As any genealogist knows, government records are essential to doing family history. The Illinois State Archives maintains state government records of enduring value. However, the State Archives also administers the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system, a program dedicated to the preservation of local government records.

Under the IRAD program, county, township, municipal, school district, and special district records having legal, administrative, historical, genealogical, or other research value have been transferred to regional depositories located at state universities.

The program began in 1976, when Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois at Springfield), Southern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University began receiving local records from Illinois counties. Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago joined the IRAD system in 1990, receiving records from Cook County and the city of Chicago.

Among the records located at the IRADs are:

- records of births, deaths and marriages
- county board proceedings files and meeting minutes
- land deeds, mortgage and tax sale records
- assessors’ and collectors’ tax books
- poll books and voter registers
- naturalization records, including declarations of intent
- probate records, including wills and will records, case files, administrators’ and executors’ records, guardianship records, and inventory and appraisement records
- civil and criminal court case files, chancery court case files (including divorces), docket books and court proceedings, and insanity proceedings and records
- coroner’s inquest records and inquest files
- miscellaneous county records, including almshouse/
- county home records and jail registers.

- township, municipal, and school records.

The success of the IRAD program, whether measured by quantity and quality of the local records it has preserved or by the services it has provided to local government officials and to researchers with diverse interests, has been remarkable.

The IRAD program began as an experiment—funded for two years by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities—in which the State Archives joined forces with state universities to offer archival services to local governments. Seldom has such cooperation among federal, state, and local governments benefited so many people or found so workable a solution to the problem of preserving an important part of our historical and cultural heritage.

To fully appreciate what IRAD has accomplished since its inception one needs to know a little about the history of the local records problem in Illinois. There are approximately 7,000 units of local government in Illinois, which is roughly 2,000 more than the next highest state, which is Pennsylvania. Each unit of local government creates records but not all are able to properly maintain them or make them accessible.

The writings of Margaret Cross Norton, who became first superintendent of the Illinois State Archives in 1922, reveal her awareness of the value of local government records and her perplexity about what should be done to preserve them. In January, 1940, Norton wrote that “For over forty years American historians and archivists have been writing and otherwise working on behalf of the preservation of local archives.” In spite of these efforts, according to Norton, “The results to date have been negligible….” In 1942, Norton observed that “It is a curious paradox that in the United States where local self-government is highly developed, local records are often poorly preserved, arranged, and listed.”

The Historical Records Survey, a Works Progress Administration project, did much good work arranging and listing county records between 1936 and 1942.  

[Continued on page 6]
President’s Message . . .

The Illinois State Genealogical Society Conference in Sandwich was a great success. I want to thank everyone that helped with the conference, the Conference Committee that spend many hours working to put together an enjoyable and educational experience; the team of volunteers that helped the conference run smoothly — we could never have done it without your help, the understanding spouses and other family members, the hotel staff, and everyone that attended the conference.

As ISGS begins the 2013-2014 year I have to say “good bye” and “thank you” to our retiring board members: Ann Wells, 2013 Director; Thomas MacEntee, Publicity Chair and Website Administrator; Terri O’Connell, Membership Chair; and Howard Manthei, Publications Chair and 2013 Fall Conference Chair. Thank you for your service to ISGS.

At the ISGS Annual meeting in Sandwich I was honored to be re-elected ISGS President along with: Tony Burroughs, 1st Vice President; Susie Pope, 2nd Vice President; Barbara McKean, Recording Secretary; and Michele Claypool, Treasurer.

Please welcome the following new board members elected at the annual meeting to the ISGS Governing Board: Dan Dixon and Mary Westerhold, 2016 Directors. Please welcome the following new appointments to the ISGS Governing Board and Committees: Darlene Hinkle, 2016 Director; Catherine Carlton, Publicity Chair; Anita Boyd, Membership Chair; Paul Lyn-Waitsman, Website Administrator; and Darlene Hinkle, Church Records Chair.

If you would like to join the ISGS team as a board or committee member or as an indexer, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Susie Pope: isgs2ndv@ilgensoc.org.

ISGS 2013 Fall Conference Report

The ISGS 2013 Fall Conference was held on October 25-26 in Sandwich, IL at the Best Western Timber Creek Inn and Suites. A total of 194 people registered for the conference. The planning and preparation for this successful conference was due to the work of many members and volunteers.

The conference committee was made up of Jane Haldeman, Janice Fritsch, Susie Pope, Joan Kitchen Murray, Kristy Gravlin and Michele Claypool. Joan oversaw the selection and contractual arrangements of the hotel and coordinated the vendor participation. Janice managed registration and recordkeeping. As in past years Susie did a masterful job producing the conference brochure and event signage and many other details. Michele gave us financial guidance and Jane helped coordinate so many details including the production of the CD, and recruiting Sue Ridgley to do the layout and design of the syllabus itself.

Eleven youngsters attended the Youth Conference. Nancy Fiore, Shirley Koelling, and Phyllis Drewo organized and conducted the session.

Thanks to their conference experiences, the committee was able to attend to the behind the scenes details that made for a smooth running event. And while there was no host society to help with the planning, Jean Smith (LaSalle Genealogical Guild) provided us with many volunteer contacts and Kristy oversaw the scheduling of some 30 volunteers.

Board Members Wendy Malinoski and Thomas MacEntee were instrumental in promoting the conference via our website and social media outlets, and ISGS office secretary Evelyn Edwards managed the many duplication projects and played a key role in coordinating daily events.

Based on conference feedback, the hotel site was one of the best ever. The hotel staff was most helpful, the food exceptionally good, and the vendor layout was easy to navigate.

The committee’s selection of speakers offered a variety of presentations that new and experienced researchers appreciated based on attendee feedback. The speakers were: George Morgan, Thomas MacEntee, Janis Minor Forte, Janice Fritsch, David Kent Coy, Jayne Cates, Nancy Loe, and Scott Forsythe.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to everyone who stepped up to assist with so many details.

Howard Manthei, Chair
ISGS 2013 Fall Conference
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!

Dec. 10, 2013 — Miracles, Mysteries & Mayhem: Online Family Trees
Presenter: Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG
We want to build on the research of others but those online family trees often contain miracles, mysteries and mayhem. Does the tree need to be pruned? Learn effective techniques to determine if branches are diseased or if they are healthy.
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8253902195291921152

January 14, 2014 – 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists
Presenter: Thomas MacEntee
You’ll not only find a list of key resources but more importantly you’ll learn how to embrace the “mind set” of finding the best ways to save money while researching your ancestors.
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5698954937817284354

February 11, 2014 – Printed Legends and Missing Footnotes: Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies
Presenter: D. Joshua Taylor
Discover the methods used in the 19th and early 20th century to create a compiled genealogy, and how to ensure its information does not lead you down the wrong trail.
Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9213931983607980546

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

Join Us . . .
Spread the word about our 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

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

Translators from German, Dutch, and French to English
Gordon Hartig
P. O. Box 7732
Bloomington, IN 47407
Telephone: (812) 430-9117
Email: Gordon@hartigtranslations.com
Website: http://www.hartigtranslations.com

Specializing in Old German Script
ISGS Awards Announced

The following two Award winners were announced at the ISGS Fall Conference in Sandwich, Illinois.

Don Purn – Community Service Award

Don Purn is receiving the Community Service Award for his expertise and his volunteer efforts in contributing to the knowledge and interest in Civil War genealogy.

Don has done extensive research on Civil War Veterans from McHenry County, compiling a vast amount of information on 2,775 veterans including their service information, death dates, 530 of their obituaries, photos when available, and maps of 900 of their burial sites. He has researched 123 prisoners of war and visited the prison camps where these McHenry County veterans were held. Don has also researched and shared maps of both McHenry County and the railroads of Northern Illinois during the Civil War years.

Don Purn is a long time member of McHenry County Genealogical Society and currently serves as treasurer. Don has become MCIGS's Civil War expert and freely shares his expertise with others. To facilitate sharing, Don has compiled all his information into several formats for easy research by others. He maintains a website that is searchable by name, cemetery, date of death, etc. Don also has printed sections of his research and plans to donate these binders to the McHenry County Historical Society.

For these reason ISGS is proud to present Don Purn with the Community Service Award.

David C. Bailey, Sr. – Individual Writer’s Award

David C. Bailey, Sr. is receiving the Individual Writer’s Award in recognition of his significant body of work in Civil War soldier historical research and publication.

David retired as a Commercial Manager with an international oil company, and devotes his time to pursuing his interests in genealogy and U. S. military history.

David has served as President of the Illinois Society, Sons of the American Revolution and as Illinois Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His research can be seen in several issues of the ISGS Quarterly.

ISGS is pleased to present David Bailey with this year’s Individual Writer’s Award.

ATTN: December Renewing Members

Please don’t wait until the last minute to renew. With so many renewals at the end of the year, everyone renewing at once can cause a backlog in processing your renewal. Thank you for your help.

All I Want for Christmas is a New Surname

Dear Santa,

Don’t bring me new dishes, I don’t need a new kind of game. Genealogists have peculiar wishes For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great, But it’s not the desire of my life. I’ve just found an ancestor’s birth date; What I need now is the name of his wife.

My heart doesn’t yearn for a ring That would put a real diamond to shame. What I want is a much cheaper thing; Please give me Mary’s last name.

To see my heart singing with joy, Don’t bring me a red leather suitcase, Bring me a genealogist’s toy: A surname with dates and a place.

- Author Unknown. Reprinted from the 1984 ISGS Newsletter
Current ISGS Opportunities!

With the beginning of a new year, ISGS is poised for continued success. The positions listed below reflect some retiring board members, and 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.

**OPPORTUNITIES:**

For more information on any of the volunteer positions listed below, please contact Susie Pope at: isgs2ndvp@ilgensoc.org

- **Finance and Budget Chair:** This committee monitors the financial condition of ISGS, makes recommendations to the Governing board, and compiles the annual budget.
- **Advertising Chair:** This chair develops advertisers for the ISGS Quarterly, Newsletter, and fall conference syllabus.
- **Publicity Committee Members (Social Media):** Committee members are needed specifically to promote ISGS through its social media (Facebook, Blog, and Twitter accounts).
- **Publications Chair:** This committee monitors the ISGS publications inventory, and coordinates the printing and distribution of all ISGS publications, with the exception of the Newsletter and Quarterly.
- **Education Chair:** Develops and coordinates educational opportunities offered by ISGS.

ISGS Website Update

Do you have 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.

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, please contact the ISGS Webmaster at isgswbmaster@ilgensoc.org.

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 with the correct information.
An alphabetical listing of over 1,200 soldiers originally published in 1976, this new edition has been expanded to include new entries, soldier’s children and other family members. Also includes 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.

Includes Three Indexes
- Burial Locations
- Spouse Index
- Soldier Index

636 pages

Hardcover Price: $44.95  eBook Price: $9.95


The HRS published inventories for over thirty Illinois counties and envisioned these publications, when completed for the entire country, as constituting “an encyclopedia of local government.” The Survey’s projects were interrupted by the war effort, however, and the program was never resumed. Government at all levels grew rapidly during this time period, and the tremendous quantities of records being produced created storage problems in many courthouses.

Norton, fearing the destruction of records in some Illinois courthouses, agreed to accept endangered county records for deposit in the State Archives Building after its completion in 1938. She realized, however, that attempting to centralize all valuable local records in Springfield was neither possible nor desirable. Although Norton floated such ideas as state aid for local officials and appealing to the self-interest of local citizens to arouse support for improvements in courthouse vaults, the problems persisted and worsened.

In 1961, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Local Records Act, providing a records management system for local officials, administered by the State Archives. The main goal of the act was to provide for more efficient recordkeeping by authorizing and regulating the destruction of records no longer having legal, fiscal, or administrative value. The act also gave the state archivist the discretionary power to accept local records with historical value into the State Archives or regional depositories. This provision was not immediately implemented, however, and over the next fifteen years fears grew in the archival and academic communities that valuable local records might be destroyed.

In 1976, the State Archives, under Director John Daly, planned and implemented the Illinois Regional Archives Depository system. The depositories provide a place for local governments to store and make accessible their records.

Not all local government agencies have chosen to transfer records to IRAD, but each year holdings continue to increase. Some local governments not willing to transfer their records to a regional depository have allowed the State Archives to microfilm their records and make them available in that medium at IRAD depositories. This microfilming program has been popular with local government agencies and has expanded IRAD holdings while conserving storage space.

Researchers unfamiliar with the resources of the IRAD system should visit the Illinois State Archives web site and view the IRAD home page at the following address:


Links on this page provide access to IRAD research policies, a map of the IRAD regions, contact information for each depository, the Local Governmental Records Database, and name indexes to 39 records series of genealogical interest that are held by IRAD.

Researchers are welcome to visit IRAD depositories to use the records and will be assisted by IRAD interns. The depository hours are generally Monday through Friday during normal business hours. When planning a visit, you may wish to call in advance to ensure the IRAD is open or to check the IRAD web site for specific hours.
Welcome New ISGS Members

Patricia Solomon - San Jose, CA
Marilyn Miller - Jasper, FL
Gary Haworth - Saint Peters, MO
Michael Smith - Henderson, NV
Diane Johnson - Lombard, IL
Carolyn Pennington - Montgomery, IL
Jean Zurow - Bastrop, TX
Ken Macke - West Union, IL
Eleanor Macke - West Union, IL
Jacqueline Horn - Petersburg, IL
Kathleen Rudolph - Paw Paw, IL
Becky Mihelich - Webster Groves, MO
Arlene Jones-Swenson - Scandia, MN
Cheryl Winter - Elgin, IL
Marianne Moll - Morton, IL
Sandra Kiferbaum - Glencoe, IL
Bryce Monroe - Athens, IL
Roszeta Monroe - Athens, IL
Sandra Jones-Stanicke - Aurora, IL
Patricia Stoudt - Orion, IL
Jeannie Benson - Plano, IL
Jerry Jensen - Janesville, WI
Marilynn Jensen - Janesville, WI
Richard Rose - Canion Country, CA
Stan Wilson - Baltimore, MD
Debra Waggoner - Grand Island, NE
Cheryl Chamblin - Decatur, IL
Richard Chamblin - Decatur, IL
Stanley Pritchett - Castle Pines, CO
Nancy Hershberger - Arlington Hts, IL
Flagg Township Hist. Soc.& Museum - Rochelle, IL
Kenneth Alexander - Evanston, IL
Sandra Keegan - Altamonte Springs, FL
Patricia Marshall - Winter Park, FL
Betty J. Nelson - Oakdale, CA
Kathy Burfield - Pecatonica, IL
Jean Wistedt - Illinois City, IL
Nancy Babb - Rochelle, IL
Carol Blohm
Janet Bend
Patricia Wirth
Anne Sears
Carole Nagle
Laurie A. Swimm
Lynne R. Schlink
Paul Lyn-Waitsman

View upcoming Genealogy Events at:
www.ilgensoc.org/events.php

Jesse White Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Illinois State Archives Norton Building

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White and the Illinois State Archives is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Margaret Cross Norton Building in Springfield.

“This building serves as a testament to the importance of preserving the records of the past,” said White. “I’m proud that over the last decade we’ve made infrastructure repairs to the building, including tuck-pointing the masonry work, replacing the roof and installing a new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system that should help make this building last another 75 years.”

In 1938, the facility opened and was only the third building in the nation built specifically to house archival documents. Margaret Cross Norton, the state’s first superintendent of the State Archives from 1922 to 1957, was instrumental in planning the design and construction.

Today, the Margaret Cross Norton Building houses more than 75,000 cubic feet of state records in a collection that includes French and English colonial records, territorial records, more than 100 Lincoln documents and the state’s first Constitution. The Norton Building also serves as the home for the offices of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.
ISGS Newsletter Deadlines

January-February 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due: January 6

March-April 2014 Issue
Articles/ads due March 1

ISGS Executive Committee Elected Officers 2014

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

2014 Directors: Karl Moore, Valerie Burd, Sara Taylor
2015 Directors: Jayne Cates, Becky Higgins, Kristy Gravlin
2016 Directors: Dan Dixon, Mary Westerhold, Darlene Hinkle

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.