

THE GENIE BUG

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 237 MASON CITY, IOWA 50402-0237
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9 August 2014 *Tour of Northwood's Historical Main Street.* Invite a friend to view the Stromstein Building with info shared by Peter Ausenus, and other historical landmarks in Northwood. We are planning to start our program at 1:15 pm. Details of the historic registry will be shared as well. Please contact Sharlene Stoddard at 641-324-2394 to make reservations for this grand event. You will need to call no later than Thursday the 7th.

Please contact another member to carpool this event or Call

Sandra Turner.

Uncle Sam Wanted your Ancestor and You Want Their Records!

Theresa Liewer, President of the Iowa Genealogical Society will be our presenter **September 13, 2014**, 1:30 pm at the Clear Lake Library. From the Revolutionary War to modern times, there is a very good chance that some of your ancestors served in the military, or at least were subject to a draft. Military records can be a gold mine, with everything from physical descriptions, places of birth, proofs of births and sometimes, family secrets. Theresa's presentation will cover service, pension, militia, bonus and grave records - what information they contain and where you can locate them, from State Archives to the National Archives to online databases. You'll see actual records and go through the process of locating them.



Genealogy Research Using Ancestry.com on October 11, 2014, 1:30 pm presented by **Tom & Joan Sawyer** at the Clear Lake Public Library. *The world's largest online resource for researching family history is Ancestry.com. This service offers billions of historical records that they have digitized, indexed and up online since 1996. Using Ancestry.com enables a subscriber to research their ancestors and build their family tree in the comfort of their home or FREE at the library. Tom and Joan Sawyer will be demonstrating the use of Ancestry.com. There is information on all kinds of records.*

8 November, 2014 our Annual meeting **Salad Luncheon** along with a scandalous program on "The History of Unmentionables" you won't want to miss held at the Clear Lake Library.

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NCIGS Board Update on society activities:

Too Many Hats! Changes!?! Exciting Programs! Projects!

Have you ever felt like if you had to take on one more responsibility it just might put you over the edge? I enjoy my job as treasurer, but someone needed to come up with an agenda and conduct the meetings, so I volunteered (not something I want to continue doing). Our time is too valuable to sit in meetings for over an hour and nothing gets decided, so we organized the Website Committee. Each meeting we work through a list and made decisions, which we are implementing. With the lack of a president and a vice president, all the board members have had to take on additional duties. The whole board has taken on the duty of the vice president as the program chairman. Sandra Turner always has a basket full of jobs that members should be volunteering to help her with, to make our library top-notch for those coming to do research. Lea Norlinger works hard to keep the members informed by single-handedly creating the *Genie Bug* and sending out emails and postcards. Other board members are helping where they can, and we have a few very dedicated volunteers we couldn't do without. If this organization is going to continue to exist, we need **YOU** to volunteer to help out by serving as an officer or committee chair, presenting a program, helping with a project or just giving us ideas of what the society should do. Don't wait to be asked, just come forward and say **"I WILL DO IT"**.

When it comes right down to it, most people do not like changes. Some changes are good, while others are bad. There are the changes that simply are beyond our control, such as changing our meeting location. Really, folks, Clear Lake is not at the end of the world – it's only 10 minutes from Mason City. Just a nice scenic drive where you can see if Walmart's parking lot is full, check out the crops, or maybe even see a deer along the way. The Clear Lake Library offered us a very nice place to meet, plus the use of electronic equipment our program presenters require. If you really don't want to drive that far, we have people who have offered to provide transportation. You just need to let us know you'd like a ride by calling Sandra Turner (641-380-0339) .

We had some excellent programs this year, with some exciting ones coming up. Sandra Turner presented two programs on Immigration, a subject I knew nothing about. I'm hoping for time someday to try some of the new things Kim VanDeest presented on how Facebook and other social media sites help family research. Last month we had a great time and laughs when members told stories they learned about their family. Coming up in August is the road trip to Northwood to learn about its history. We plan to car-pool up there. My grandfather started selling cars there in 1912. September we will learn how to find military records of our ancestors and in October how to make the best use of Ancestry.com. A salad luncheon is planned for our November Annual Meeting along with a scandalous program on "The History of Unmentionables" you won't want to miss.

The re-design of the website has been temporarily put on hold, allowing us time to design and test the new obituary database. Carlyle Merritt has designed the individual page for each obituary using Office Access. Each page includes a table listing vital information, the obituary and, if available, a photo of an individual. Marie Thompson and I are currently inputting into the database. We enter the information on our home computer to a remote server. We are currently using Carlyle's server until we our own equipment in place. So, far we have downloaded the 2013 Mason City Globe Gazette death index. Marie is working on entering the 2012 obituary index 2013 and up to June 25, 2014 data she currently has in Word. These obituary pages are searchable by name with printing capability. The goal is to eventually scan old indexed records into it, so this will be a long process, but great when we get it done.

See you all at the meetings. Carol Tinkey



Message from the LIBRARIAN

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.

We always need more volunteers at the library. There are so many projects waiting for someone to take on. If you are interested, e-mail her at ncigso@gmail.com or please call Sandra Turner at 641-380-0339. Volunteering is a wonderful way to become familiar with our collection, share your interest in genealogy with other people and learn new research possibilities.

During the past three months a lot has been accomplished at the library:

- *Kay Mestad continues her work of converting the information contained in the NCIGS library's Accession Notebook into an electronic format.*
- *Carolyn Anderson continues her work on converting our hardcopy obituary indexing into PDF format.*
- *The State Historical Society Death Index for Cerro Gordo County (1922-1938) was downloaded, a hardcopy was produced, cataloged and now is available at the library. The other eight counties of our collecting area were not downloaded, but are available at www.iowahistory.org/archives/holdings/.*
- *Work on the original Cerro Gordo County Naturalization Records has basically been completed. The collection is stored on the two book trucks located near the Reference Desk.*
- *Carol Tinkey has completed indexing the 2013 Mason City Globe Gazette obituaries. The index has been copied, cataloged and is now available in the library.*
- *Marie Thompson continues her work on the 2012 Mason City Globe Gazette obituaries.*
- *Marie Thompson and Sandra Turner attended a 3 hour workshop on Windows 7 at the Waterloo Public Library. Great handouts were provided by Kim Van Deest at this workshop. I'll include more detail in a separate article.*
- *Several donated items were cataloged:*

**** Iowa Death Certificate Index** – Donated by Rita Goranson

This index to the Cerro Gordo County death certificate information for 1922-1938 held at the State Historical Society of Iowa. The index was downloaded from their website.

**** Crash Course in Family History** – Donated by Sandra Turner

Step-by-step illustrated guidebook and comprehensive resource directory on how to discover your family tree and stories.

**** Mastering Immigration & Naturalization Records** – Donated by Sandra Turner

Presents a guide for novice genealogy researchers covering techniques used by professionals, resources, such as immigration and naturalization records, where to find them, using the Internet and more.

**** Give the Family the Gift that Money Can't Buy** – Donated by Sandra Turner

Shows how to record and preserve your immediate family's history. Using a combination of basic instruction and personal examples book covers: family facts, home sources, photographs, preservation, family stories and family history research and includes blank charts and forms at end of book.

2014 society statistics January - June are as follows:

Researchers who signed our register totals 302. Of those researchers 8 were from within the state but not from our nine county areas, 16 were from out-of-state or out-of-country and 203 were not members of our society. Documented volunteer hours totaled 1762 at a cumulated value of \$39,733.10.

Sandra Turner, Librarian

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 also 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 milk 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.

Family Search.com has many interesting articles.

We found these and I have listed a few for you, look them up!



Norway Celebrates Its 200th Anniversary - Online Data Making It Easier to Trace Your Norwegian Roots

May 16, 2014 By [Glen N. Greener](#)

If you have family roots in Norway, you have a celebration coming up. The bicentennial of Norway's independence is May 17th. There are almost as many descendants of Norwegians in the U.S. (4.5M) as there are in Norway today (5M). Norwegians are the 10th largest American ancestry group in the US. There are more descendants of Norwegians worldwide than native Norwegians—but more about this country's fascinating history and independence in a moment. [Full Story](#) Filed Under: [Genealogy in the News](#) [2 Comments](#) Tagged With: [Norway](#), [Norwegian Bicentennial](#), [Norwegian Independence](#).

Just A Joy Highlighted on NPR Radio

October 25, 2013 By [Steve Anderson](#)

About a year ago I did a blog post on a relatively new online service called [JustAJoy](#). It's a fascinating online service that puts you in touch with antique dealers across the country. JustAJoy is the brain child of Joy Shivar and her husband George. I tried it and I thought this was a service that is ahead of its time. [Full Story](#) Filed Under: [Genealogy in the News](#) [4 Comments](#) Tagged With: [Heirlooms](#), [Joy Shivar](#), [JustaJoy](#), [NPR Radio](#).



A BLESSING from The Trash Can.

August 2, 2013 by [Steve Anderson](#)

This remarkable story begins with the discovery of a bible that is nearly 2 centuries old. It was found in a trash can in a back alley in San Diego, California. Its journey from trash can to its rightful heirs and all the individual people involved make for a fascinating story of discovery and reconnection. Take a few minutes now and read this fascinating story by [looking on this link](#). [Full Story](#) Filed Under: [Genealogy in the News](#) [2 Comments](#) Tagged With: [Desert News](#), [Family Bible](#), [Family History Center](#), [Genealogy](#), [Serendipity](#).

New Sweden Colony in America

November 2, 2012 by [David Dilts](#)

In 1638, Sweden was a world power. One of the ways it showed this was by planting a [Swedish colony](#) between the rival claims of the [New Netherland](#) colony on the [Hudson River](#), and of England's Lord Baltimore's claim to [Maryland](#) on the [Chesapeake Bay](#). The New Sweden colony in America was built on the [Delaware River](#) with settlements stretching between what is now [Wilmington, Delaware](#) and [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#) with a fort and few additional settlements on the [New Jersey](#) side of the river as well. Most of the 900 settlers were from [Sweden](#) but many [Forest Finns](#), [German](#) craftsmen and mercenary soldiers also made their homes in the Swedish colony. The economic purpose of the colony was to grow tobacco and trap and trade for animal furs. [Full Story](#) Filed Under: [Family History Library](#), [FamilySearch Wiki](#), [Genealogy in the News](#), [Genealogy Records](#), [Genealogy Resources](#), [Immigration and Naturalization](#).



WHAT S NEW IN Genealogy... Today!

The Biggest Mistake of Online Ancestor Hunting and How to Avoid It !

When you find a mention of your family tree online it's thrilling. Especially if the site lists long sought-after dates, more names, and stories about your ancestors. Who doesn't like knowing the details of a Civil War soldier, a Revolutionary-era patriot, or a Wild West frontiersman? Unfortunately, though, the information you find online can be correct, almost correct, or totally false - - and you have no way of knowing which is which. That's because most online sites don't include documentation on their web pages. Genealogy is a fascinating hobby that requires the skills of a detective and the scientific techniques of a forensic analyst. It's all about proving the connection from one generation to the next. You can guess about the connection, but until proven they remain guesses (albeit it good guesses). So, how do you avoid falling into the "no source materials" online trap? If a website has information about your family but no sources, you can either: **1. Contact the site owner and ask about sources.** **2. Use the site info as a springboard for your own research.** If you're very lucky, the site owner will have sources for the information posted on the site. If not, you can still use the information in your own search.

Here's Example one: If the site says your great-great-grandfather served in the Civil War, but there's no proof, you can begin searching Civil War records yourself. If you have the state where he was born, begin looking in Civil War records associated with that state. If you don't, use a site like the Soldiers and Sailors system (see resource below), enter the soldier's name and begin the search. If he was in the Civil War, you should find his records here.

Example two: Let's say the website has marriage information for an ancestor. Where can you go to prove it? Begin with where the ancestor lived and start your search in state archives, state websites, or sites like FamilySearch.org. It's possible you'll find exactly what you're looking for at an official site, or you may have to write or call a courthouse in the county where the ancestor lived. The bottom line, here, is to use whatever information you find as a foundation and begin building on it with proof. Otherwise, you'll just copy down the same information everyone else has copied, and before long no one will know what's really true.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors

Nancy Hendrickson is a professional genealogy researcher, author and instructor. She specializes in helping people trace their ancestors using Internet tools and techniques. Considered an expert in Internet genealogy, Hendrickson has been interviewed by national publications including the New York Times and Better Homes and Gardens. Nancy invites you to download her **Family Tree Idea Book** and learn more about researching your genealogy at <http://www.ancestornews.com>. If you've ever wondered about your family's past, join her in a voyage that may take you where you never expected and show you things you never imagined would happen in your own family.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Nancy_Hendrickson.

Avoid The Frustration of Chasing The Wrong Family!

Prepared by: Paul Duxbury

I bet I know the answer to what those who are actively involved in discovering their family tree, which is otherwise known as genealogy, find most frustrating! I am sure that they will tell you that there is nothing more frustrating than spending hours and sometimes days researching only to discover that you have been looking at bad information or even in the wrong family!

It is a problem that plagues everyone who has ever started to investigate their family tree and one that you should try to avoid. Obviously it wastes your time, it can lead you down long incorrect roads, and it can really be frustrating. So how do you avoid this pitfall? Well there is no one magic answer to keeping yourself from barking up the wrong family tree, but there are some tips that may help you end up on the wrong path a little less frequently. Take a look at these eight tips and you will lessen your frustrations as you seek out your family history and heritage.

First you should always keep track of all of your resources. When you get new information, write down where you got it. If it was a book, get the title, the author, publisher, and even the ISBN or ISSN number so that you will know where you got the information and where to get more if you find yourself in need of more information down the road from the same resource. If you get information from a relative, write down from whom you got it and when you conducted the interview. Information is a big part of this hobby so make sure you know where you are getting yours.

Second, along those same lines, keep yourself organized. When you are organized you are less likely to mix up information and get yourself off track. Put together some sort of filing system, both for print and for your computer documents. That way, when you need a birth certificate you are sure you have, you will know where to look for it. Also, if you want to review information you have previously recorded, you will know exactly where it is on your computer or in your files.

Third, double check everything. That is, make sure that things make sense before you just assume they are right. For example, if your great, great grandmother was born in 1810, she probably did not get married in 1815 and was likely not a mother in 1820. The same goes for any other chronology of dates or events. Just always make sure things are making sense before you keep going down a wrong path.

The **fourth** thing you should do to keep things straight is to be very careful about scams. There are a lot of scams out there that are designed to take advantage of those who are into genealogy. For instance, you may get the mail order brochure that offers to get you all the information you need on whatever family you are researching. Do not fall for this, since most of these are not researched and use only phone listings and other unreliable information to come up with what is

supposed to be a family history. You are always better off doing your own research. In addition, remember that anything you hear about that sounds too easy, is probably a scam.

Fifth, make sure you are very specific when you make notes and share information. Date formats vary from country to country so make sure you are clear about month, date, and year. Also, be very clear with your writing and with which names are surnames and which ones are given names. That way, when it comes time to ask others for help, everything is clear.

Sixth, to keep things accurate make sure you are not assuming things about families and relationships. In earlier times, a step child was sometimes called a son in law or a relative that was not a sister or brother was called a cousin no matter what the actual relationship was.

Seventh, in order to avoid following down paths you are not sure about, make sure you review and verify conclusions you have come to. There is often a lot of conflicting information within families as you do your research, especially if it from farther back. By taking time to verify, you may actually save yourself more time down the road. Finally, give yourself the opportunity to succeed by advertising the surnames for which you are searching. Post them online with genealogy websites and get the information to any genealogical societies to which you belong. If you do not belong to any, it is something you might consider since they often have resources you may not be able to get on your own. Genealogy is fun, but it can also be frustrating. To avoid the frustration of chasing bad information or the wrong family, follow these eight tips. You will enjoy genealogy much more when you know you are looking at correct information. Paul Duxbury writes extensively on Genealogy and has recently launched a new Genealogy site at <http://www.discoveringyourfamilytree.com> . Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Paul_Duxbury

Did you know --???

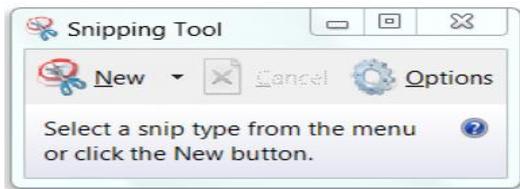
*Kim VanDeest, during her free Windows 7 class at Waterloo Public Library, showed us how to use the **Snipping Tool** to capture screen shots. This was something new to me and perhaps it will also be new to you.*

*You can use **Snipping Tool** to capture a screen shot, or snip, of any object on your screen and then annotate, save or share the image. To capture a snip, open the **Snipping Tool** by left clicking once on the Start Button  (that little round icon with the Windows logo in it on the bottom left side of your screen). NOTE: I snipped and copied the Start button into this paragraph.*

*In the search box, which is located just above the Start Button , type **Snipping Tool**, and then, in the list of results, click **Snipping Tool**. Notice if you type S into the search box, Windows will search and list various features that begin with S...so you really won't have to type the entire title **Snipping Tool**. You can also find the **Snipping Tool**, by going to Start, All Programs, Accessories. However, Kim wants us to*

begin to use the search box and be comfortable with how it works, since Windows 8 utilizes this search technique.

When you click on the **Snipping Tool**, you will notice the screen dulled and your cursor will turn into a cross. Also this box will appear.



Aren't I getting good at this snipping, and believe me, if I can do this anyone can!

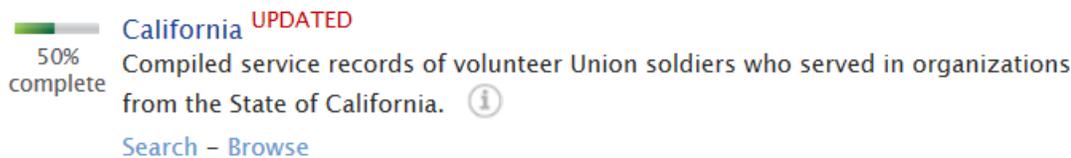
Left click once on the down arrow next to the New button. The choices that drop down from this arrow are:

1. Free-form Snip – draw a free form shape around an object
2. Rectangular Snip – drag the cursor (which is now a cross) around an object to form a rectangle.
3. Window Snip – Select a window, such as a browser window or dialog box, you want to capture.
4. Full-screen snip – capture the entire screen.

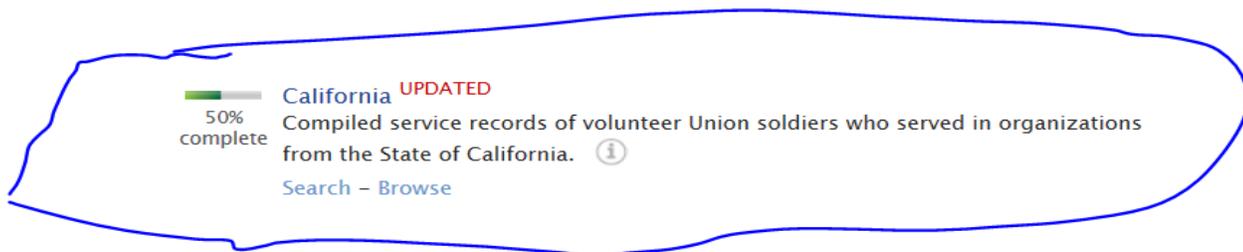
Left click once on your choice. I used the Rectangular Snip for the examples in this article. For a rectangular snip, start at the outer corner of the area you want to snip and move the cross until the entire area is highlighted. Initially, you may need to do this several times to get the hang of it.

When you release the mouse, a box containing your snipped area will appear. You can now copy/paste, save, e-mail, etc., the snipped content.

Here is an example of snipping information from Fold3.



Here I used the markup pen to draw a blue line around the Fold3 information.



Maybe this is something that you will find useful. Of course, Kim had us all learn how to pin the **Snipping Tool** to the Taskbar, which was much faster than going the search box route...but that is a different lesson.

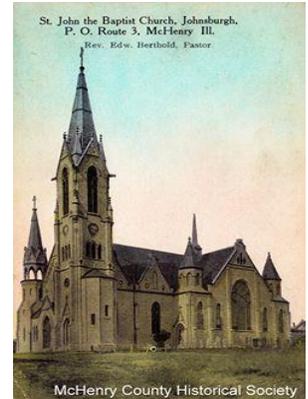
If you have a neat feature or trick you would like to share, why not e-mail it to Lea Norlinger, Editor of THE GENIE BUG lrprk0@gmail.com. She could include your idea in an issue of the BUG.

Sandra Turner, Librarian

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, JOHNSBURG, IL

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, who along with the Rockford Diocese have taken the utmost care in preserving and restoring a century old church in Johnsburg, will receive a historical plaque in a public ceremony Sunday, June 29, 2014. The McHenry County Historical Society and its Historic Sites Committee will plaque the church, located 2302 W. Church St. in Johnsburg, IL Below is an in depth history of St. John's written by Historic Sites Committee Chair Grace Moline.



St. John's story begins in 1841, when McHenry County was only 5 years old. During this time immigrants from Germany, began arriving in this area. Finally free from religious persecution, a small group of the newly-arrived Germans –Nicolaus Frett, **Nicolaus Adams**, Jacob Schmitt and Johann Baptist Muller – organized one of Illinois' first Catholic parishes, St. John the Baptist, in what was then called Miller's Settlement.

In 1842 the first St. John the Baptist Church was erected, a log cabin, which also served as a meeting hall and was the first Catholic school in McHenry County. In 1850 the log cabin was replaced by a larger frame church and by 1852, St. John's acquired its first resident pastor, Father Jacomet. St. John's parish continued to grow and in 1867 work began on a third church. This new church was 50 by 133 feet and built of masonry, in the Gothic style so popular in Germany. It took 13 years to complete the new church. During this time the village of Johnsburg was platted in June of 1868.

Twenty years after its completion St. John's, the pride of the Johnsburg community, was tragically destroyed by fire on Feb. 19, 1900. So devastating was the fire that many grave markers of the early settlers, in the adjoining cemetery, were destroyed. Two months later, on the same exact site as the three previous churches, work began for the construction of a new and even grander church. Amazingly, in less than 2 years a magnificent new St. John the Baptist Church rose from the ashes and was dedicated in 1902. Word has it that many of the parishioners, German immigrants helped build today's church at the cost of approximately \$90,000. That's nearly \$2.5 million in today's money.

St. John the Baptist church is a landmark building, rising high above all the surrounding structures. Surmounted by two spires like steeples and five side towers, this cathedral, was the skyscraper of McHenry County. The steeples and towers are decorated with floral finials and topped off with ornate crucifixes. The main steeple rises up 159 feet, which, at one time, served as a clock tower, has gargoyle water spouts and houses a working belfry. The bells, with their original wood cartwheels still attached, are dated 1900. They were cast in St. Louis, specifically for St. Johns, and are rung on a daily basis. High above the main entrance is a beautiful circular, or "rose," window very typical of Gothic design throughout Europe.

Like most cathedrals and great churches, St. John's is of a cruciform, or Latin cross, ground plan. The focal point of St. John's is located at the end of a long and wide approach, the sanctuary. The area in and around the sanctuary includes the beautifully ornate main altar and left and right flanking altars, all with colorful, and inspirational statuary. The altars and flanking confessionals were meticulously hand carved, stained and gilded in Germany, then

reassembled here in Johnsburg. The beautiful, and highly valued stained glass windows, hand crafted in Germany, embellish the church with vivid colors and warm ambient light.

There is no doubt that St. John the Baptist church is a high quality built structure, but looking this good, at 112 years old, comes at a great monetary cost. In 1975 and 1992 major repairs and restoration had to be performed, and once again, repairs are necessary today, such as a beautiful, long lasting and expensive, copper roof presently being installed. We salute the parishioners of St. John's, the Rev. Jacek Junak, Bishop David J. Malloy and the Rockford Diocese for their hard work and determination in keeping this parish church maintained current for future generations to enjoy.

Church Cemetery on the East



Nicolaus Adams 1799 - 1879



Nicolaus Adams, is 3rd Great Grandfather of Lea Norlinger

This was a very interesting venture for us. Thanks for letting me share some history, Lea.

.....

2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Thank you for your Renewals !

Annual Membership: monthly programs, FEB, MAY, AUG, & NOV newsletters, and one free research query.

Renewal Membership dues are \$12.00 for this calendar year. January 2014 - December 2014

Name _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ County _____
Email _____ Newsletter Emailed or Newsletter by Post
Office Mail

Amount enclosed is *Cash* _____ or *Check* _____ *Today's Date*

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Mason City, IA 50401-0237

SPANISH INFLUENZA

Influenza, or the flu, as it is commonly known, is a viral infection of the respiratory tract. The flu is highly contagious, spreading from person to person through coughing or sneezing. It readily develops into pneumonia. A worldwide influenza epidemic in 1918-1919 resulted in the deaths of some 675,000 in the United States with over 40 million dying worldwide. This epidemic, falling on the heels of WWI, began in Camp Funston in Kansas and quickly spread. One fifth of the total world population was infected, though only 3% of those infected actually died. The age group 20-40 was the most susceptible to the disease. The disease was distinct because it had a very rapid onset and the patient often died within hours. Entire families lay dying in their homes, coughing foamy, blood-tinged sputum.

At the height of the epidemic, patrols were charged with picking up and disposing of the disease's victims. The newly dead were brought out of their houses to be picked up by the patrols. The stench of death was everywhere. In Philadelphia some 7,500 fell victim to the disease in two weeks. Streetcars became hearses as the supply of coffins ran out. The epidemic was particularly deadly in US Army training camps, where the death rate was as high as 80% in some camps. In order to protect themselves from the disease, people stayed home. Public facilities such as churches, theaters and schools were vacant and abandoned. It wasn't until 1997 that the epidemic of 1918 was identified from specimens preserved in formaldehyde from the victims of the pandemic. It was discovered that the virus spread from birds, to pigs, to humans. These viruses, mutated in pigs, are the most deadly of all viruses.