Happy New Year! What resolutions did you make this year? As a genealogist, I include a few genealogy goals in my resolutions. “Get organized” is a big one that keeps reappearing. New research goals appear on my list. This year, I am going to be very deliberate and add a goal related to support of the genealogy community.

Genealogists tend to be sharing individuals. As we work on our family trees we want to share our discoveries. Sharing helps others as well as our own research. Have you ever considered how much of the material you use in your own genealogical research was “shared” by volunteers? Many indexes were created by genealogy societies’ members’ hard work. If you have ever used the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/marriage.html) then you have benefited from a massive volunteer project sponsored by ISGS. Working with the State Archives, ISGS volunteers assisted in indexing over 2 million names included in the index! The State hosts the index on their website. The Federation of Genealogical Societies assisted the National Park Service’s Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in creating an index for the US-Mexican War database (http://usmexicanwar.org/). Creating these indexes are so time intensive, it is difficult for any agency to budget and pay personnel to do it. When you join a genealogy society like ISGS, you are helping support efforts such as indexing.

Your support of these efforts is vital to the genealogy community. Have you joined a society yet? What a wonderful first step. Make it your New Year’s resolution to further that support. Volunteer to help run the society. Consider being a board member. The genealogical community could be facing a future with fewer records being available on-line. With the large genealogy companies putting so many records online, newcomers to genealogy are conditioned to believe all records are available online. Local societies often work to put smaller, local record sets on their websites to match this expectation. These are the societies that have the experts with the knowledge about local records and the willing volunteers to create databases and indexes. However, as societies face decreasing membership and support, it could cause the loss of access to smaller, hyper-local record sets. Let’s make a perpetual resolution to support local and state societies that are doing so much of the work to bring us indexes we can peruse online at our leisure.

Continued on page 2
President’s Letter continued from page 1

Pick a local society that focuses on an area of your research. Send the check. Attend a meeting. Volunteer, Volunteer. And volunteer. Help keep those local record sets accessible. You may not find your ancestor, but here’s hoping someone, somewhere is working on the record set you need to bring you an “AH-HA” moment.

Happy Researching! I hope your record set is indexed.

Laura Kovairk
ISGS President

Join ISGS or Renew Your Membership Online

To join, go to the ISGS website: ilgensoc.org

Online renewals are open 45 days prior to your current membership expiration date. To renew, you will need to login to the ISGS website and click on the "Your Profile" link in the Members Only dropdown menu. Individual/Associate/Subscription: $40, Joint (two people at same address): $45.

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. Returned Quarterlies cost the Society money! Help keep mailing costs down by updating your address.

If your information has changed, please forward the new information to the ISGS office at isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org or call (217) 789-1968. You can also update your information on the website www.ilgensoc.org. Click on the Members Section on the left sidebar. Enter your login and password. Then click Edit Your Profile in the Members section on the left. Click the Contact Info tab and verify your email address.
Volunteer Opportunities

Join in the fun!

With the generous help of 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.

For further details on any of the positions listed below, contact Barbara McKean: isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

Advertising Chair
This committee promotes ISGS publications and solicits opportunities for advertisements in ISGS publications, such as ISGS Quarterly, ISGS Newsletter, and fall conference syllabus.

ISGS Newsletter Editor
The editor prepares the ISGS Newsletter including the design and layout and content creations. The ISGS Newsletter is published six times a year.

Honors and Awards Chair and Committee
Requests nominations for the current year’s Honors and Awards, to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Indexing Project Chair and Committee
The Indexing Project Committee shall create and maintain the index of surnames contained in various tables on the ISGS website.

ISGS Quarterly Contributors
Develop articles based on genealogical and historical material as a research and educational service to the membership.

Schaumburg Township District Library is looking for local veterans who would like to share stories of their service. “Genealogist Tony Kierna is interviewing veterans about their experiences at war for the Veterans History Project. This initiative of the Library of Congress’ American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.” Completed videos will be posted on Schaumburg Library’s YouTube channel as well as being included in the Library of Congress project. If you know a veteran who is interested in telling their story, contact Tony at akierna@stdl.org.

Decatur Genealogical Society—Librarian Cheri Hunter stated in the DGS January-February newsletter that material has been added to their Family Vertical files. While much of the information is indexed, it is not available on the Internet. More information: http://sites.rootsweb.com/~ildecgs/

Call for Papers and Proposals for Teacher Workshops
21st Annual Conference on Illinois History
October 3 & 4, 2019
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield

The Conference on Illinois History is accepting paper or panel proposals on any aspect of Illinois’s history, culture, politics, geography, or archaeology. The Conference welcomes submissions from professional and avocational historians, graduate students, and those engaged in the study of Illinois history at libraries, historic sites, museums, and historical societies.

Proposals are also being accepted for teacher workshops. Are you a teacher who has created an innovative, comprehensive, or timely curriculum on some aspect of Illinois’s history, culture, politics, geography, or archaeology? Share share your expertise with other teachers at the Conference on Illinois History.

The deadline for proposals is May 1, 2019.

To submit your proposal for a paper, panel, or teacher workshop, please send:
- A one-page summary of the topic, including a description of the major primary and secondary sources used.
- A one-page resume for each participant.

Send proposals to: Christian McWhirter, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701, or Christian.mcwhirter@illinois.gov.
Soldiers of the American Revolution in Illinois
Index Now Available

The “Soldiers of the American Revolution in Illinois” book is available in hardcover, or as an e-book version through the ISGS store at Lulu.com. An index of the soldiers listed in the publication can now be seen in the sample pages that are linked to the cover image. Sample pages are on the ISGS Publications page found here: https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=34

The alphabetical listing of “The Soldiers of the American Revolution Buried in Illinois” published in 1976 by Illinois State Genealogical Society has been expanded to include new entries, children of the entry, (other family members), history found in and referencing to pension records relating people, places and events, location of graves and references to searching for the Revolutionary War Soldier connected to Illinois. The expanded version includes the very early Soldiers in Illinois before the establishment of the Northwest Territory (1787) and Illinois (1818), many of French extraction.

The Insider’s Guide to Illinois Genealogy has been updated!

The Insider’s Guide has been updated with old links removed, or replaced, and new links added. In addition the Guide is now available as a downloadable PDF for individual ISGS members. Log in to the “Members Only” tab (see image above) and click on the 2018 Insiders Guide.
Thank you to our generous donors. Your donations support a number of causes from the genealogy books for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, presenting the ISGS Webinars, purchasing material for the State of Illinois Archives and IRAD as well as the ISGS general fund.

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Rock Island Genealogical Society  
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Also, thank you to everyone that donates to cover the PayPal transaction fee for online purchases with ISGS, such as membership or conference fees.
ISGS 2019
Webinar Series

All webinars start at 8:00 pm Central time

January 8
Hidden Gems in the FamilySearch Wiki with Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

February 12
Revelers, Hogkillers and Disobedient Children: Early Illinois Laws with Judy G. Russell

March 12
The (Underground) Railroad Runs Through Here—Illinois with Janice Lovelace

April 19
Using Bureau of Land Management Tract Books with Michael John Neill

May 14
Researching Your Mexican Ancestor with Colleen Greene

June 11
From East to West: Ancestral Migration Through Canada with Kathryn Lake Hogan

July 9
Online German Church Registers, Duplicates and Substitutes with James Beidler

August 13
The Great Lakes and the Role They Played in the Years of Prohibition with Jean Hibben

September 10
Telling the Story with Maps: Maps of Early Illinois and Where to Find Them with Ginger Frere

October 8
Researching Your Illinois Catholic Ancestors with Lisa Oberg

November 12
Chicago Research: Planning is the Key to Success with Jeanne Larzalere Bloom

December 10
Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records with Anita Boyd

Learn More & Register

For a description of each webinar, or to register, visit

2019 Webinar Sponsor

http://familysearch.org
Genealogy Events

Event Listings

Associate Members are encouraged to send event listings for the newsletter to isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org. Newsletter deadline: 12 days before the month of publication.

For the ISGS website, send listings to isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org.

5 January 2019—Northwest Suburban Genealogical Society, Arlington Heights, IL—DNA How to Organize All This Genealogy Stuff, Lisa Louise Cooke www.nwsgenealogy.org


8 January 2019—Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL—Publish Your Genealogy Book, Regina Yuill www.genealogywithtony.wordpress.com


19 January 2019—British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois, Richmond, IL—Experts tables on various topics including Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, and publishing/writing http://www.bigwill.org/


5 February 2019—Elgin Genealogical Society, Elgin—What’s New in Family Search, Maureen Brady elginroots.com


12 February 2019—Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL—Genealogy Research at the Newberry, Becky Lowery www.genealogywithtony.wordpress.com


16 February 2019—Naperville Public Library, Naperville, IL—DNA Double Feature, Suz Bates www.naperville-lib.org


24 February 2019—Decatur Genealogical Society, Decatur, IL—The Great Locomotive Chase, Don Chamberlain http://sites.rootsweb.com/~ildecgs/


12 March 2019—Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI—Irish Genealogy, Ulster County Historical Foundation https://shop.wisconsinhistory.org
**Genealogy Events**


6 April 2019—**Naperville Public Library**, Naperville, IL—He Took Her Name: Understanding German Farm Names, Teresa Steinkamp McMillin  [www.naperville-lib.org](http://www.naperville-lib.org)


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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Fall Conference 2019**

OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2019

Naperville, Illinois

[ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY](http://illinoisstategenealogy.org)
Save $$$

ISGS Death Certificate Lookup Service

The current pricing for one certificate is $6.00 for ISGS members, $10.00 for non-members (you can order as many as you would like). Compare that to the $17.00 rate at sites such as Genealogy Online for Cook County. Currently, only 1916-1947 certificates listed at the Illinois Death Certificates database at cyberdriveillinois.com can be obtained through the ISGS lookup service.

Revenues Support ISGS Operations

Proceeds directly support ISGS. So please remember to take advantage of this service, whether you are a member of ISGS or not!

Requesting a Death Certificate: The Simple Process

- Go to the Illinois State Archives Death Certificate Index.
- Search for the individual death certificate(s) you want, and copy down the information exactly as it is displayed. (Note: 1948-50 certificates are indexed but not microfilmed and thus are unavailable.)
- **Order Online** - If you would like to order online using a MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express or a PayPal account, you can use the shopping cart at [http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59](http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59). Your information is kept safe and secure by the PayPal payment service.
- **Or Order by Mail** - If you would prefer to mail your request, print out the ISGS Death Certificate Request Form 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 cards are only available online.)

If you have any questions, visit [http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59](http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=59)

For more information, email isgsoffice@ilgensoc.org or call (217) 789-1968
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

2018 Governing Board

Officers
President: Laura Marshall Kovarik, Naperville
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2nd Vice President: Barbara McKean, Springfield
Recording Secretary: Caron Primas Brennan, Villa Park
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2019 Directors: David Kent Coy, Decatur; Margaret Truax, Aurora; open
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2021 Directors: Candace Marx, Norridge; Vicki Mattson, Waukegan; Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville

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Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville

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Illinois Society Liaison: Caron Primas Brennan, Villa Park
Marketing & Publicity: Candace Marx, Norridge
Membership: Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville
Publications Chair: Sharon Reif, Oak Brook
Website Committee: pending

Special Committee Chairs & Other Appointments
Advertising: open
Bicentennial Family Certificate: Jen Warner, Woodridge
Bylaws and Policy & Procedure: David McDonald, DeForest, Wisconsin
Cemetery Records: John Heider, Monticello
Church Records: pending
Family Bible Records: pending
Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Indexing Coordinator: open
Military Certificates: Charles Dobias, Collinsville
Newsletter Editor: Susan Gray McQuaid, Warrenville
Office Liaison: Barbara McKeen, Springfield
Prairie Pioneer Certificates: Jen Warner, Woodridge
Social Media Manager: Vicki Mattson, Waukegan
Quarterly Editor: open
Webinar: Anita Boyd, Winfield

Office Secretary: Evelyn Edwards

Illinois State Genealogical Society
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