

THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
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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 – ncigso@gmail.com, with Linda Muth reviewing copy.

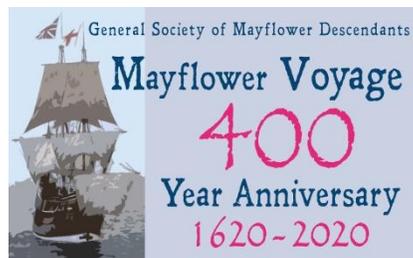


CALENDAR

The November meeting will be the last meeting to be held at the Clear Lake Public Library, Lower Level, commencing at 1:30 p.m. Starting with the January 11, 2020 meeting, the site for meetings (unless otherwise designated) will be the genealogy library at 75 S. Georgia, Mason City, Iowa.



November 9, 2019 – CONNECTONS TO THE PASSENGERS OF THE MAYFLOWER’S FIRST VOYAGE. Learn how to create a family time line connecting members of each generation to any of the 104 passengers. Advanced research techniques, improved genealogy library collections, and computerized resources have made it easier to track down your Pilgrim roots. Added to the mix, secondary marriages between the passengers of the first voyage can offer both a challenge and an achievable goal for documentation.



December 14, 2019 – No meeting

January 11, 2020 – TBA. TO BE HELD IN MASON CITY!

February 8, 2020 – TBA. TO BE HELD IN MASON CITY!

March 14, 2020 - Atop a scenic bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and downtown Dubuque there once lay a graveyard dating to the 1830s. Though many local residents knew the property had once been a Catholic burial ground, they believed the graves had been moved. But in 2007, when a developer broke ground for a new condominium complex, the heavy machinery unearthed human bones. What happened next is the story you will hear. **TO BE HELD IN MASON CITY!**



At the October 7th board meeting it was requested the names of the NCIGS Executive board no longer be listed in THE GENIE BUG. At the October 12th meeting, current members of the Executive Board (except for the retiring Librarian) were approved to serve during 2020. A member of the society volunteered to serve as the Research Chair, so that position has now been filled. Great thanks to this person! The Membership and Librarian Chairs remain vacant as does the Editor of THE GENIE BUG.



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The President's Column:

I hope you are not getting bored with my travels and how I spend my time doing things I truly love to do. If so please let me know.

You might recall that I took a couple of classes a few years ago offered by Randy Opheim and Jo Beck at the Elmwood Cemetery in Mason City. The classes provided me with a little knowledge of how to clean and repair tombstones. Since that time I have been doing some of the things I enjoy, like putting this knowledge to work. Our cemeteries need a lot of care...and I don't mean to insult those who manage and care for them. The routine maintenance such as mowing and trimming are all the maintenance that the budgets will afford. In searching through the records of my family, perpetual care in the 1900's burial records was \$1.00 (a lot for that time period).

As I walk through the cemetery I notice lots of broken stones, sunken and tipped. Some have had dead trees and lawn mowing equipment strike them. The monuments of our ancestors and the stories they tell are in sad dilapidated condition. I know of a county (Decatur Co., IA) who asked for, and did receive, a county tax of one dollar to be added to the taxes of the county residents towards repair of cemetery tombstones. I have discussed things like this with our state representatives. Cities, counties and churches appear to have low or no budgets for this purpose. We need another WPA (Works Progress Administration) or CCC (Civil Conservation Corp) project to assist in the restoration of our nation's heritage. ENOUGH WITH MY RANT...ON WITH THE STORY.



It was a wonderful morning in late July 2019. I loaded my 1990 old custom Ford Van with the necessary materials to clean and repair tombstones and headed for the Lincoln Cemetery in Lincoln Twp., Cerro Gordo County. In full disclosure, I do have relatives buried there, but my intent was to look for stones that were broken, lying against a tree, pressed into the ground or tilting. "You all know what I'm talking about, right?" Today was my day to put my skills to work.

It didn't take me long to locate a subject. It did take some time to set up the table and lay everything out. I had ordered the two-part epoxy material to fuse the stones together a week before starting. The compound will set in about 15 minutes and will cure in 24 hours. However, it becomes unworkable in less than 5 minutes, so you need to work fast. The two-part compound (quart cans) cost \$40 and the shipping was \$20. The cleaning liquid is called D2 and is environmentally friendly, costs about \$40 a gallon and can be diluted with water.



Straightening the base



Base straightened. Time to attach the broken top.



Looks great, doesn't it?

I used the D2 to remove the green scum called lichen. My tool kit contains plastic bristle brushes (sizes and shapes differ), horsehair brushes, a plastic putty knife, weed sprayers that contain the mixture of D2 and regular water, ratchet straps, knee pads, wood boards, worktable along with a number of other items.

While there and waiting for the compound to set I trimmed some trees and brush. All total I spent two glorious days doing this. I tried do research on the stone I repaired, but cannot link this child to anyone family as the stone is very difficult to read. I cannot figure out the exact name on the stone, so help me out if you can. If you decide to invest some of your time in doing cemetery repair, **always check with the Cemetery Board and explain what you want to do before you do it.**

This is the last Genie Bug of 2019, so I would like to wish you all Happy Holidays. I hope can you can spend some time with family and helping those in need. Travel safely and have a wonderful fall/winter and hope to see all of you in the New Year. **Mark Suby, President, mcsuby@hotmail.com, 641.425.6808**

Hitting the Highlights

A 70" television and a rolling television cart have been purchased and installed in the library. Monies for this purchase were taken from the Relocation Funds. These items will be used for a/v presentations during training sessions and monthly meetings. The society also used Relocation Funds for the purchase and installation of a Western Digital Data Storage program for our computers. This new software will improve our networking and security functions. Jay Lehmann took corrective actions against a website security breach. We are currently working on an FCNB grant to purchase a 10-drawer map case & stand for our Map & Folio Collection. The projected cost is \$2,848.97. The 2019 by-laws revision was completed. For the first time, we provided for an online vote on the by-laws revision. The online voting experiment was quite successful. We anticipate continuing the online voting process, which will allow a more active role for all our "out-of-area members". Congratulations to everyone! We met our financial goal to pay the rent for 2020. Thanks to all for your contributions.

Now we get to start the whole process again for 2021. To that end, the board voted to add a surcharge to all memberships that chose to have their issue of THE GENIE BUG delivered via the postal service. So for hard copy, add \$5.00 to your membership renewal – total \$17.00 to cover the cost of printing and postage. Thanks. Voting for officers occurred at the October meeting. Once again, we have been unable to fill all board vacancies. We will need to adapt as best we can to meet our societal needs. We encourage members to consider serving. Rod Hungerford and Carolyn Anderson once again were the society's representative for the Mason City Diversity Day and Ethnic Lunch Gathering. A vote by members determined we will continue to meet at Clear Lake Public Library through 2019; in 2020 we will begin meeting within our library in Mason City. Kind of bittersweet, isn't it? Clear Lake has been so welcoming to us, so helpful and supportive of the society's goals. We will miss their cheerful faces and great attitude! At our last meeting in Clear Lake (November), before leaving the building, please express your individual appreciation for all their support and kindness! So -- I think I included most of the accomplishments for the past three months. It continues to be a busy time for all of us. Each of you, give yourselves a "pat of the back!"



Librarian's Update

The NCIGS Library is located on the 2nd floor of the Masonic Temple (75 S. Georgia, Mason City, Iowa 50401). Using the west entrance, use either the stairway or the elevator (to the right of the stairway). Upon reaching the 2nd level, proceed down the wide hallway to the library entrance. The library is open M/W/F, 9 a.m. – noon; 1- 4 p.m.; SAT by appointment). **It should be noted, at the present time, Rod Hungerford is usually there from 9 a.m. to closing on most days, except Sundays. BUT when he becomes "Rod the Referee" at school basketball games, he may leave early some days!**

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

Reminder: Starting in January, take advantage of our monthly meetings being held in our library. Come early (9 a.m. opening) and do some research before our 1:30 p.m. meeting. And, I suppose, it is the time of year when we remind you of weather related closings. The society duplicates the decisions of the Mason City Community School District. On bad weather days tune into radio/TV to see if we are open. If the schools have late/early closures or entire day closures, we just stay home and stay safe!

We are excited about the proposed educational/training functions to be held in the library. See the article entitled IN THE KNOW in this issue of THE BUG for details. I believe Mark and Rod are currently working on a repeat of the DNA classes, so expect to hear from them about signing up. Rod is also getting ready to undertake outreach at other facilities. We are hoping to encourage genealogy research and, perhaps, increase our society membership.

We cataloged some new titles:

TRACING YOUR FEMALE ANCESTORS - Funds provided by the Erickson Charitable Fund
TRACING YOUR ITALIAN ANCESTORS – Funds provided by the Erickson Charitable Fund
TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS -- HERITAGE TRAVEL PREPARATION - Funds provided by the Erickson Charitable Fund
TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS – HISPANIC RESEARCH - Funds provided by the Erickson Charitable Fund
THE COMPREHENSIVE CITY PLAN OF MASON CITY, IOWA – Donated by Lourette Kroneman
THE GENEALOGY OF THE BARRON FAMILY – Donated by John Barron

Work continues on reviewing and organizing the collection, as well as scanning/digitizing selected items from the collection for inclusion into the NCIGS Library Data Base. Carolyn has left for the winter, so if someone wants to volunteer to continue scanning/digitizing library materials while Carolyn is gone, let me know.

This is my last column as Librarian. I am officially retiring as of December 31, 2019. This is my third and final retirement as a Librarian. Come on, guys, someone needs to take this over. Contact Mark to volunteer. I am also supposed to retire as the temporary editor of THE BUG, but apparently that didn't work out either.

Anyway, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the library users, the volunteers, and the supporters who have so graciously given their valuable time to the library and the society. I truly appreciate all the efforts, financial support, and commitment provided by so many of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Turner, Librarian

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.

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### **Time to renew your membership – please!**

If you receive THE BUG via the postal service, please note a pink renewal notice has been included in this issue. Our inventory of colored paper is low – so pink it is! Also note the Executive Board approved, effective with your 2020 membership, a \$5.00 surcharge if you choose to receive a hardcopy of THE GENIE BUG. This extra surcharge will help to defray postage and printing costs. For you who receive THE BUG via e-mail, you will find the renewal form at the end of the 8 pages of copy. Please be aware, members can read THE BUG via e-mail, postal service or on our website ([www.northcentraliowagenealogy.com](http://www.northcentraliowagenealogy.com) – click on Genie Bug). Access to THE BUG is restricted to members; contact Carol Tinkey for the password. Your renewal is important to everyone, so please renew ASAP. Thanks.



### **NCIGS Refreshment Donation List 2020**

Time to sign up for another year! 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? Contact Hospitality Coordinator Lenore Forbes to get on the list: [lforbes@myomnitel.com](mailto:lforbes@myomnitel.com) OR call 641-749-5505 OR sign up using the sign up form at the monthly meetings. Thanks.

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N.C.I.G.S Financial Report For Oct. 12, 2019 Meeting Sept. 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2019

INCOME for September 2019	\$193.39
EXPENSES for September 2019	0

Society Funds	\$14,318.27
Restricted Funds	8,047.47
Spendable Budget	564.08
Donations – Rent	961.08

Note: The board thought a less comprehensive edition of the quarterly financial report would be appropriate. Let me know how this works for you. Thanks.

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## Periodical Review

The October/November issue of INTERNET GENEALOGY magazine features some good advice & information. Why not come into the library and read the entire magazine? Here are some examples: 1) Chronicles, Clarions and Couriers – how the names of newspapers help determine their content; 2) Identifying merchant vessels from the past - a new 200,000 entry data base; 3) How to better use ancestry.com; 4) Using public and private library usage records when researching ancestors; 5) The research value of witnesses on legal documents; 6) Effective ways to translate documents from one language to another; 7) How are online postcard collections important to researchers; 8) Our ancestors at sea – this article helps illuminate the maritime travels.

**Some of these topics would make great programs. Why not choose a topic and then report on it to the members at one of our monthly meetings?**

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**REMEMBERING – Edsel L. “Ed” Lenius -- August 27, 1937 - July 28, 2019**



Ed was a marvelous high school teacher and coach with a passion for following his students' success stories. After finding out he was of Irish descent, Ed applied that same enthusiasm toward his genealogical research. He thoroughly enjoyed his trip to Ireland to learn as much as possible about his heritage. His enthusiasm was contagious. He will be missed.

**Note: If you are aware of a member or supporter of our society who has passed, please e-mail us the details, so we don't miss honoring them. Thanks.**

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## IN THE KNOW

Have you been to the library recently? If not, you may not have seen our 70" TV and its supportive equipment. We now have the space, the equipment and the commitment to offer new learning experiences to our members and friends. If you want to be a part of this project, call (641-210-0506), e-mail (ncisgo@gmail.com) or stop in. This project is being planned and initiated by Mary Suby and Rod Hungerford. They would appreciate your input and help!

Basically the thought is to choose from the best of the available online webinars, convention videos, YouTube presentations, etc. We'd schedule a session in which we would view a presentation and then share in a follow up discussion. Does that kind of activity appeal to you? If so, please let the guys know and maybe offer advice and help.

We can probably handle about 30+ people at a time, and there may be handouts, so we probably need some kind of head count...like pre-registration. Sometimes a training session might involve bringing in your laptop or other device. Particularly, the results of your DNA might be needed.

There is a great deal out there. Some might say too much. After viewing a few of the presentations, you quickly realize the quality varies widely, so finding and choosing the "right stuff" is a real challenge. So what have you viewed that you think others should see? What subjects do you need to learn more about? Do you want to view any of the following as a group? Let Rod & Mark know! A quick survey came up with some possibilities. I've created a list of some of the offerings, so let us know your thoughts.

## FamilySearch Resources

### [GeneTech: YDNA Solutions to Common Genealogical Pro...](#)

by Nathan W. Murphy / 3 years ago

Does the key to your family tree lie inside of you? DNA testing has become an accepted tool for identifying ancestors. Information stored in the Y-chromosome passes virtually unchanged from father-to-son for centuries (see Figure). Analysis of this genetic information, found in living people, can help you determine whether or not you share a common ancestor with another person alive today. Computer algorithms predict approximately how long ago the common ancestor lived. These results have many genealogical applications.

### [Inferential Genealogy](#)

by Dr. Tom Jones, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA / 3 years ago

This class explains how family historians can accurately deduce ancestors' identities and many aspects of their lives by digging below "surface information" in genealogical records and combining information from several sources. Useful in many situations, inferential methodology is especially helpful where records do not state relationships. Because of extensive multimedia, this course is best viewed on a higher bandwidth internet connection. \*\*\*Note: To view this video please use Internet Explorer or Firefox as your web browser.

### [Immigration—Crossing the Pond: U.S. Passenger Lists](#)

by Yvonne Sorenson, AG® / a year ago

In order to search for your ancestor in the records in Europe, you need to know the town of origin. If you do not know the town of origin, you need to start searching in United States records. This lesson will teach you about U.S. Passenger Lists, and what information you can find to help discover where your ancestor came from before arriving in the United States.

### [DNA: An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy - Testing Co...](#)

by Beth Taylor / a year ago

This segment will discuss the different companies that offer DNA tests.

### [More Irish than the Irish Themselves: The Hiberno-Nor...](#)

by Craig L. Foster, AG® / 3 years ago

Ireland, anciently known as Hibernia, was invaded by the Normans in 1169-1171. These Normans soon married the native Irish and over time adapted their language and culture. They were known as the Hiberno-Normans. This class looks at the history of the Hiberno-Normans and how to do family history research on these families.

## Ancestry.com - Academy

**What is a census record?** – Learn the history behind the U.S. Census record and why they are so useful to family historians.

**U.S. Passports** – An important source of information about your family members who applied for passports in the past.

**Finding Females in Your Family Tree** - We have an equal number of female and male ancestors, but the women are usually the most difficult to research because they change their surnames every time they marry. Plus, they had few legal rights so they are not easy to find in the records and databases. This course is designed to help you find ways around the difficulties so you can learn as much about the ladies as the men in your lineage.

## National Genealogical Society

A series of four courses designed to build on each other and teach key research skills, specific to American family history:

- The Basics
- Guide to Documentation and Source Citation
- Beyond the Basics
- Branching Out

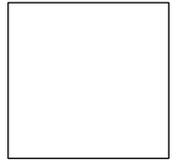
**Nine stand-alone courses** on subjects and records important to developing your expertise building your genealogy:

- African American
- Deeds
- Federal Lands
- Autosomal DNA
- German Ancestors
- Revolutionary War
- War of 1812 Records NEW!
- Civil War
- World War I

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THOSE WHO DO NOT LOOK UPON THEMSELVES AS A LINK CONNECTING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE DO NOT PERFORM THEIR DUTY TO THE WORLD. DANIEL WEBSTER

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**We have added four new items to the library. The lectern/table, which will be used for our monthly meetings & training sessions, was built and donated by Robert Miller of Mason City. Looks great doesn't it? Robert is a skilled craftsman.**

**The other new really substantial, evaluating and a thank you when stand and associated Funds.**



**acquisition is our 70" TV & stand. Looks doesn't it? The guys spent a lot of time identifying what we needed. Give them you see them. Funds to purchase the TV equipment came from our Relocation**

