations' in the last few years declaring October as Family History Month."

As the family genealogist or family historian, will you do something special to celebrate Family History Month?

A few simple suggestions:
- Write a family story that will be lost unless you tell it.
- Take out the family photo album and share memories or label unlabeled photos.
- Get the old home movies, slides or VCRs converted.
- Watch those old home movies, slides or VCRs.
- Call or visit a family member you haven’t spoken to in quite some time.
- Invite family to have a picnic at a location that has a significant meaning.
- Place a post on the “Member Forum” section of the ISGS website.
- Enter family Surnames into the “Family Research” section of the ISGS website.

In the upcoming months, ISGS Board members and committees will be working on many projects and activities. I invite all ISGS members to be an active member by serving on a committee or volunteering in a way that works for their life style. As 2nd Vice President, Susie Pope, will be contacting those who have already expressed their willingness to help and will be identifying the areas that are in need of additional volunteers. Be watching the website for a new “Help Wanted” (this may not be the actual title) section that will list “Volunteer Opportunities” (more likely to be the title).

Enjoy the memories,

*Janice A. Fritsch*

President, Illinois State Genealogical Society
**ISGS Website Update**

**Member Forums** - A new feature has been added to the ISGS Website - **Member Forums**! If you want to ask a question about your genealogy research, or post a query, or even reply to an existing discussion, use the Member Forums located under the Members Section (http://ilgensoc.org/forum.php). You must be a member of ISGS in order to view any of the content in the Member Forums. If you are not already a member, consider joining ISGS today!

**New Ancestor Photo Contest Winners Page Added to Free Databases** - Due to the overwhelming response to our Ancestor Photos Contest winners, we’ve decided to create "static" standalone pages in the Free Databases section of the ISGS Website. All the photos appear in our website's header on a rotating basis but you can get a closer look and learn more about the photo subjects by visiting the new Ancestor Photos page. Click [http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=156](http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=156) to visit the Ancestor Photos page.

**Members Can Now Submit Their Own Surnames to the Surnames Database**—The ISGS website has a **Surname Research** database (http://ilgensoc.org/surname.php) which allows any visitor to view surname information and contact researchers. As a member of ISGS, you can also submit your surname information so other researchers can contact you. A new feature added recently is the ability to add your own surname information. Visit the Members Section and then click Edit Profile (http://ilgensoc.org/mo_profile.php) where you can add and edit surname information.

**Do You Know Your Login Credentials?** - 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](http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=87)) or email the ISGS Webmaster at isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org.

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**ISGS Volunteer Opportunities**

There are many ways you can get involved with the Society. Currently, the following committees are in need of a chairman:

- Advertising
- Fall Conference 2012
- Honors and Awards
- Publicity
- Spring Conference 2012

If you are interested in chairing one of these committees, contact Janice Fritsch at isgspresident@ilgensoc.org.

We are always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers to serve on committees and assist with projects. See the website for a listing of the committees. If you would like to volunteer, contact Susan Pope at isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org.

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ISGS Member? Use coupon code IL46647, and 10% of the money you spend gets refunded to the Society.

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save your ancestors.
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NEW PUBLICATION - Insider's Guide to Illinois Genealogy

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) proudly announces the debut of the Insider’s Guide To Illinois Genealogy—a handy reference guide for family historians and genealogists. With the Insider’s Guide, researchers will find everything they need to get started to find Prairie State ancestors.

The Insider’s Guide To Illinois Genealogy laminated “quick card” contains:

- An overview of Illinois history in a timeline format
- A section on migration patterns related to how Illinois was settled
- Helpful research strategy tips for the beginning genealogist
- Over 130 different links to websites covering different aspects of Illinois genealogy over 26 subject sections including Census Records, Vital Records, Obituaries, Military Records, and more.

The Insider’s Guide was the “must have” product at the recent Federation of Genealogical Societies’ 2011 Conference in Springfield, Illinois earlier this month. The guide can be purchased online or by mail by visiting http://bit.ly/ISGSguide for $7 which includes shipping and handling.

ISGS Publicity Chair and Webmaster Thomas MacEntee notes: “ISGS is one of the first large genealogy societies to publish a research guide in this popular format. The ‘quick card’ is laminated, light-weight and can be slipped into a backpack or laptop bag for genealogy research trips.”

The Insider’s Guide To Illinois Genealogy was produced with the help of several ISGS board members who collected links to many online resources. In addition, attention has also been given to archives, libraries and repositories for “in person” research.

Janice Fritsch, ISGS President, states: “One of the purposes of ISGS is to disseminate information about Illinois. The Insider’s Guide to Illinois Genealogy not only helps ISGS in accomplishing its purpose, but also provides genealogists with an easy-to-use, ‘hands-on’ tool for finding Illinois ancestors. It is a must-have and will make a great gift for relatives, friends, your society or your library.”

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the great cemetery sites in Illinois is the online production for Kendall County. Elmer Dickson, the most well-known and well-respected historian in the county, has created a list of all people buried in the county. AND he has also added those with Kendall County connections who are buried in one of the collar-counties. In this way he has covered nearly everyone who has ever lived in the county.

To add to the value of the list, Elmer devised a way to add information that will benefit researchers. Each person gets one line…but on that line the reader finds: Last and First names, a person who is connected (spouse, child, or parent), the birth date and place, the death date and place, and the obituary date and place.

Lawrie James Brown, Sr. (s. Andrew & Elizabeth) Mar 16 1857 Whitletts, Scotland Mar 12 1935 Plano, IL 12863 LR
Lawrie Robt Toombs (s. William A. & Dora E. (Toombs)) Jun 12 1903 Little Rock Twp, IL May 12 1982 Sandwich, IL 3009 LR
Lawrie William Anderson (s. James B., Sr. & Elizabeth) Feb 20 1880 Cairnryan, Scot. Dec 26 1965 Sandwich, IL 24106 LR

There are some with blanks and Elmer is always interested in hearing about what information should go there. The site is updated frequently, often within the month that the service is held.

Here’s the website: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilkendal/Cemeteries/BurialRecords/BurialsAlphabetical/index.htm
New ISGS Education Committee

ISGS is pleased to announce the appointment of an Education Committee for the purposes of:

- Providing genealogy education to our members and the genealogical community as a whole.
- Educating the general public about genealogy in order to get people interested in discovering their family history, while promoting the study of genealogy.

So far, ideas for genealogy education for members and the genealogical community include enhancing our annual conference, producing webinars or online videos, establishing study groups, developing instructional guides, and sponsoring research trips. In order for us to figure out what to implement and how, we are conducting a survey via our website. You can complete the survey at [http://tinyurl.com/ISGSedusurvey](http://tinyurl.com/ISGSedusurvey) and enter for a chance to win a one-year membership to [JustAJoy.com](http://www.justajoy.com).

ISGS also hopes to educate the general public about genealogy through community outreach projects. We also plan to target our youth to get them interested at an early age and to start capturing the stories of their living relatives. Planning in this area will begin after the first of the year.

The Education Committee is just getting started. There are a lot of great ideas already, but we will certainly need your help to make them a reality. If you would like to be involved in this committee, please fill out the Volunteer Form ([http://tinyurl.com/ISGSvolunteers](http://tinyurl.com/ISGSvolunteers)) and check “Education Development” under the Areas of Interest section. If there is something specific you would like to work on, please note it in the field marked Additional special talents or interests. The Education Committee chair will contact you beginning in early November to discuss volunteer opportunities within this committee.

Do We Have Your Correct Email?

Periodically, ISGS will send “blast emails” to its members to communicate important news about our events and activities. In addition, we distribute the ISGS newsletter six times a year using email. Each time we send these emails, several emails are “returned” because the ISGS member has changed their email address or there is incorrect information in our database.

Help us ensure that you get all the latest ISGS emails by checking your email address on the ISGS website:

- Visit [http://www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org) and click Members Section in the left sidebar.
- Enter your login and password. Then click Edit Your Profile in the Members Section sidebar on the left.
- Click the Contact Info tab and verify your email address.

If your email address is incorrect or missing, please contact the ISGS Office at [isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org](mailto:isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org) with the correct information.

New ISGS Members

- Pam Naujock—Toledo, OH
- Betty Kelly—Sun Lakes, AZ
- Jo-Ann Seitzinger—Porter Ranch, CA
- Carol Wesley—St. Louis, MO
- Robert Cowsert—Wheaton, IL
- Lawrence Miller—Springfield, IL
- Jill Beckman—Coralville, IA
- Claudia Conroy—Trout Valley, IL
- Holly Breidenbach—Littlerock, WA

Translations from German, Dutch, and French to English

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ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2011 AWARD WINNERS

Elizabeth A. “Libby” Grimm – Volkel Hall of Fame (accepted by Marla Vizdal)
During her lifetime, “Libby” Grimm provided exceptional service to the McDonough County Genealogical Society, the Illinois Genealogical Society, and the genealogical community at large. She held several ISGS board positions from 1984-2003. “Libby” was the recipient of the ISG Local Service Award in 1981 and the Special Recognition Award in 1990. She was published in numerous publications including the ISGS Quarterly. She was a teacher and lecturer, leader, initiator, and doer. She will be greatly missed. It is with great pleasure we induct Elizabeth A. “Libby” Grimm to the Volkel Hall of Fame.

Mary Matson Hawk and Donald D. Schmidt – Individual Writers Award
Each year the Illinois State Genealogical Society is pleased to recognize exceptional work published in the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. This year the award is being presented to the co-authors of the well-written, well-documented article “Kathleen Matson’s Pioneer Heritage in Stark County, Illinois” published in Volume 42, Number 3, Fall 2010. The ISGS is proud to present Mary Matson Hawk and Donald D. Schmidt with the Individual Writers Award.

Harold Workman – Special Recognition
Harold Workman was nominated by the Fox Valley Genealogical Society for his unwavering service to that organization for the past fourteen years. Harold has held a board position every year since 1997. In addition to those positions, he has served as facilities manager for the FVGS annual fall conference for at least a dozen years. Whenever a need arises, Harold steps up the task. It is for these reasons the Illinois State Genealogical Society is proud to present Harold Workman with the Special Recognition Award.

Robert G. Buecher – Community Service Award
Robert G. Buecher was an initiating force in starting the thriving St. Clair County Genealogical Society in 1977. Robert has indexed many cemeteries in Southern Illinois; translated numerous church records using his expertise in old German script and Latin; created surname indices to historic St. Clair County newspapers for births, marriages, anniversaries, and deaths; posted genealogy records online as well as a history of Millstadt, Illinois; and published a number of books. The Illinois State Genealogical Society is proud to present Robert G. Buecher with the Community Service Award.

Nelda Ravens – Community Service Award
Nelda Ravens was nominated by the Kankakee Valley Genealogical Society for her service to that organization since 1969. In addition, she has performed important work related to the extracting information from local church records and gaining permission to index and indexing county probate records and currently records of the Recorder of Deeds office. ISGS is proud to present Nelda Ravens with the Community Service Award.

Sandra Hargreaves Luebking (not in photo)
Though perhaps best known today for her work as editor of the Forum for the Federation of Genealogical Societies, we remember Sandra today also for her service to the Illinois State Genealogical Society. From 1981 through 1987, Sandra served on the ISGS board in one capacity or another. She was a full-time researcher, educator, published author and editor in the genealogy field for 35 years. She will be greatly missed. The Illinois State Genealogical Society is proud to induct Sandra Hargeaves Luebking to the Volkel Hall of Fame.
Echoes of the Civil War - Voices of the Past – Greenwood Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 1, 2011 - 10:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Sunday, October 2, 2011 - 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M.
Meet at the front gate of Greenwood Cemetery, Decatur, Illinois

Directions: West Decatur Street to Church Street, turn south, follow road toward gate, look for Traffic Guides to help you to park your vehicle.

Tickets: Adults $5.00, Children under age 12, $2.00. Tickets available at Haines & Essick, Wabash Depot Antiques Mall, Dale’s Southlake Pharmacy, and Wildflour Bakery.

Why would you want to attend?
America is observing the 150th anniversary of the Civil War this year. More than 2,000 soldiers from Macon County fought for the Union. There is a Civil War burial section in Greenwood Cemetery. Voices of the Past, a walking tour of Greenwood Cemetery will focus on those Civil War Stories. Presented by the Decatur Township and sponsored by the R.V. Evans family, tour performances by re-enactors will take place and you will get to hear each tell their story throughout the tour. Greenwood Cemetery dates from 1840 to present where many prominent Macon County families are buried. The re-enactors will portray Major George Steele; the Tupper brothers; The Rev. William Crissey & Dr. Ira N. Barnes; Mary Winegardner, nurse; Civil War sites; Medal of Honor Awardees, Holland and Schenck; General Jesse Moore; and Sheridan Wait.
ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers 2011

President: Janice Fritsch
1st Vice-President: Larry Pepper
2nd Vice-President: Susie Pope
Treasurer: Michele Claypool
Recording Secretary: Julie Cahill Tarr

2011 Directors: Cheri Hunter, Jean Jung, Karl R. Moore
2012 Directors: Thomas MacEntee, Jayne Cates, Joan Kitchen-Murray
2013 Directors: Ann Wells, Annabelle Bradshaw, Dan Dixon

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 out issues that were not able to be forwarded to a new address.

ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195
Executive Office: Illinois State Archives Bldg., 2nd Floor
Business Office Telephone: 217/789-1968
Website: <http://ilgensoc.org/index.php>
Published in January, March, May, July, September, November.

**Newsletter Article Contributions due the 30th of the month prior to publishing.**
**Advertising options available**

Newsletter Editor: isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org

ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers 2011

You still have time to renew your dues to the Illinois State Genealogical Society without missing an issue of the ISGS Quarterly

Renew online at http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=8 or mail your 2011 renewal to ISGS Membership Renewal PO Box 10195 Springfield, IL 62791-0195

Individual/Society/Library: $30.
Joint (2 people at same address): $35.
Charter (before 1969): $29

ISGS Office Hours
Effective the week of March 14th the ISGS Office will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am until 1pm.