

THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
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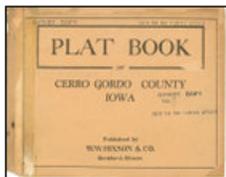


THE GENIE BUG is published in February, May, August & November. A benefit to members of the non-profit North Central Iowa Genealogical Society.



CALENDAR

All programs at Clear Lake Public Library, Lower Level, 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.



May 13, 2017 *Use of Plat Books. Want to learn where your ancestor's farm was located? How much land he owned or rented?* Plat Books are atlases that detail rural land ownership. Within each county plat book are 36 individual one-page township maps. What else can we learn from Plat Books? Find out in May.



May 13, 2017 *A Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Mason City Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will be held Saturday, May 13th from 10:00-2:00+ at the Girl Scout building located at 601 S. Illinois Ave. Mason City, Iowa. Presenters will be "Action 5" committee members from the State DAR. It is open to the public. Bring your sack lunch or there are other lunch options within walking distance. Questions please call Carolyn Broers at [641-430-9899](tel:641-430-9899).*

June 10, 2017 - Monthly meeting program topic to be announced.

July 8, 2017 - Monthly meeting program topic to be announced.



July 28-29, 2017 - The German-American Genealogical Partnership is preparing for their first international conference. Germanic family researchers have a unique opportunity to connect with people from other countries by traveling a few miles north to Minneapolis. Check out the conference info on www.ggsmin.org/



August 12, 2017 - Picnic in the Park. **Mark your calendar for our annual picnic. We will again be in Shelter #3 at East Park in Mason City.** People attending the picnic should plan to bring their own plates and utensils, plus either an entrée, salad or dessert (with serving spoon). A sign-up sheet will be available at the NCIQS Library and at monthly meetings.



All Year Long - U.S. participation in WWI officially began for America on 6 Apr 1917 and ended 26 Jul 1919. The National WWI Museum and Memorial (located in Kansas City, Missouri) is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact. Many special programs and events will be offered during the next 39 months to honor America's 4.7 million WWI veterans. A nice weekend trip!



Hello friends,

Happy Easter, and Happy Mother's Day!



Spring is here and it's time to get out and search for those family cemetery markers. New information found on cemetery markers may increase your searching success and provide follow-up with obituary family records. Think of all the new data for your Tree! It is baffling how many new births and deaths happen within our family without our knowledge. Most relatives are not aware of the importance each one of these events has for us. What's the secret to encourage family sharing more details?

The March program was on CCC records and April was our Round Table Discussion. We had people share some very interesting stories. Sorry if you missed it. Please plan to attend our session next time and bring along a friend. Included in this issue is a chart we use to provide treats for each meeting. Please let us know if you would like to help by "Bringing 2 dozen cookies" for a program.

I have reviewed the membership roster and hopefully have already reminded you e-mail recipients to renew your membership. For members who receive our newsletter through the Postal Service, please check your records to make sure you have renewed for 2017.

We are void a Research Chair this year. If you could volunteer to help us out, please let anyone on the Board know as soon as possible or maybe stop in at the NCIIGS Library. Also no one has volunteered to serve as our 'Editor' for THE GENIE BUG. It's a fun job and only takes a few hours once a quarter. Please help if you can.

May is a family time with others. This might be a great opportunity to encourage family to share several of those older stories they heard years ago. Have an enjoyable Mother's Day with your loved ones.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon. Have a great day!
Thank you, Lea Norlinger, NCIIGS President.

Long time NCIIGS member and Library volunteer Ruth Boyenga passed away April 7, 2017. To her family and friends we extend our sympathy.

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The **NCIGS Library** is located on the 1st floor of the Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd St. SE, Mason City, Iowa. The MCPL and the NCIGS Library are open M/T/W/TH 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; F/SAT 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you need help from one of our library volunteers, remember our library is staffed M/W/F 9 a.m. – noon; 1-4 p.m.

Library Committee Members: Joan Bartel, Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Dorothy Paul, Sandra Turner. **Library Volunteers:** Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Carolyn Anderson, LeNore Forbes, Gwen Miller, Rod Hungerford, Marie Thompson, Mark Suby, Mary Lou Galindo, and Sandra Turner.

Goals for 2017: The Library Committee reviewed what had been accomplished in 2016 and set goals for 2017:

1. Coordinating the NCIGS Library Accession Records. Kay Mestad will continue this effort.
2. Where possible black notebook materials will be shelved within file boxes. Dorothy Paul has agreed to supervise this project. **We are looking for a volunteer to assist Dorothy -- mainly someone familiar with Word who can type up/attach new labels to the file boxes. This is a short term project, requiring a few hours.**
3. Inventory the Plat Map Collection. Linda Faridi and Mary Lou Galindo will be responsible.
4. Evaluate the usage of the County Boxes. This evaluation will be undertaken by all volunteers. We will review the evaluation results when setting 2018 goals.
5. The Committee refined and will implement a revised donations/withdrawal policy.
6. Fundraising. The Library needs a new computer, some additional software, possibly a shredder and funds for new items for the collection. It was decided to request NCIGS board approval to submit a grant to the Farrer Endowment Foundation.

Items Cataloged:

- ✓ *Past Harvests, a History of Floyd County to 1996.* Donated by Kay Mestad.
- ✓ *Early Times on the Susquehanna.* Donated by Rita Goranson.

In addition to these new titles, as a result of our collection maintenance project, many items have been repaired, re-cataloged and re-shelved.

Collection Maintenance: Kay Mestad has completed examining the periodicals collection. Thanks, Kay! Sandra is working through collection concerns identified by the Collection Maintenance teams.

Card Catalog repair: Thanks to Larry Paul and David Gilbert for repairing the card catalog. The drawers now work smoothly and look a lot better.

NCIGS Library Data Base:

- ✓ Carolyn Anderson has returned from her winter break and is resuming her scanning work.
- ✓ Mark Suby will assist with SnapScan enhancements. .
- ✓ Sandra continues reviewing/processing the scanned items. **Additional volunteers are needed for this work.**

Library Closures: *The library was closed for President's Day (2/20) and snow day (3/3). The MCPL will be closed on Thursday, April 20th for staff training.*

Promotional Material: *The Tri-fold brochure was updated, more copies prepared and distributed.*

2017 First Quarter documented usage:

| Category | Cumulated Annual Totals |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Researchers | 182 |
| Out of 9 County Area | 2 |
| Out of State/Country | 1 |
| Non-members | 65 |

N.C.I.G.S. Financial Report
For April 8, 2017 Meeting
 March. 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017

| <u>Society Funds</u> | | <u>Year-to-date</u> | | <u>Acct. Balances Mar 31, 2017</u> | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Mar. 1, 2017</u> | <u>Mar 31, 2017</u> | <u>Jan.1, 2017 -</u> | <u>Mar. 31, 2017</u> | <u>Society Funds</u> | <u>\$5743.50*</u> |
| Income Categories | | Income Categories | | Restricted Society Funds | |
| NCIGS Inc. | | NCIGS Inc. | | 2018 Dues - 10 \$ 120.00 | |
| 2017 Dues | 12.00 | 2017 Dues | 876.00 | 2019 Dues – 1 \$ 12.00 | |
| 2018 Dues | 12.00 | 2018 Dues | 36.00 | Thrivent-Website \$ 125.67 | |
| Copies | 51.00 | Copies | 133.80 | Memorial Fund \$ 85.00 | |
| Donation | 114.00 | Donation | 120.00 | Farrar Grant \$ 3.92 | |
| Meet Donate | 2.00 | Meet Donate | 51.00 | Savings \$ 4229.96 | |
| Research Fee | 55.00 | Research Fee | 115.00 | Total Reserves \$ 4588.55 | |
| Total NCIGS Inc. | 246.00 | Total NCIGS Inc. | 1,331.80 | | |
| Total Income Categories | 246.00 | Total Income Categories | 1,331.80 | | |
| Transfers | | Expense Categories | | *Spendable funds \$ 1154.95 | |
| Restricted Funds | (105.00) | NCIGS Exp. | | | |
| | | Genie Bug | 47.85 | | |
| | | Total NCIGS Exp. | 47.85 | | |
| | | Total Expense Categories | 47.85 | | |
| | | Transfers | | | |
| | | Restricted Funds | (129.00) | | |



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.....

Dianne Woodard, Clear Lake, Iowa



NCIGS Refreshment Donation List 2017



Each monthly meeting, we need about 4 dozen cookies or bars. With two volunteers per meeting, each will be responsible for bringing **2 dozen cookies or bars**. Will you please contribute? Contact Lenore Forbes to get on the list: lforbes@myomnitel.com or call 641-749-5505. Thank you for your contribution.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 13 May | Pamela Little & Lea Norlinger |
| 10 June | Carol Tinkey & Joan Sawyer |
| 08 July | Doris Smith & Alan Neve |
| 12 August | Annual Picnic – Pot Luck |
| 09 September | June Elbert & _____ |
| 14 October | _____ & _____ |
| 11 November | _____ & _____ |

December- No monthly meeting – no refreshments needed

Hitting the Highlights



February NCIGS Board & General Meetings:

- Research Chair & THE GENIE BUG Editor positions remain vacant.
- The Clear Lake Mirror and Reporter obituaries through April 2006 have now been incorporated into the new on-line database.
- The Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa have asked for assistance in aiding local Girl Scouts to learn and discover their family history. Rod Hungerford will follow up on this request.
- Operating Procedures will be updated and brought to the attention of society members.
- Rod Hungerford presented a program entitled “*Researching Church Records in the U.S.*” Samples of on-line church records were provided to attendees.
- The program for March will be the *Civilian Conservation Corp and its records.*

March NCIGS Board & General Meetings:

- Rod Hungerford has agreed to process Research Requests until a new committee chair can be found. He reported 8 research requests were received in the past month, three of which are now completed.
- Sandra Turner has agreed to serve as temporary Editor of THE GENIE BUG. Lea Norlinger will be responsible for developing the annual membership directory and the distribution of THE BUG.
- Jay Lehmann indicated the Drop Box files have been updated. Members can now review and access information more easily on the Website.
- The program for April will be the 2nd “*Members’ Round Table Discussion.*”
- The Operating Procedures were reviewed and updated. This document will be discussed at the April general meeting.
- Rod Hungerford presented a program entitled “*Civilian Conservation Corps*”. An excellent video was shown followed by comments and discussion from Rod and members of the audience. Handouts were provided.

April NCIGS Board & General Meetings:

- Jay Lehmann reported Carol Tinkey was experiencing some problems with access to our website database. He and Carol will resolve these issues.
- The May Program is entitled “*Use of Plat Books*“. June & July are not finalized. August will be the annual picnic in Shelter #3, East Park, and Mason City.
- The updated Operational Procedures was discussed.
- The board authorized a \$5,000 grant be written and submitted to the Farrer Endowment Foundation.
- The program “*Members’ Round Table Discussion*” was enjoyed by all. Many topics, places and research techniques were shared. With such success, it is presumed the 3rd annual Round Table will be offered next year.

How Well Off Was Your Ancestor?

Appearing in Ancestry Weekly Discovery 03 April 2011

In the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," when Clarence the angel tells George Bailey, "We don't use money in heaven," George is quick to respond, "Well, it sure comes in handy down here, bub." Rich or poor, your ancestors' financial picture is part their story. The following are just some of the resources at Ancestry.com that can help you learn more about how well off – or not — your ancestor was.

U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918

When the tax man came to call, our ancestors probably grumbled as much as we do. But their tax woes can be a genealogists' good fortune. Throughout history, taxes have been collected by federal and local governments on luxury items like carriages, watches, pianos, billiard tables, and silver, as well as real estate, slaves, and income. Poll taxes were sometimes levied by counties and towns on the free white males of a certain age. Check [U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918](#) to see if your ancestor is included. The majority of these records are from the years 1862-66 although some are from beyond the 1860s.

Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880

While it's neat to learn what your ancestor's occupation was from a census or some other record, just knowing he was a farmer only skims the surface. Wouldn't it be great to know what he grew? What kind of livestock he kept? How many pigs? How many milch cows? What was the value of his farm in comparison to others in his area? And better yet, wouldn't it be great to see his progress a decade later? These are just some of the things you can learn from census non-population schedules. If your ancestor lived in California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia or Washington you're in luck. Ancestry.com has [non-population schedules](#) for these states available online.

Census Records

Even tried and true [census records](#) can give you a little insight into how well your ancestor fared. Check 1850, 1860 and 1870 for the value of real estate owned; 1860 and 1870 also include a value of your ancestor's personal estate. Use clues from other censuses to help you paint a portion of the financial picture. In 20th-century censuses, residents were asked whether their home was owned or rented; in 1930 that also included the value of the home. For other years look at his or her occupation and what the neighbors did for a living.

Emigrant Savings Bank

Irish immigrants as well as an occasional immigrant of another ethnicity who landed in New York City may have opened an account with the city's Emigrant Savings Bank. While the collection, [New York Emigrant Savings Bank, 1850-1883](#), includes Index Books, Transfer, Signature, and Test Books, for assessing your ancestor's finances, Deposit-Account Ledgers may prove the most valuable. But search the entire collection regardless: if your ancestor had an account with the bank, you'll find given names, surnames, year and place of birth and much more.

Poorhouse

Everything wasn't always rosy, which is exactly what [London, England, Poor Law Records, 1834-1940](#) prove. While you may not find an exact dollar amount for your ancestor, you will learn if he or she was assisted by the Poor Law Amendment Act. Since numerous types of records were created as a result of London's Poor Laws, browse the entire collection. You may find details about an ancestor's everyday life or even if he or she escaped poverty.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GENEALOGIST WHEN.....

- You have more pictures of tombstones than of the kids.
- "I need to spend just a little more time at the courthouse" means forget the cleaning, washing, dinner, chores; the day is shot.
- The mailman can't believe that you get this much mail from someone you don't even know.
- You explain to Mother why you can't go 25 miles for Sunday dinner, but can go 100 miles to check out another cemetery.
- "As soon as I check out this census record, I'll fix dinner" means "call the local pizza parlor."
- Your neighbors think you are crazy, your friends wonder, and YOU know you are.
- You go to the library and instead of going to the fiction section first; (like you used to do many moons ago) you go to the "local history" or "genealogy" sections.
- You go on vacation and beg your hubby to please drive 80 miles out of the way so that you can try and find your granddaddy's grave in 100 degree heat.
- Youthful fantasies of traveling to exotic places are replaced with plans to get to those little towns with graveyards or larger towns with Archives!
- Your fear of snakes and bugs is overshadowed by the need to get through those brambles to that old grave-stone.
- You worry about the roof's leaking only if the drips threaten your genealogy section.
- You're not invited to family functions because your relatives are tired of filling out family group sheets.