President’s Letter

Happy New Year!

Yes, I know it is not January 1, but the new year begins for ISGS November 1. The newly elected board members join the continuing members at the November quarterly meeting. So, despite the beautiful fall colors, I feel like a new year is beginning and with it comes some changes

1) Candace Marx, Vicki Matteson and Mary Westerhold were elected 2021 Directors at the Annual meeting October 27, 2018.

2) A new member benefit can be found under the “Members Only” tab. The *Insider’s Guide to Illinois Genealogy* has been updated and digitized! It can be found on the website under the “Members’ Only” tab. Digitization will simplify updating and expanding the guide.

3) Another new member benefit will be a digitized finding aid for the ISGS microfilm collection. What is this collection? ISGS has a microfilm collection with over 500 rolls of film. The full collection is housed at the State Archives in Springfield. While there is a finding aid in the reading room, Board members have been working diligently on creating an online finding aid. We are in the final stages of getting it on-line, so keep your eyes open!

4) We are looking for a new editor for the ISGS Quarterly. The Quarterly has been published for 50 years and is located in libraries throughout the US and abroad. If you are interested in helping kick-off the next 50 years, please let me know.

5) The Governing Board voted in August to raise dues by $5.00. ISGS hasn’t raised dues since 2011 while postage and production costs associated with the Quarterly have continued to rise.

My New Year resolution is to use *TryIt! Illinois* before the end of the month. Every year I discover a new source with information for my research. Look on page 2 of the newsletter for information on how to participate.

Happy New Year!
Laura Kovairk, ISGS President
Contact ISGS

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Office Telephone: (217)-789-1968
Website: ilgensoc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ilgensoc
Twitter: @ILGenSoc#ISGS
Office Hours:
Mondays & Thursdays 10:00am-1:00pm

Newsletter Articles

Please send articles for the newsletter to isgsnewsletter@ilgensoc.org. Pictures are welcome (JPEGs preferred). Just include your caption with names, places, details. Deadlines: 12 days before the month of publication.

Try-it! Illinois

Free Database Trials

Try-It! Illinois offers library users of Illinois member libraries the opportunity to use and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. Thanks to the partnerships between the Illinois State Library and the participating electronic resource vendors, there is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois. Try-It! Illinois runs October 1 - November 31.

Register for a password at http://www.finditillinois.org/tryit/.

This year’s long list of databases includes:
Newspapers.com Library Edition
NewspaperARCHIVE.com
Newspaper Source Plus
Service Newspapers of World War II
MyHeritage Library Edition

Welcome New ISGS Members!

Edwards County Historical Society, Albion, IL
Julianne Adamik, Carlsbad, CA
Tammy Bass, Fort Mill, SC
Suzan Bates, Woodridge, IL
Michael Beach, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Tom Ebels, Downers Grove, IL
David Erickson, Springfield, IL
LaDonna Garner, French Village, MO
Carol Genung, Bloomington, IL
patti Gillespie, Decatur, TX
Kathi Goebel, Oklahoma City, OK
Catherine Greig, Springfield, IL
Bart Hansen, Afton, VA
Francis Herbert, Elk Grove Village, IL
Robert Johnston, Edwardsville, IL
Michelle Knaack, McHenry, IL
Ed & Marcia Krivus, Batavia, IL
Marilae Latham, Highland, IL
David Leatherwood, Reston, VA
Roger Liska, Naperville, VA
Owinda Marchbanks, Chicago, IL
Stephanie Martin, Springfield, IL
Margaret McLaughlin, San Bernardino, CA
Laurie Perry, Dixon, IL
Roxie Pierson, Muncie, IN
John & Nannette Renshaw, Mattoon, IL
Heather Robb, Libertyville, IL
Mark Roberts, Romeoville IL
Jennifer Ryan, Freeburg, IL
Jennifer Shraike, Springfield, IL
Ann Spencer, Glen Carbon, IL
Lyn Stafford, Birmingham, AL
Christine Stott, Rockford, IL
Marsha Van Ham, Norcross, GA
Harold & Nan Watson, Kettering, OH
Karren Wcisel, Naperville, IL
Cindy Whitt, Ingleside, IL

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. We cannot be responsible for resending issues and other “blast emails” that could not be forwarded to a new 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.
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 solicits ads for the ISGS Quarterly, Newsletter, and fall conference syllabus.

Website Chair
The website committee is responsible for the overall management of the website and ensures that the policies related to the website are achieved.

Quarterly magazine Editor
The editor of the Quarterly magazine is responsible for the editing, indexing, and the production of copy for the printing of the ISGS Quarterly.

Newsletter Editor
The editor compiles news from Associate Societies and ISGS committees for six bi-monthly issues.

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Report on the Associate Forum at the ISGS Fall Conference

By Caron Primas Brennan, ISGS Society Liaison

It was a great day to be in Springfield for our ISGS 2018 Fall Conference “Celebrating Our Ancestors!” The Associate members were all invited to the Lincoln Room in the Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel for a special meeting. There were representatives in attendance from Bureau County Genealogical Society, CAGGNI, Chicago Genealogical Society, Fox Valley Genealogical Society, Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, Iroquois County Genealogical Society, Kankakee Valley Genealogical Society, Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society, McDonough County Genealogical Society, McLean County Genealogical Society, South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society and Tazewell County Genealogical and Historical Society.

After a welcome from Caron Brennan, Society Liaison and Laura Kovarik, ISGS President, Allen Nemec, ISGS Advocacy Chair, was introduced. He gave a presentation on the ISGS Advocacy activities concerning public records on a state level, including some work with the IL State Archives. Allen has graciously provided his slides which will be shared with the Associate members. Allen is looking for volunteers for Committee members and transcribers from the Associate and individual members of ISGS.

After Allen’s presentation, ISGS President Laura Kovarik described the ISGS Strategic Planning Initiative set to begin in November 2018 with the ISGS Governing Board. It is hoped that a new long-range plan will be the final product of the initiative.

A brief overview of the recent Associate Member Survey results was presented by Caron Brennan. A more detailed report will be sent to the Associate members.

Before the discussion portion of the meeting, all the attendees were asked to introduce themselves by name and society. Carol McGee shared an informational sheet about Bureau County Genealogical Society with all the attendees. Several societies indicated they have celebrated or will soon celebrate 50 anniversaries.

Following introductions, there was an open discussion of various topics. There is a closed Facebook group set up by ISGS for leaders of the Associate members’ societies: ISGS Illinois Local Society Leadership. This was created to allow private discussion among the society leaders about organizational issues and concerns in managing a society. You need to request admission, Caron will approve and let you in!

There is a link page on ISGS web site for all Associate member societies. Clicking on the link will take the user to the specific society web site (if provided). It was noted that this is not easily findable, so we will look into other pages to make it more visible. The was a great interest in having links to member societies publications for sale pages. We will look into setting that up.

Continued on page 4
Continued from page 3

There was a consensus in the group that recruiting new members to be active contributors who will volunteer and aid in running the society is a concern. Many members and board members are aging and the pool of volunteers and board members is shrinking.

Some suggestions offered for how ISGS can help the Associate members included: create short videos to give tips and ideas to leaders of the societies through the Facebook page or YouTube; and offer advice related to digitizing their records, what equipment is needed, and how to transfer microfilm to digitized files. Other ideas put forward were: sharing ISGS Go-to-Meeting resources; information on how to host a virtual meeting and how to produce webinars; and getting more information about strategic planning for their organizations.

There was interest in having Associate Member meetings for the leaders of the societies more frequently than every year at the Fall Conference. Suggestions included: rotate sites to societies willing to host; utilize the IRAD divisions to determine meeting areas; take in to consideration travel times and seasonal weather and activities; and host webinars in between in person meetings.

Overall, there was a lot of good discussion and ideas shared. We are looking forward for more to come in the future. Maybe some of the Associate members who could not make it to this Forum can make it to the next one!

Kevin Wood appeared as Lincoln for the ISGS Conference Keynote

Volkel Medal of Honor awardee David Kent Coy has written about Lincoln in Coles County, so he wanted Lincoln to present the medal!

Kevin Wood, David Kent Coy and Laura Kovarik
Volkel Medal of Honor

David Kent Coy of Decatur, was presented with the Illinois State Genealogical Society’s highest award, the Volkel Medal of Honor, Saturday, October 27 at the Society’s 50th Anniversary Celebration conference in Springfield. The Volkel Medal of Honor is given for significant contributions in the field of Illinois genealogy.

Mr. Coy’s contributions to the fields of Illinois genealogy and history are considered exceptional by his peers. He has been engaged in genealogy and history pursuits for 50 years, having developed an interest at the age of 15 listening to his great grandmothers’ family stories. He has published several articles and books, including Recollections of Abraham Lincoln in Coles County, Illinois. He is a recipient of the Federation of Genealogical Societies Award of Merit and the ISGS Special Recognition Award. He was elected President of the ISGS in 1986 and has held several leadership positions in that Society and many other related Illinois organizations including the Coles County Genealogical Society where he is a founding member, past and current President; the McLean County Genealogical Society; and the Decatur Genealogical Society. Mr. Coy served as Local Host Co-Chair of the Federation of Genealogical Society’s 2011 national conference held in Springfield. He is a former employee of the McLean County Museum of History.

Mr. Coy has been President of the Rennels Family Reunion in Charleston, IL for about 45 years, which donated $10,000 to the Five Mile House Foundation and then spent another $10,000 restoring local cemeteries. Mr. Coy currently serves as a 2019 Director for ISGS and he chaired their 2018 50th Anniversary Committee. He is owner of Prairie Families Genealogical Services, doing genealogical and historical research and consultation centered in Illinois, and heir searches for local attorneys.

Community Service Award

Gretchen DeJaynes, McDonough County Clerk, was presented with the Illinois State Genealogical Society’s Community Service Award, Saturday, October 27 at the Society’s 50th Anniversary Celebration conference in Springfield. The Community Service Award is given for service or contributions to Illinois genealogy. She was nominated by the McDonough County Genealogical Society.

Gretchen has given extensive and cooperative genealogical support to MCGS by providing access to records in the county. Gretchen granted MCGS hours of access and permission to index all pre-1916 death and coroner’s records towards the creation of a complete index for the county, MCGS, and ISGS, with the ultimate goal of online access through the Illinois State Archives. MCGS provided Gretchen with scanned 1900-1910 county marriage records from the Illinois Regional Archive Depositories and Gretchen then issued a birth index from the beginning of recorded county births through 1918. The collaborative relationship
Continued from page 5

between McDonough County Genealogical Society and the McDonough County Clerk provides considerable benefit not only to genealogists and historians, but also to the county.

**ISGS Special Recognition and Community Service Award**

**Judy Jennings, St. Clair County Genealogical Society**, was presented with the Illinois State Genealogical Society’s 2018 Special Recognition and Community Service Awards, Saturday, October 27 at the Society’s 50th Anniversary Celebration conference in Springfield. The Special Recognition Award is given for the promotion of genealogy in general and for the recipient having been a major influence toward the success of the nominating organization. Judy also received the Community Service Award given for service or contributions to Illinois genealogy. She was nominated by the St. Clair County Genealogical Society.

Judy has represented the St. Clair County Genealogical Society in preserving and providing ancestral records to promote the study of family history. Her mission is to help descendants locate family graves in the historic Booker T. Washington Cemetery in Centerville. She personally assists individuals with research, escorts them to the cemetery, locates tombstones, and does so free of charge. As Project Manager for 18 years, Judy has been instrumental in preserving the records of this cemetery. She created several binders of information for this more than 12,000 burial cemetery and they have been placed at the Belleview Public Library. She is working on a database and continues to search for buried tombstones. Her efforts have resulted in an extremely valuable and irreplaceable tool for researchers of African American genealogy.

**Marge Rice Writing Award**

**Kenneth Alexander** is the winner of the Marge Rice Family Writing Award.

In 2008, Marge Rice agreed to write a column for the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. Faces from the Past began in Vol. 40, No. 1. The column appeared in every issue until Marge’s death 2 years ago. Through her efforts, at the time of her death, Marge had reunited 2,284 photos with 1,562 people.

While Marge began her photo reunion project in 2000, prior to that she had been a dedicated genealogist for years. Marge understood how photos could augment genealogical research and help tell family stories. As part of the ISGS Honors and Award, we usually present the Individual Writer Award to a writer or co-writers who made a significant contribution to genealogy through an article of exceptional merit published in the ISGS Quarterly during the past year. This year, to honor Marge Rice and her contributions to the Quarterly, ISGS and the genealogical community, the Marge Rice Family History Writing Award was created. For this Award, the inspiration for the story was to be a photo of an Illinois ancestor. Entries have been published throughout the year in the Quarterly.

Today, the Marge Rice Family History Writing Award is presented to Kenneth Alexander for his article, “Fur Trader, Merchant, Steamboat Captain: The Life of William Phelps” published in the Spring edition of the Quarterly.
Time is running out to apply for an Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate!
All applications must be in by the end of the year.

Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate

The Illinois State Genealogical Society announces the introduction of the Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate program, an official project of the Illinois Bicentennial celebration!

Available only during this Bicentennial year, the Illinois State Genealogical Society will issue Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificates to honor those who contributed to our state's rich history to direct descendants of early pioneers who were living in Illinois in the year of Statehood (1818), and whose family has continued to be proud residents of our State for each generation since that time, with the applicant being a current resident of Illinois.

Honor your Illinois ancestors and apply today!
Download the application here.

Arthur and Lila Weinberg Fellowship by Tony Burroughs

This spring ISGS board member Tony Burroughs, FUGA received the Arthur and Lila Weinberg Fellowship for Independent Researchers at Newberry Library. Tony spent the month of July at Newberry Library in Chicago doing a statistical analysis of slave census schedules.

The most difficult task in African American genealogy is identifying the last slave owner to bridge the Civil War divide and trace their ancestors in slavery.

In 1850 and 1860 separate census population schedules were created for free persons and enslaved persons. However, the slave schedules only include the names of owners and the age, sex and color of enslaved people, not the names of enslaved people. Many genealogists, authors, lecturers, consultants and television show hosts recommend locating the ancestor on the 1870 Census. Then find a slave owner with the same surname as the ancestor on the 1860 slave schedule. Next, match ages on the 1860 Slave Schedule with the 1870 Census of the ancestor to determine which one is the ancestor on the slave schedule.

Tony's study is a statistical analysis of the ages to see if this methodology is reliable. He discusses this project and its relationship to African American genealogy with Keelin Burke on Newberry Library’s podcast. You can listen to the podcast by clicking on the link here: [http://www.tonyburroughs.com/audio.html](http://www.tonyburroughs.com/audio.html)

Tony Burroughs, FUGA is author of *Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree* (Simon & Schuster) 2001. He serves on the board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and is former President of the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Genealogical Society, the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stearn Humanitarian Award from the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Lowell Volkel Medal from the Illinois Genealogical Society.

The Arthur and Lila Weinberg Fellowship for Independent Researchers at Newberry Library is designated for writers, journalists, filmmakers, visual and performing artists, and other humanists who wish to use the Newberry Library’s collection to further their creative work. Applicants must be individuals working outside of traditional academic settings, who are not employed as, or seeking employment as, full-time academic faculty.
Registration for the 2018 webinars is now open! You'll find a fantastic lineup of presentations and speakers and we hope you will join us for a wonderful educational experience.

The ISGS webinars, which are live lectures/presentations that you can attend via a computer with an internet connection, are held as a live broadcast on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM Central. The live broadcast of each webinar is FREE to the public. ISGS members who are unable to attend the live broadcast are able to access recordings of all past webinars through the Members Section of the ISGS website, to watch at their convenience.

**Finding Scottish Ancestors Online**
January 9, 2018, presented by Nancy Loe

**Illinois Digital Resources**
February 13, 2018, presented by Tina Beaird

**Finding Clues for Your Immigrant Ancestors in Ethnic Newspapers and Publications**
March 13, 2018, presented by Lisa Alzo

**Friedrich Eiler in Illinois: Fragments Fuse to Identify One Individual**
April 10, 2018, presented by Jill Morelli

**Want to Honor Your Revolutionary Roots? Resources for Applying to a Revolutionary War Lineage Society**
May 8, 2018, presented by Bryna O’Sullivan

**Ohio and the Early Gathering of the LDS Church**
June 12, 2018, presented by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

**Museums Have Records, Too! Locating Your Ancestors Behind Closed Doors**
July 10, 2018, presented by Melissa Barker

**National Archives Resources at the Chicago Branch**
August 14, 2018, presented by Jane Haldeman

**Researching Pre-fire Chicago**
September 11, 2018, presented by Ginger Frere

**Chicago Rises from the Ashes: The Columbian Exposition Gives Perspective to the Family Historian**
October 9, 2018, presented by Jean Wilcox Hibben

**1918: The Prairie State 'Over There'**
November 13, 2018, presented by Lisa Oberg

**Some Followed the River, Some Took the Train: Finding Ancestors of the Great Migration**
December 11, 2018, presented by Angela Walton-Raji

All webinars take place at 8:00 PM Central time.


Don't forget to spread the word! Forward this email onto your friends and colleagues, post the information to social media sites and/or your blog/website, or print out a few copies of our webinar flyer to hand out at your local society meetings. The flyer for the 2018 series can be accessed at [https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227](https://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227).
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

Learn More & Register

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

2019 Webinar Sponsor
http://familysearch.org
Genealogy Events

17 November 2018—British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois (BIGWILL), Richmond, IL—Compiling Your Medical Family Tree” by Marsha Peterson-Maass http://www.bigwill.org/meet.htm

17 November 2018—Computer Assisted Genealogy Group (CAGGNI), Schaumburg, IL—General Charles Dawes: the 100th Anniversary of WWI, RJ Lindsey www.caggni.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


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.
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
2018 Governing Board

Officers
President: Laura Marshall Kovarik, Naperville
1st Vice President: David McDonald, DeForest, Wisconsin
2nd Vice President: Barbara McKean, Springfield
Recording Secretary: Caron Primas Brennan, Villa Park
Treasurer: Jackie LaRue Lyell, Marion

Directors
2019 Directors: David Kent Coy, Decatur; Margaret Truax, Aurora; open
2020 Directors: Tina Beaird, Oswego; Jen Warner, Woodridge; open
2021 Directors: Candace Marx, Norridge; Vicki Mattson, Waukegan;
Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville

Immediate Past President
Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville

Standing Committee Chairs
Advocacy: Allen Nemec, Macomb
Conference: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Education: Laura Marshall Kovarik, Naperville
Illinois Society Liaison: Caron Primas Brennan, Villa Park
Marketing & Publicity: Viki Mattson, Waukegan
Membership: Mary Westerhold, Edwardsville
Publications Chair: Sharon Reif, Oak Brook
Website Committee: open

Special Committee Chairs & Other Appointments
Advertising: open
Cemetery Records: John Heider, Monticello
Church Records: open
Family Bible Records: open
Genealogy: Dawn Carey Henry, Naperville
Indexing Coordinator: open
Illinois Bicentennial: Laura Marshall Kovarik, Naperville
Military Certificates: Charles Dobias, Collinsville
Newsletter Editor: Susan Gray McQuaid, Warrenville
Prairie Pioneer Certificates: Jen Warner, Woodridge
Social Media Manager: Candace Marx, Norridge
Quarterly Editor: Terry Feinberg, Freeport
Webinar: Anita Boyd, Winfield

Office Secretary
Evelyn Edwards

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