

THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 237 Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237
Volume 44 August 2015 Number 3



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Annual Gab Fest, Chow down/Picnic will be held August 8, 2015, in East Park, Mason City, Iowa. We have reserved Shelter # 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (It is by the basketball courts.) **We will begin the meal at noon!** If you haven't signed up, call **Sharon O'Neill (641-420-3838)**. The society will furnish the beverage, cups & napkins. **We are looking forward to seeing you and your guests on August 8th.**



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At the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society's **September 12, 2015** meeting, **Randy Opheim**, manager of the Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery, will bring us **up-to-date on the progress** of the cemetery's two State Historical Society of Iowa grants. Our meeting will be held in the lower level meeting room of the Clear Lake Public Library (200 N 4th St, Clear Lake, IA 50428, 641 357-6133). The meeting, scheduled for September 12, will begin at 1:30 p.m. **The meeting is free and open to the public.**

*The **North Iowa Diversity Appreciation group** holding their annual event **September 18, 2015** in downtown **Mason City from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** on the **East side of Central Park**. This year **Rod Hungerford** and **Carolyn Anderson** have **volunteered to man our NCIGS table**. As part of our contribution to Diversity Day, the board has once again approved a prize drawing of a one year membership to the society. This is a wonderful opportunity of promote the society. If you attend Diversity Day, please stop by the NCIGS table.* =====

>>ALSO: Plan to attend the Elwood-St Joseph's HISTORY WALK on September 26th this year...

Next Meeting Date: October 10, 2015, Bob Haskins brings an interesting **Background to the topic of DNA**. His science degree from the University of Iowa combined with 37 years working in the Information Technology field, plus researching his family history for the past 25-30 years, makes this DNA hobbyist the right person to expand our knowledge of DNA. Bob has been involved in genealogy DNA for more than 10 years. One of the many experiences he will share with us is how Bob, with other family members, successfully "crossed the pond" using DNA. Clear Lake Public Library (200 N 4th St, Clear Lake, IA 50428, 641 357-6133). The meeting, scheduled for October 10th will begin at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public.

14 November 2015, PRESIDENT'S Program ANNUAL meeting. Ms Dorothy Paul.

More details in Nov 2015 Genie Bug.

In this **August 2015** Issue:

Update from the President	2	Librarian's Column	3
Class of 1884 ?	4	Table of contents	5
Summary of JULY 11	6	Membership info	7
Springs Electronic Updated	8		

NCIGS Board Update



Hello fellow genealogist's,

with all the warm weather activities now available to everyone, I hope that many of you have had time to visit some cemeteries and libraries in the area your ancestor's settled. When at the cemeteries, don't forget to leave your name, address, and your questions and connections to the deceased. Leave your request for information at the grave in a sealed tube.

The summer months have found our library busy helping both members and non-members. Non-members are traveling through looking for information on ancestor's who lived in this 9 county area.

In the club genealogy room we have two new additions that will be an aid to both researchers and the library staff. A new, All in One Computer, and a Cannon lazier printer are now in operation.

Everyone try to fill the remaining summer days with fun and all the outdoor activities time permits.

President, Dorothy Paul

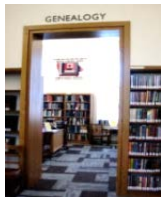
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### 2015 Executive Board Members of the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society

President—Dorothy Paul- [djpaul@mchsi.com](mailto:djpaul@mchsi.com)  
Secretary – Larry Paul – [pontiacfan36@hotmail.com](mailto:pontiacfan36@hotmail.com)  
Librarian-- Sandra Turner- [ncigso@gmail.com](mailto:ncigso@gmail.com)  
Research Chair– Linda Faridi – [ncigso@gmail.com](mailto:ncigso@gmail.com)

Vice-President - Sharon O'Neill- [captain@netins.net](mailto:captain@netins.net)  
Treasurer- Carol Tinkey- [twotinkers@mchsi.com](mailto:twotinkers@mchsi.com)  
Website Chair - Jay Lehmann – [jay@ncigs.org](mailto:jay@ncigs.org)  
Publicity Chair – Sharlene Stoddard – [worthgen@mchsi.com](mailto:worthgen@mchsi.com)  
Membership Chair–LeNore Forbes- [lfrobes@myomnitel.com](mailto:lfrobes@myomnitel.com)

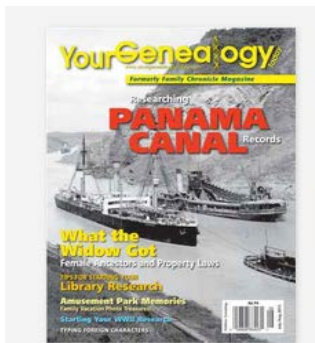
*THE GENIE BUG is published in Feb, May, Aug & Nov: A benefit to members of the non-profit*



**From the Librarian:** *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:** Ruth Umbarger, Joan Bartel, Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Dorothy Paul, Sandra Turner (Chair).

**Current Library Volunteers:** Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Carolyn Anderson, LeNore Forbes, Gwen Miller, Rod Hungerford, Marie Thompson, Carol Tinkey and Sandra Turner (Librarian).



This issue, let's take a look at one of the magazines we receive at the library entitled YOUR GENEALOGY TODAY. You may be more familiar with this magazine by its former title FAMILY CHRONICLE MAGAZINE. This magazine is published six times per year. Each issue contains articles and advice columns written by genealogical experts. Regular columns include "Genealogy Tourism", "DNA & Your Genealogy", and "Advice from the Pros".

WHAT THE WIDOW GOT, an article appearing in the July/Aug 2015 issue, examines how your female ancestor may have been affected by property laws. Author George Morgan writes "when we encounter a widowed female ancestor, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and before, we are always interested in her status

after her spouse's death." The term *coverture* refers to the legal principle under which, upon marriage, a woman's legal rights were subsumed by the right of her husband. By law, a wife typically could not own property, enter into contracts or earn a salary. However, keep in mind, there were some exceptions to *coverture*. During your research you might encounter the term *feme sole*. This refers to an unmarried woman. As such, a *feme sole* was independent and could own and convey ownership of her property. What happened to property when a wife died? Property law stipulated real property brought to a marriage by the bride, either in the form of a dowry or separate property, would revert to her family in the event there were no living children. However, if the couple had children, the husband became "tenant by the *curtesy*" or the lifetime manager of his wife's estates. Then there is *dower right* (not the same as dowry). *Dower* is defined as the legal provision by which a woman receives support in the event that she should survive her husband. Want to learn more about widow's rights? Come into the library and read this issue.

In the same issue, an article entitled BEGINNING YOUR WORLD WAR II RESEARCH is written by Jennifer Holik.

Jennifer is a Chicago-based genealogist and military historian specializing in WW II US records, research, and writing. Jennifer indicates there are two roads to follow in genealogical research of WW II. The first road is **online** searching to help establish basic facts and possibly a timeline. Jennifer's tips for navigating WW II research **online** were published in INTERNET GENEALOGY, June/July 2015 issue, also available at the NCIGS Library. The second road, and the focus of this article, involves searching **offline** sources for the following: 1) locating basic information by using the Military Service Questionnaire; 2) searching home sources; 3) searching home front materials; 4) searching public sources held within government offices, local libraries, and collaterals; 5) creating a service history timeline; 6) documenting your sources; and 7) requesting a copy of the Official Military Personnel File. For more details on her tips, read the entire article at the library. She will continue this series in the next several issues of YOUR GENEALOGY TODAY, focusing on the records of various branches of the military.



Hope you will enjoy reading this magazine and learning from it. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

**From our Genealogical Library Room:** Library Call # GEN 929.3777 CER HUN

## INTRODUCTION to a Research Booklet:

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF 1884, MASON CITY CENTRAL SCHOOL?**

The project with regard to members of the Mason City, Iowa Central School Class of 1884 (known now as Mason City High School), resulted from questions and answers at an April 2015 Mason City School Board Meeting. The presenter, Mr. John Lee, stated the names of the 1884 class members were upon a yearbook with the title, THE RAVEN.

Said yearbook, a forerunner of the Mason City High School MASONIAN, was believed to be a gift to Ms. Carrie (Lane) Chapman Catt. Ms. Catt was a teacher-principal-superintendent (1883) for Mason City schools, one of the few female principals – superintendents within the 1870s-1880s.

I attend Mason City School Board meetings and heard several school board members ask Mr. Lee (Mason City High School teacher of U.S. History and American government) if any information is known and available with regard to the class members of 1884 post-graduation. I spoke with Mr. Lee after the meeting session to volunteer my services as a researcher. I had taught several class sessions for and with Mr. Lee at Mason City High School plus helped as a researcher with the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society.

Therefore, the mission was to locate the twelve class members, document life events, note occupations, list family members, note post-1884 locations and provide a view of their interest/activities outside of the house.

After four to five weeks, I was able to document information with regard to life after 1884 Mason City. Sort of a WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF 1884, MASON CITY CENTRAL SCHOOL? The simple answer, a whole lot! The class members would experience: two world-wide wars, several economic recessions, enormous changes in transportation, communication, public infrastructure, medicine, decades of the effects of non-regulated businesses – corporations, different leisure time activities, social and financial mobility, mass immigration from various countries, plus huge changes in information sources.

Class members would move to various locates such as Brooklyn, NY, the Los Angeles Metro Area, Portland, NY, Cincinnati, OH, and Great Falls, Montana. Occupations would include: bankers, ranchers, farmers, teachers, retail merchants, salespeople and a physician. The earliest death of a class member was in 1904; the latest death was in 1955. No class member would have more than three children.

## Table of Contents

(The actual first page in this awesome Booklet.)

|                                | Page  |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Introduction                   | i     |
| Elizabeth 'Lizzie' M. Atkinson | 1     |
| Florence 'Flora' A. Crane      | 2-3   |
| Frances 'Frankie' E. Dougan    | 4-9   |
| Florence G. Earnshaw           | 10    |
| Mabel E. Emsley                | 11-15 |
| Nellie B. Hale                 | 16-19 |
| Georgia L. Hanford             | 20-21 |
| Earl (e) H. Mayne              | 22-29 |
| Jane 'Jennie' E. Montague      | 30-32 |
| Francis L. (Lloyd) Rogers      | 33-35 |
| Cora Thompson                  | 36    |
| Carrie L. Welch                | 37    |

Rodney Hungerford - May 2015



*Thank you Rod, for the interesting research you have provided for us. Come in and read this Booklet and thousands of other very interesting books that are contained in our own Library, Lea Norlinger.*

**BRIEF SUMMARY** with regard to the meeting held on **July 11, 2015** Presentation by Rod Hungerford was a delightful experience. **Native Americans, Part II presentation for the NCIGS**, Rod provided a brief update of information from the Part I session since several attendees were not in attendance this past January.

(Rod)> I provided material handouts to co-exist with time frames, locations of reservations (circa 1939), how to search via census rolls of Native American individuals, enrollment card information, Dawes Report information, plus The Bureau of Indian Affairs documents to assist a person who wishes to prove Native American Ancestral ties.

Yes, I added several stories to document the negative behaviors of Official Indian Agents for several tribes. Can you imagine the voiced concern by Indian Commission members when tribal members are sitting around (you know, just chillin!) doing nothing. When they were asked “why are you not planting crops upon all the land provided to you by the Government? (muttered-lazy good for nothing Indians!) Then their reply was, “We can’t, the seed wasn’t delivered last month as promised, plus no water sources nearby or rainfall for the month. And, we are hungry too; no buffalo and we can’t leave the reservation to fish at the one lake.” (Yeah, yeah, yeah, another tribe’s members ready to make trouble... local agent is at the bank making another deposit.)

Several attendees mentioned hearing reading of the above-mentioned situations. Attendees expressed interest with regard to available research resources, hard copy, online & archival items. I believe that approx. 25 people were in attendance at the Part II session.

Thank you, Rod Hungerford, well done.



## NCIGS Meeting Refreshments

Although the Membership Committee (**LeNore Forbes, Chair 641-749-5505**) is responsible for providing most of the refreshment needs for the monthly meetings, it is helpful to have members and visitors provide the “goodies”. We need about **4 dozen cookies or bars per meeting**, which means if two people sign up for each month, **each person** would be asked to provide **2 dozen cookies or bars**. Everyone looks forward to the great baking provided, so please participate. **Your contribution is very much appreciated.**

**2015** 08 **August** - Picnic  
10 **October** - Marie Thompson & Linda Faridi  
**December** - No meeting  
12 **September** - Jane Ginapp & Sandra Turner  
14 **November** - Carol Cory - Annual Meeting

### 2016 NCIGS Meeting Refreshment List- we need your help, please.

09 January \_\_\_\_\_  
13 February \_\_\_\_\_  
12 March \_\_\_\_\_  
09 April \_\_\_\_\_  
14 May \_\_\_\_\_  
11 June \_\_\_\_\_  
09 July \_\_\_\_\_  
13 August 'Picnic' \_\_\_\_\_  
10 September \_\_\_\_\_  
08 October \_\_\_\_\_  
12 November Annual meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
December 'No meeting'



## 2016 NCIGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DUE VERY SOON.

Household dues are \$**12.00** per calendar year (Jan-Dec). New member Dues paid after September 1 will extend to the next full 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 NCIGS Library. In addition to my 2016 membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

I am interested in volunteering as follows:  Library  Website  Membership  Programming

New Membership **or**  Renewal  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter to be sent via:  E-mail **OR**  Post Office Amount Enclosed: Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**OR** Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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



**WELCOME** NEW member, Lahoma Counts!

We look forward to visiting with you at our next meeting.



## Spring brings electronic updates!

At the May monthly meeting, society members approved the purchase and installation of a new HP 19 All-In-One computer. This new PC will be secured in our locked storage cabinet when not in use. David Yarrow, our electronic guru, modified the Windows 8.1 software for ease of use, downloaded security and maintenance software, installed Office, the SnapScreen software, etc., as well as deleting unnecessary software pre-installed into the PC. The larger screen means better viewing for our researchers and volunteers.

Also in May, a black & white Canon IMAGECLASS MF laser printer and ink cartridge was donated to the society. David then installed a wireless network from the new laser printer to our computers. This project was underwritten by several members – the printer was a donation by Rodney Hungerford and Lawrence Paul, while Sandra Turner was to pay David to set up the printer network. Instead David decided to just bill for one hour, with any additional time a donation from him to the society. Many thanks to these people for their financial support.