

# THE GENIE BUG

**North Central Iowa Genealogical Society**

**P. O. Box 237, Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237**

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THE GENIE BUG is published in February, May, August & November, as a benefit to members of the non-profit NCIGS. The current editor is Sandra Turner. Contact: ncigso@gmail.com.



## CALENDAR

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



February 9 - Rod & friends will present a program about six local late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> century women. The group will share how these women changed themselves and the world around them. How they gained financial, legal and personal independence. These changes, usually due to individual circumstances, required them to move out of the home to become landowners, business women, entrepreneurs, etc. These women, and others like them, began to take charge of their own destinies. Does that sound familiar in today's world? Learn how they did it—way back then



February 23 – 1-4 p.m. (Alternate weather date - March 2). You are invited to attend our new library open house. If you haven't already seen our new "digs" use this opportunity to visit. Our library is now located on the second floor of the Masonic Temple Building in Mason City. The Temple is located at the intersection of 1st St SE & S Georgia, across from the police station (west) and the First United Methodist Church (south), about 1 1/2 blocks from the MCPL. You may use street parking or the church parking lot. Please plan to use the building's west entrance. After entering the building either take the stairway or the elevator (to the right). On the second floor, our library is directly ahead. You will pass the open coat room (on the right) as you

walk down the hallway to our library. See you then.



March 9 - Many of today's drivers rely on GPS technology to get from place to place. GPS units—global positioning systems—calculate the best routes and give step-by-step directions, even in unfamiliar territory. Another type of GPS can guide your family history journey. The *Genealogical Proof Standard* serves as a "genealogical GPS" that teaches basic navigational skills: how to plot your research course, track your progress, read conflicting sets of directions and share your journey with friends and family. Come to this meeting and hear what Mark Suby has to say about this approach to genealogical research.

***If you haven't yet renewed your membership, it's time to do so. The membership application is available on page 8 of this issue. If you are feeling generous, additional support beyond the \$12 membership fee would be appreciated. We'll have added annual expenses from now on. Thank you.***

## The President's Column:

Another year has passed and Oh! What a year it was, not what I had expected. I guess you might say our society had a rebirth and lots of things have been accomplished. It was sad to leave the MCPL after 40 plus years of making it our home, but the future looks promising! The founding members deserve credit for making the NCIGS what it is today and current members and advocates stepped forward with their help and support when it was needed most. So we move on with the hope of a prosperous New Year and leave some unpleasant memories of the past behind.

We were lucky to find such a good home at a price we could afford. We owe a great deal of thanks to Steve at the Masonic Lodge for his help in making this new location happen. We hope this new home will allow us the time to put into action some informational programs for those members and non-members who have an interest in family history. The ever changing world of technology allows us to dig deeper and deeper into our past. For me it's thrilling to re-trace the wagon wheels and sailing vessels of our ancestors.

I would like to thank Rod for all the effort in packing/unpacking, moving and resetting the shelving. I would also like to thank Larry Paul and Larry Spencer for their wonderful help during this transition, and others who volunteered their time during the move. Thank you to those who donated funds for rent and miscellaneous equipment. Your kindness is much appreciated. It was also very considerate of Jill Pannkuk, Clear Lake Public Library Director, for thinking of us when it came to shelving; this was a great help in making our move so successful. I guess we can call this a reboot to the future in hopes of staying at this location for some time.

At our November meeting Beth Enright offered to help with our research requests. Rod and Beth will make a great team. Thank you, Beth!

How did you spend your holidays? Here's how I spent mine!

Connie and I left Mason City December 4<sup>th</sup> and arrived in New York to surprise our grandson on his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday that evening. We returned home January 4<sup>th</sup>. Our daughter Heather joined us December 20<sup>th</sup>, so it was a family affair. We had to pick her up at the Newark Airport in New Jersey. Got mixed up in traffic and found ourselves on the infamous "George Washington Bridge." The one Gov. Christie of New Jersey shut some of the lanes down for a week or so. This bridge is an engineering marvel. It has an upper and lower deck and is very congested. We eventually got back on track to the airport.



On our way back we stopped at the Rockland Bakery. This place is unbelievable! (see the photos). The bagels roll down a conveyor and you pick them fresh from the oven. This bakery is huge; they have their own lunch counter, and make bakery rolls and pastries in another part of the building. My daughter loves things like this, especially things from other cultures. She and our son spent a day together just the two of them and came home with a Polish treat called Babka (look it up).

My kids in hot pursuit of the best and greatest bagel

The weather was great for January, mostly sunny and 40 to 60 degrees most days. The trip home was a night flight and the skies were crystal clear; city lights as far as you could see. Like Dorothy said, there is no place like home. Happy New! Looking forward to another great year.

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**Editorial note: Mark fails to acknowledge all the time, energy and leadership he provided to the society during this difficult time. Whatever success we will enjoy in the future is largely the result of his efforts. Thank you, Mark!**

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Finding Your Roots

Have you been watching the 2019 series? 10 new episodes explore ancestry stories of Felicity Huffman, Andy Samberg, George R.R. Martin, Christiane Amanpour, Michael Strahan, Laura Linney, Paul Ryan, Joe Madison, Michael Moore, Sarah Silverman, Kal Penn, Michael K. Williams, Tig Notaro, Lisa Ling, Alejandro Inarritu, Chloe Sevigny and more. Check it out Tuesdays, 7 p.m. on PBS.

GRANT REPORT: Dr. & Mrs. Shilling have forwarded a grant request to the Worth County Development Association to purchase some needed equipment. Several items have been included in the grant request such as a media screen, projector & speakers, an additional computer, a book truck, etc. The grant is limited to \$10,000.00. We will be notified mid-April if the grant has been funded.

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Periodical Review: Diane L. Richard’s article in the Jan/Feb 2019 issue of YOUR GENEALOGY (page13-16) discusses 18th & 19th century Federal Tax Records. According to the IRS, the US federal government began levying revenue taxes in 1791 with a tax on distilled spirits. Soon after, other items such as carriages, refined sugar and snuff were also taxed. Though not all the official records survived, newspapers published lists & other insight into these records at the time of the tax collection. Diane provides a good bibliography. If you make new discoveries using this resource, let us know and we’ll report about it in THE BUG.

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OFFICERS for 2019:

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\* Treasurer: Carol Tinkey tinkeycarol@gmail.com
\* Research Chair: Vacant
\* Librarian: Sandra Turner ncigso@gmail.com
\* Publicity Chair: Sharlene Stoddard worthgen@mchsi.com
\* Website Chair: Jay Lehmann jay@ncigs.org
\* Membership Chair: Vacant
\* Hospitality – LeNore Forbes- lfrobes@myomnitel.com

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NCIGS Refreshment Donation List 2019

Each monthly meeting, we need about 4 dozen cookies or bars. Rod Hungerford always provides a couple of dozen, so we need one more volunteer to provide the other 2 dozen each month. Will you please contribute? We always have the picnic in July and no meeting in December, so we won’t need cookies or bars for those two months. Contact Lenore Forbes to get on the list:

## Smile.amazon.com

You can now help support NCIGS! Instead of using amazon.com, use smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to our society.



**REMEMBERING** - William E. Bjerke, 92, of Mason City, died Thursday, September 6, 2018. Bill was a member of NCIGS for many years, serving in a variety of capacities, including Treasurer. He was always willing to lend a hand, helping out where needed. Due to ailing health, Bill wasn't seen around as much as in the past, but his contribution and his kindness will be missed by all. We also lost another faithful member, Arnita M. Searle, 94, of Mason City, IA. She died Monday, August 27, 2018. Like Bill, Arnita served NCIGS well, last serving



as our President.



Carolyn Broers passed Tuesday, October 2, 2018. Carolyn was a life-long advocate of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a true supporter of NCIGS. She was very vocal during our recent interaction with the MCPL, advocating for our cause. Richard Peterson, 81, passed February 21, 2018. Richard had a sincere interest in the preservation of the past – both in terms of his family history and the Kenney Pioneer Museum. He was often a NCIGS library researcher, exploring the collection as well as utilizing the Internet resources the NCIGS library provides. If you are aware of other advocates of NCIGS who have passed, please advise the Editor of THE BUG, so their contribution to our society can be recognized.



## A photographic review of Progress

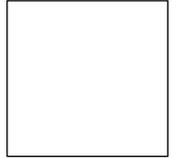








NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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## NCIGS Membership Application

Per household dues are \$12.00 per calendar year (Jan-Dec). New member dues paid after October 1 will extend through the next year. Annual membership includes: quarterly newsletter with one free query, monthly meetings, support and friendship of like-minded folk, opportunity to participate in a variety of projects and use of the NCIGS Library. In addition to my membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I am interested in volunteering as follows:  Library  Website  Membership  Programming  Refreshments  
 Grant Writing  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership or  Renewal

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletter to be sent via:**  E-mail or  Postal Service

Amount Enclosed: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail application and monies to:** North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402-0237