

# THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 237, Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237  
Volume 44, Number 2, May 2018



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 – ncigso@gmail.com. NCIGS was established in 1972.

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## CALENDAR

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

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**May 12, 2018** - “LEHIGH ROW” - Helen Karamitros, a NIACC sociology instructor, comes from a family of Greek immigrants who came to America in the early 1900’s when there was a worker shortage in Mason City. She & her family lived in Lehigh Row which was one of three segregated neighborhoods in Mason City during that time. The neighborhood housed Southern and Eastern European immigrants as well as Mexicans who worked in either cement or brick and tile plants. This will be an informative program, recalling past places and events.



105th EVACUATION HOSPITAL AT PIEKAMALA, visible spot on the 11 Corps front.

**June 9, 2018** - Agnes Lewis, "Ag" to her friends, was born and raised in Rockwell. After graduation she went to St. Margret's Hospital Nursing School, graduating in 1939. She then joined the Army and after basic training in Colorado was sent to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. In 1940 she went to Europe with the 105th Evacuation Hospital and followed General Patton's 3rd Army until the end of the war. She was recalled in 1950 to go to Korea for one year and was in Viet Nam for two tours, 1966-1967 and 1968-1969. In 1974, after serving 28 years, Ag retired. She'll fascinate us with the details of her distinguished career.



**July 14, 2017** - Picnic in the Park. Mark your calendar for our annual picnic in East Park, Mason City, Iowa. We have reserved Shelter 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will begin the meal at noon. People attending the picnic should plan to bring one of the following: an entrée, salad or dessert (with serving spoon). The society will furnish the beverages, plates, utensils, cups & napkins. We will be responsible for cleaning up the shelter after our picnic, so please plan to help. Signing up in advance is helpful for our planning, but last minute attendees are welcome. Sign-up sheets are in the genealogy library or at the monthly meetings.



**August 11, 2018** **Cancelled in March, rescheduled for August.** Back by popular demand, the August meeting will be a “round table type” session. Topics will be wide ranging, such as: what items or projects initiated interest in your family history? What clues allowed your discovery of *the who, the what, the where and the how come of your detective story.* Join us for a fun time of discussion and learning. We will be sharing our knowledge on some great topics.

## The President's Column:



Although it is spring, the last 3 or 4 weeks have seen at least one snow storm in each of those weeks, with a mixture of rain, sleet and small hail. We should have blossoms on the trees and the grass should be turning green. Is this a normal spring season?

Maybe this article from the History of Franklin County will make you feel a bit better. You can find this paragraph on page 224 if you want to read the entire article.

*“On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1859, I arrived in Franklin County. I left Illinois, with others, in a wagon with a team of horses, having with me books and other necessaries. On July 4<sup>th</sup> we traveled from Sumner to Waverly. It started to rain and there being no houses between the Wapsipinicon River and Waverly we traveled straight across the prairie. The rain turned to snow which fell to a depth of 4 inches, but it melted before we got to Waverly. This was a phenomena I had never seen before nor since, of snow that depth in July. The night of the snow we stayed at Shell Rock and the next day reached Hampton.”*

If you would like to contribute an interesting story to The Genie Bug, please feel to do so. We also have some interesting programs coming up; hope to see you at all of our meetings.

Mark Suby  
[mcsuby@hotmail.com](mailto:mcsuby@hotmail.com)  
641.425.6808



### Periodical Review: Your Genealogy Today

In each issue, columnist Diahn Southard offers helpful hints and strategies about DNA/genealogy. In the Jan/Feb 2018 issue (p. 50), Diahn suggests how to compose a first contact note to one of your new DNA matches. According to Diahn, you need to think of that initial contact like a first date, minus the awkwardness and the bad complexion. In her article Diahn provides details on four principles she recommends you consider: 1) keep your initial correspondence short 2) it's all about them 3) everyone needs encouragement, 4) have an escape plan. Come to the library to find out the details!



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The **NCIGS Library** is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Mason City Public Library, 225 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Mark Suby, Mary Lou Galindo, and Sandra Turner.

- **The Library Committee met and discussed a variety of goals for 2018:**
  - **Linda Faridi** has agreed to be responsible for filing catalog cards, as well as maintaining the Periodical and Surname collections.
  - **Rod Hungerford** will continue to provide Reference Services. He also will continue completing any research requests.
  - **Carolyn Anderson** will continue scanning into the NCIGS Library Data Base. **Sandra Turner** will continue editing, re-cataloging, revising accession book entries, updating all data files, etc. Work on the incorporation of the new AIO continues. **Carolyn** has also accepted responsibility for encapsulation requests.
  - **Kay Mestad** will continue maintaining the Accession Records and cleaning up left over issues from the 2017 inventory.
  - The decision on the disposition of the county boxes has been delayed.
  - With the removal of shelving earlier this year, it was decided to reorganize our support materials.
  - It was recommended **Mark Suby**, as new President and therefore our new society/city liaison, meet with the City Librarian. Several topics for discussion with Mary were identified.
  - **Dorothy Paul** will continue work on the black notebooks merger project. **Dorothy** has also agreed to maintain in the funeral card collection. This collection was mainly the contribution of John Cunningham. With his death this month, the collection may become dormant.
  - **Plat Map Collection** - Relabeling of the boxes is yet to be completed. Review of the inventory list is also needed. A volunteer to do this work would be appreciated.
  - Current by-laws require current written reports by board members be maintained in notebooks within the library collection. To free up shelf space, **Sandra Turner** will review and recommend to the board a by-laws change authorizing only a digitized version of these reports be maintained.
  - It was decided to only purchase items that are essential to the collection at this time. After the collection has been merged and inventoried in 2018/2019, a better picture of needed additions to the collection will be identified.
  - Maintenance of the library and the collection. It is hoped **Mary Lou Galindo** will accept responsibility for this work.
  - Once the issues from the 2017 inventory have been resolved, we will begin to move in the items from the porch. These materials will need to be evaluated for retention, cataloged, shelved, etc. After this work is completed, the collection will be totally merged. Another inventory should then be scheduled.

#### **Additions to the collection:**

- *Pioneer Structures in Northern Iowa* – Rita Goranson
- *In the Kitchen with the Kopaceks* – Joan Barlow
- *Tredenick & Romine* – Clay Patterson
- *Index to History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania* – Gene E. Watson
- *History of Palo Alto County, Iowa* – Gene E. Watson
- *History and Records of C. E. and Antje Dirks* – Gene E. Watson

**NCIGS Financial Report**  
**Year to Date**  
**January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018**

**Income:**

Basket Donation	20.50
Copies	53.90
2018 Dues (10)	228.00
2019 Dues (5)	60.00
2010 Dues (1)	12.00
Memorial Fund	50.00
Research Fees	10.00
<u>Thrivent Choice \$\$</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>534.40</b>

**Expenses:**

<u>Genie Bug</u>	<u>67.23</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>67.23</b>
 <u>Account Balance March 31, 2018</u>	
<b>Total Society Funds</b>	<b>5,801.65</b>

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**NCIGS Refreshment Donation List 2018**

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](mailto:lforbes@myomnitel.com) or call 641-749-5505. Thanks.

- January 13 – Doris Smith, Jean Brietzke
- February 10 – Marsha Kuntz, Rod Hungerford
- March 10 – Pam Little, Sandra Turner
- April 14 – LeNore Forbes , Rod Hungerford (**meeting cancelled**)
- May 12 – Sharlene Stoddard, June Elbert
- June 9 – Alan Neve, LeNore Forbes

- July 14 – Annual Picnic
- August 11 – Doris Smith, ?
- September 8 - ?
- October 13 -?
- November 10- ?
- December-8 - No monthly meeting

**Smile.amazon.com**

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

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**John Cunningham II, who was a great supporter of NCIGS, died March 29<sup>th</sup>. Over the years, John donated a number of his books as well as local funeral cards to the library. We always looked forward to his visits. A gentlemen and a scholar, he will be missed.**



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**TIP: “Search angels” are volunteers who help adoptees find their families, including with DNA research. Request to join the Adoption Search Angels Yahoo! Group at [groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/adoption-search-angels/info](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/adoption-search-angels/info). Find Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) groups by searching for adoption search angels plus the state name.**



## Mark Suby's contribution

**As promised here is the continuation of the newspaper series entitled PIONEERS OF WORTH COUNTY, IOWA BEFORE 1866.** Written by Tøger C. Røne, his newspaper articles are about his family's journey to Amerika in 1870 and life in their new country. The information is transcribed from newspaper articles found on microfilm at the Northwood Public Library, Northwood, Iowa: Roll #799-J, May 27, 1875. The newspaper articles were transcribed by *Mark Casey Suby and Connie Sue Bakken Suby*. Tøger C. Røne was born in Rindal, Norway April 27, 1854. Mr. Røne immigrated to America with his parents and all but one of his siblings in 1870. Mr. Røne eventually settled in Worth County, Iowa where he died January 18, 1935.

## The Atlantic Voyage 1870

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Finally, the old fashioned full-rigged ship, which was to carry us over the ocean, was ready-with the best accommodations that could be prepared in a hurry. I do not recall the exact number of emigrants that were on board, but there were most certainly several hundred, counting the children as well as adults. On the whole second deck and a great part of the first, bunks were arranged with tables and wooden benches placed in between. Here this huge crowd had to make their arrangements as best they could.

Every family had to provide their own board and bedding. Most people had to do without their feather bed or straw mattresses. Therefore we boys were sent out to gather heather up on the steep mountain slopes. The heather was, after all, a more comfortable mattress than the bare wooden boards. On the upper deck, near the main mast, a temporary kitchen was set up. There were three large kitchen ranges on which the emigrants could cook their meals.



But believe me, there was always a terrible racket and squall when all the women tried simultaneously to make room for themselves and their pots and pans! The ones who were the most aggressive, and were able to shove the meeker ones aside, obtained and kept the best places at the stoves. They took their time while the others had to wait patiently. When the weather was tolerably good and the sea wasn't too turbulent for the women to dare to come up on deck, the kitchen was the center of attraction on board.

Dialects from most of the valleys and districts of western Norway were heard in endless chatter all day. The Voss and Sogn district were the most prominent ones. Quite often there was much merriment on board: games, music and dancing till morning! The ship's crew was eager to take part in this. The cook and the captain, however, considered themselves too old to take

part in such foolery.

There were quite a few emigrants who seldom if ever came up on deck, being confined to bed with terrible seasickness. Mother was one of these, as was my older sister most of the time. As for myself, I found it exciting to be up on deck when there was a fresh breeze blowing. It was great fun to watch the old "Maryland", with its sails proudly set, plow forward so that the white seas broke over the ship's side. The old vessel was unable to cut through the waves like the slim new steel ships, which passed us at a distance from time to time.

As I was a lively youth bursting with curiosity, I explored every nook and cranny of the ship (when the captain wasn't around, that is), and I climbed the mast all the way to the top many times. We experienced only one major storm on our journey, and then it was vital that the old hull was strongly built. Sails that couldn't be furled in time were torn to pieces and we could hear the howling through the ship boards. We ran before the wind using just enough sail (the foresail and another small sail) to make the ship answer the helm.

All the exits were closed on the lower level and none of the passengers were allowed to come up on deck. Chests and trunks had to be gathered and tightly secured since they would suddenly take off by themselves in the darkness and create confusion among neighbors across the room. These movables were quite dangerous, since they could

trip the poor wretch who tried to get from one place to another. When the storm finally wore off (after about 24 hours), we had been blown about 200 miles off our course.

The next memorable incident or rather, accident that happened on the journey was the death of the ship's cook. He was given a burial at sea as the ship lay pitching in the calm water near the misty banks of Newfoundland. He was feeble before the trip had started, and had been forced to bed the first night out with seasickness. I felt sorry for the cook's young assistant who apparently suffered from the same in his eyes and a sneer of glee on his lips. The first mate frequently ordered the poor beggar to run up the top side. (It was part of the cook's duties to take care of the top sail.

## ARRIVAL IN THE NEW LAND

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Finally the moment we had all been waiting for arrived as the naked cliffs of Newfoundland pierced our starboard horizons and we rejoiced. We soon came into smoother seas as the ship sailed up the broad estuary of the St. Lawrence River and land could be seen on both sides.

But then another raging storm came up and the ship had to cruise between the island of Anlicosti on our left and the mainland on our right. The kitchen was packed with women who were busy preparing supper at the time. Some of them were making pancakes; others tended to kettles of potatoes or coffee and the skillets were frying bacon when, all of a sudden, a huge wave drenched the deck, tore the kitchen to pieces, and swept everything helter-skelter in a terrible confusion. Board-pieces, stove parts, ashes and half burned coals, pancakes, coffee pots, kettles, bacon, skillets, and screaming women were flushed toward the ship's rails, which, thank God, did not snap. All were thrown back and forth as the ship continued to toss in the rough sea. The screaming women gradually *managed to grasp something to hold on to and helpful hands transported the poor creatures, which hadn't suffered any major bodily damage, but were wet as wash rags, below deck.*

After this incident, which I found just as hilarious as sad, the journey went on in sunshine and beautiful weather in general. Everybody now spent most of their time on deck, so that they could look at and admire the beautiful countryside to the left with green meadows and cozy little towns with white-painted houses. On the right were dark forests with mountain ridges in the distance. Exactly seven weeks from the day we boarded the ship in Bergen, we landed in Quebec, Canada. But the journey was still far from over.

From Quebec we traveled by train to Montreal and that was quite an experience for all of us! We had never before had that fast a conveyance! The old ship's captain, Fuglesand (Bird's song), who had finished his last trip as captain, came with us to Montreal to help the emigrants. There the crowd parted to go

### ***Railway***

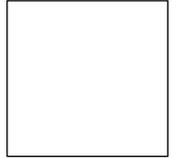
their separate ways. We (among others) were packed on board a canal boat which took us up the St. Lawrence River, through a number of lock gates, onto Lake Ontario and to the city of Toronto. From there the journey continued by train through the western part of Ontario, Canada, which to us looked like one big beautiful garden. Finally we reached our "promised land" Detroit, Michigan, USA. The train journey continued until we arrived at Grand Falls, Michigan, on the third of July, 1870. The following evening, July fourth, we boarded a large paddle-steamer which took us to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Here I almost got separated from the others and, without knowing it, gave them (especially Mother) quite a shock. As they were about to leave the ship they noticed that I wasn't with them. They searched all over the boat for me but I was nowhere to be found. They had just about concluded that I had fallen overboard and was lost in the darkness of Lake Michigan when Lars, my brother, found me peacefully sleeping on top of a heap of sacks. I really had only wished to find a comfortable sleeping place! On the very next day we finally reached our journey's end, Madison, Wisconsin, where we found old friends to comfort us and we were greatly relieved.



***Grand Trunk***

***St. Bonaventure Station  
Montreal, Canada***

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 237  
MASON CITY, IA 50402-0237



**Reminder: 2018 dues need to be received NOW!**  
**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