

# THE GENIE BUG

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 237 MASON CITY, IOWA 50402-0237

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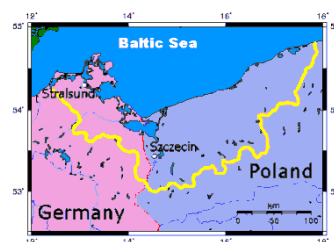


**All meetings - lower level meeting room - Clear Lake Public Library – 1:30 p.m.**



**2016** - North Central Iowa Genealogical Society meeting on **February 13, "I Heard a Train a Comin"** program will be about several of the **Orphan Trains** which made stops in north central Iowa. Our speaker and society member, **Rod Hungerford**, will discuss the history of the Orphan Trains and what happened to some of the children who found homes here. During Rod's research on this topic, he discovered many Orphan Train children became permanent residents. They married, had families, and lead successful lives in our county areas.

**March 12, 2016 – "Genealogical Research in Former Pomerania"** poses many research challenges. After World War II, most of the Province became Polish and nearly all Pomeranians were expelled from their former German lands. Families were dispersed, religions were changed and many records destroyed or lost. **Chuck & Donna Schilling**, society members have traveled to this area many times searching for family. Learn about their awesome luck and astonishing finds!



**April 9, 2016.... Members' Round Table Discussion** Join us for a fun time of discussion and learning. We will be sharing our knowledge and some great topics. Plan to attend this special meeting.

**May 14, 2016 "Historical Beginnings of East and Central Parks"** presented by **Mark Suby**, society member and retired Mason City Parks Superintendent. Mark has put together a great PowerPoint presentation. He will discuss the history of these two parks, including discussion of the early plans platted for Central Park as well as many historic and contemporary photos.



★ **Just a reminder:** Rod Hungerford, our Program chairman is looking for people who could provide a program on German, Norwegian, Swedish, English, Canadian, etc., research. He is thinking of emphasizing ethnic genealogical research during some of our upcoming programs. So if you know of someone who can speak about any of these topics, please let Rod know. Thanks.

## February 2016

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## Happy New Year 2016 from President Lea Norlinger

I wish to extend a huge thank you for all the dedication and achievements made by the past year's NCIGS Board. In 2016, we have our goals laid out for us if we plan to achieve as successful and productive a Society as has been accomplished in the past.

**PROGRAM ideas** needed.... As our New Year progresses we have many wonderful programs scheduled. We are thankful for the many talented and creative speakers who presented programs in the past. I invite you to contact me, also as Editor of THE GENIE BUG, through the electronic devices we all seem to have these days, if you want to present or suggest a future program. My email and all the NCIGS Board's emails will be placed at the bottom of this page. Whether you live near and attend our meetings or are members from far away, we encourage you to share your ideas for future programs.

**VOLUNTEER** from the comfort of your very own home. We will need many of you to help enter the data from past OBITUARIES into our new website data base. It will require an hour or two now and then, whatever you feel you can work into your busy schedules starting in March.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Carol Tinkey and Sharon O'Neill for their work in obtaining grants. Carol obtained \$500 from U.S. Bank and Carol and Sharon, as a team, obtained \$2,500 from CLtel (Clear Lake Telephone Company). Great Work! This money will soon be invested in our customized software obituary package and available to all members.

**Please join us at the Clear Lake Library** on the second Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm. We have a good time and fellowship is always welcome as we enjoy our after the meeting treats. I am looking forward to seeing you soon, Lea Norlinger.

### NCIGS Executive Board Members ~

- \* President - Lea Norlinger- [lrprk0@gmail.com](mailto:lrprk0@gmail.com), \* Vice-Pres - Rod Hungerford- [hungerfordrodneym@gmail.com](mailto:hungerfordrodneym@gmail.com)
- \* Secretary - Larry Paul - [pontiacfan36@hotmail.com](mailto:pontiacfan36@hotmail.com), \* Treasurer - Carol Tinkey- [tinkeycarol@gmail.com](mailto:tinkeycarol@gmail.com) \*
- \* Research Chair - Charles Schilling- [sdcs53818@yahoo.com](mailto:sdcs53818@yahoo.com), \* Librarian - Sandra Turner- [ncigso@gmail.com](mailto:ncigso@gmail.com),
- \* Publicity Chair - Sharlene Stoddard- [worthgen@mchsi.com](mailto:worthgen@mchsi.com), \* Website Chair - Jay Lehmann- [jay@ncigs.org](mailto:jay@ncigs.org),
- \* Membership Chair - LeNore Forbes- [lfrobes@myomnitel.com](mailto:lfrobes@myomnitel.com)

Dear Family Tree Maker™ community,

Ancestry is proud to have made a significant investment this year to bring valuable new content and records to the Ancestry site. In 2015, we've made 220 million searchable historical records from Mexico available, more than 170 million pages from the largest collection of U.S. will and probate records, among others. We've also introduced new features such as Ancestry Academy, and major advancements for AncestryDNA.

As we strive to provide our customers with the best experience possible, we are constantly evaluating our services and product offerings. True to this focus, we've taken a hard look at the declining desktop software market and the impact this has on being able to continue to provide new content, product enhancements and support that our users need. With that, we've made the tough decision to stop selling Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2015.

We will continue to support existing Family Tree Maker owners at least through January 1, 2017. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync™ will continue to work. Our Member Services team will also remain available to assist with questions or issues you may have. These changes are never easy. But by focusing our efforts, we can concentrate on continuing to build great products for our loyal Ancestry community. You can find additional details about the retirement of Family Tree Maker on our **blog**.

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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:** Ruth Umbarger, Joan Bartel, Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Dorothy Paul, Sandra Turner

\* **Current Library Volunteers:** Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Carolyn Anderson, LeNore Forbes, Rod Hungerford, Gwen Miller, Marie Thompson, Carol Tinkey, Chuck & Donna Schilling and Sandra Turner



Since I am writing this column on New Year's Day, January 1, 2016, it seems the right time to review the accomplishments of the Library and its volunteers during the past year, patting ourselves on the back for a "job well done."

**First**, our thanks to the many people who made donations to the library collection. Without these donations the collection would not be as rich and helpful as it is. Here is a list of the items cataloged since May 2015:

- ✓ *Owen Township School District Record*. Donated by Audrey Huff. Proceedings of the board meetings/finances for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Owen Center, Owen Township, Cerro Gordo County 1910-1936. Kay photographed the original entries; Carolyn scanned the photos and Sandra converted them to DVD format, cataloged and shelved them. We then sent the original to the Center for the History of Rural Iowa Education and Culture.
- ✓ *Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John, 1630*. Donated by Linda Faridi. The author combed through numerous secondary sources in New England and many record offices in England to compile the passenger list of the Mary and John 1630 voyage.
- ✓ *Mason City High School 1884*. Authored & donated by Rodney Hungerford. Contains biographical information about the 12 members of the 1884 graduating class of Mason City Central School (now known as Mason City High School).
- ✓ *Descendants of Torjus and Ann Haugo*. Contains information about the Haugo family. Founder Torjus Haugo (1835-1894) & his family emigrated from Norway in 1888. The family lived in various areas of Iowa and Minnesota.
- ✓ *The Cree's in America: The Descendants of Robert Cree*. Donated by Thomas Cree. A collection of historical information on the descendants of Robert Cree (?-1832), who came to American about 1770.
- ✓ *Cree History Update 1981*. Donated by Thomas Cree. Update of the descendants of Robert Cree.
- ✓ *Kuntz Family History* by Sharon Walk. Covers this Worth County family from 1792 through 2015.
- ✓ *Iowa's Heritage of Pioneer Family Farms 1834-1896*, v. 1 & 2 by Herb Plambeck. V 1 was a donation; V2 was purchased using Farrer Grant monies.
- ✓ *1983 Kossuth County, IA, clippings from the Algona & Upper Des Moines* collected and compiled by Dorothy Climer.
- ✓ *History of Lime Creek Conservation Area and Nature Center* by Rita Goranson
- ✓ Updates of the *Elmwood & St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery* and the *Memorial Park Cemetery*. Donated by the cemeteries.
- ✓ *St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Baptism, Marriage and Death Records 1873-1899* by Rita Goranson
- ✓ *Early Aplington* by Berdena Wolff and Adeline Meyer
- ✓ *We will go to a new land: the Great East Frisian Migration to America 1845-1895* by Robert H. Behrens. Donated by Gene Watson. Discusses the history of East Frisian people and the conditions in Ostriesland during the 19<sup>th</sup> century which resulted in immigration to the U.S., also the history of various East Frisian settlements in seven U.S. states.
- ✓ *Families of Hodnefjell, Hodnefjeld, Hodnefield, Hodenfield*. By Wilma Trebil. Donated by Gene Watson. Details ancestral line of this family which originated in Mosteroy Island, Roglaland District, Norway. Family settled primarily in Minnesota and Iowa.
- ✓ *History of Tama County, Iowa*. Compiled by the Tama News Herald, Tama County Historical Society and Tama County Tracers Genealogical Society. Donated by Gene Watson. Includes details on towns, churches, schools, clubs and organization of the Mesquakie settlement, etc.
- ✓ *Alaska Highway Expeditionary Force: a Roadbuilder's Story*. Donated by H. Milton Duesenberg. The story of Iowa contractors and roadbuilders experiences while participating in the construction of the "Alaskan-Canadian Military Highway" 1942-43.
- ✓ *Chasing Restless Roots: The Dreams that Lured Us Across America* by Michael Luick-Thrams. V.2 of the pentalogy *Oceans of Darkness, Oceans of Light*. Details immigration of Luick, Jenison, Juhl & Moorehead family. Purchased with Farrer Grant Funds.

**Second**, let's look at the facts: **2015 USAGE AT THE LIBRARY:**

Category		Cumulated Annual
Researchers		558
Out of 9 County Area		37
Out of State/Country		26
Non-members		220
Research Requests Completed		27

We had visitors from the following out of State/Country: New Hampshire, Germany, Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin, Missouri, Oregon, Indiana, California, Minnesota, Illinois, Florida, Australia, Ohio, Indiana, Texas, and Washington.

**2015 DOCUMENTED VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE SOCIETY:**

	Hours - Cumulated Annual	Cumulated Value (@ \$23.07 per hr.)
	5021	\$115,834.47

**Note: Please report volunteer hours at the beginning of each month, either by arrangement with me or through e-mail to me (ncigso@gmail.com), so we have a record of your contributions. Thanks.**

**Third,** what projects we did accomplish:

- ✓ **Digitization of materials.** Due to lack of space, we developed an archival retention policy for society and PAF-Ways records. In addition, we have been converting to searchable format a number of collection items. Carolyn Anderson has worked diligently on this program. Some of her scanning in 2015 included our extensive collection of births, confirmations, baptisms, engagements, marriages and other family celebrations.
- ✓ **Grants.** Several grants were submitted. Some were successful; others not. Combining grant, society and private funding, we now have the wherewithal to authorize the creation of our customized obituary data base for our website. In addition, we have been able to update our computer/printer equipment for the library: A laser printer was purchased by Rod Hungerford and Larry Paul. An All-in-One computer was purchased with society funds. Mark Suby and Sandra Turner donated a HP color printer.
- ✓ **Promotion.** We updated our NCIGS tri-fold brochure and business card. Rod Hungerford and Carolyn Anderson again participated in the Diversity Day celebration in Mason City. We conducted a survey of genealogical society fees for membership and research and instituted appropriate changes.
- ✓ **Training.** Jay Lehmann offered training on Dropbox (a supplemental communication and storage system). An instructional manual was prepared for the SnapScan equipment. Our two new library volunteers – Chuck and Donna Schilling were trained.
- ✓ **Reorganizing.** We spent time on reorganizing the filing cabinet materials, Sandra Turner, Librarian

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## Update by Carol Tinkey, Treasurer

Christmas came early for NCIGS this past year. Within a week's time, I received notification that we had been awarded two different grants. Almost a year and a half ago I had approached US Bank for a donation and was told to apply for a grant, as there was money that went unused locally. After we sent the grant in, we found we were past the deadline. A few months ago, I got to wondering if they had kept our application and would consider it this time around. Low and behold, they had and we received a check for \$500.00, which we applied to the cost of the All-in-One computer we had recently purchased.

A few days later, I received an email from Jan Lovell at 'CL Tel' in Clear Lake. Sharon O'Neill and I had visited with her in November about supporting our obituary project. She was very interested in it and stated in the email we would be receiving a check for \$2500 in early January. This will allow us to work with Kevin and Keith Brunsvold, who will be creating a software program for us to use, which will allow several people to be able to enter data at the same time. The public will be able to access it, as well as people visiting or website or working in the genealogy room.

This is what the Brunsvold's will be providing us: **1.** Designing Application, **2.** Create 2 SQL tables, **3.** Create interfaces to SQL Tables, **4.** Create Back Office Login Panel, **5.** Create Upload Photo Option, **6.** Create Upload Document Option, **7.** Create Screen Print for Public, **8.** Conversion of Current Data, **9.** Installation Process, **10.** Training, **11.** Review and revise any changes to the initial setup. .... When we get this installed and it's ready to use, we will need more people to help, especially from out-lying towns. It will be easy to use, you can work on it from the comfort of your home, and whenever you have the time. So, won't you please volunteer?

Contact: Lea Norlinger – 641-494-7614; Sandra Turner – 641-380-0339; or Carol Tinkey – 641-423-5965.

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## NCIGS 2015 Financial Report - 1 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2015

| Income              |                   | Expenses              |                   | Restricted Funds  |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2015 Dues           | 372.00            | Equipment             | 497.53            | Savings           | 3727.33           |
| 2016 Dues           | 492.00            | Genie Bug             | 211.67            | Donation          | 550.02            |
| 2017 Dues           | 60.00             | Gifts                 | 20.73             | 2016 Dues - 46    | 552.00            |
| 2018 Dues           | 12.00             | Office/Officer        | 70.98             | 2017 Dues - 6     | 84.00             |
| Copies              | 319.85            | PO Box Rent           | 56.00             | 2018 Dues - 1     | 12.00             |
| Donations           | 281.00            | Program/Speaker       | 70.00             | Memorial          | 25.00             |
| Meeting donations   | 113.77            | Research Expense      | 26.20             | Thrivent Obit Web | 65.00             |
| Sale of Printer     | 60.00             | Website Host/Domain   | 179.88            | Farrar Account    | 733.38            |
| Research Fees       | 334.00            |                       |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$2,544.62</b> | <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$1,132.99</b> | <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$5,748.73</b> |

**Account Balances -- 31 Dec 2015 -- Society Checking -- \$6978.36 -- 2015 Budget Balance -- \$1,229.63**

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### NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – General Meeting -JANUARY 9, 2016

**WELCOME:** Vice-President Rod Hungerford called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. He welcomed everyone to Clear Lake on this cold winter day. Vice-President Hungerford called for the committee reports.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** Larry Paul, Secretary read the minutes from the November 14, 2015 meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. A motion was made by Charles Schilling to accept the minutes as read. Pam Little seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by the general membership.

**TREASURES REPORT:** Carol Tinkey, Treasurer reviewed annual income, expenses and uncommitted funds of the annual treasurer report. The annual report also included a copy of the 2016 budget that was presented to the membership. This report also included copies of all expenditures for the year. There were no additions or corrections to the treasurer report and it was approved as read.

**WEBSITE REPORT:** Jay Lehmann, Chair said the recent Drop Box Training was completed on 30 Dec 2015. Jay explained that Drop Box is now available for use by NCIGS members. Drop Box is available on our website and contains our historical records. Most of our past records will be up loaded in the near future so that any member who is approved for access can review past historical records.

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE:** Charles Schilling, Chair informed the membership that he is just beginning as our Research Chair but he has already had three requests for some research assistance. Charles informed the membership that that we provide research assistance on an hourly fee basis and we do not start any research assistance until we receive a check from them.

**LIBRARY REPORT:** Sandra Turner, Chair informed the membership that her monthly Library Reports are not on Drop Box and members can gain Drop Box access and review the monthly reports right from their home computer. Sandra reviewed the November/December report for the membership.

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:** Rod Hungerford, Chair informed the membership that our February Program will be on the Orphan Train coming to Iowa and other states. He is working on various other monthly programs as they develop. In October we will have a program on the USS Arizona. The program will cover the Navy and Marine personnel who served on the USS Arizona, when the Japanese attacked it during the Pearl Harbor Invasion. We have had request for programs on the German, Irish and Catholic immigration to the United States.

**GRANT REQUEST:** Carol Tinkey, Chair reported to the membership that NCIGS has been awarded two wonderful grants for our Obituary Project. First, US Bank approved a \$500.00 grant for computer equipment. This grant will pay for our All-In-One computer plus install needed programs. Secondly, the Clear Lake Telephone Company has awarded us a \$2500.00 grant that will be used for our Obituary Project. These grants plus other donations will provide \$3075.02 towards are \$4200.00 Obituary Project.

**PROGRAM PRESENTATION:** Sandra Turner who was the Facilitator for Ancestry Academy, a research-training program within the Ancestry Website, conducted the January Program. Sandra's presentation dealt with access to Ancestry Academy and Specific Interest Subject Areas. An example of an Academy Subject is accessed via the Title: STREET SMARTS- FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR in the BIG CITY. The program had a Subject Facilitator, via Ancestry.com, that provided Areas to aid One's Research and Discovery. The session lasted between 35-50 minutes, with Intervals for discussion by Attendees. After completion of the Computer Video Presentation, a One-Page Evaluation Form was distributed to the Attendees for Written Responses. Prior to Attendees' departure, the Evaluation Forms were collected for review by Program Committee Members.

Respectively Submitted, Larry Paul, Secretary, NCIGS



# Things You Probably Didn't Know About Thanksgiving

By Charles & Donna Schilling

This presentation was given to the NCGIS group at the **November 14, 2015** meeting using research and a DVD that was found with Rod Hungerford's help in the public library.



The Pilgrims (not called such until Abraham Lincoln's time) had a late start from England in 1622. Some of the "Separatists" as they were known in the 1600's started from their Leiden, Holland location, while other necessary crew was taken on in England. Two ships were going to be their transportation, the "Speedwell" and the "Mayflower". However, the "Speedwell," after two attempts to sail were scrapped because it was taking on water, prevented the Separatists from leaving in the Spring or Summer. The Separatists finally were on their voyage to America in September. So their voyage was now plagued with bad weather, as this was now the stormy season.

The Separatists left to establish a location which would be free in order to worship as their conscience dictated, rather than being forced to King James of England's church—in other words, they "Separated" from the English church. They now were only on one ship, which wasn't really equipped for passengers, but for transporting goods. On a small ship for 100 passengers, nevertheless, the Separatists braved the crossing, with one person dying on board, but a baby born also during the voyage. When they reached land after over 60 raging days at sea they were happy to see land. However, they were soon out of food, until help arrived from the Indians, who also sometimes fought the newcomers with bows and arrows. A native, Squanto, was the interpreter who helped settle many disagreements.

One wonders whether the colonists would have begun this trip knowing the next danger that befell them. The first winter was harsh and they were now almost out of food, sometimes eating only things that would be very disgusting, as rodents. The 100 passengers were now dying from scurvy, malnutrition, pneumonia and other causes during that first winter. There were only 52 people left of the original 100. These 52 established a number of basic cabins during the spring and summer of 1623, and also planted new crops with the Indian's help. The crops were plentiful that fall. 90 Indians arrived for the colonist's first Thanksgiving, which was a three day celebration. During the celebration, Indians and colonists would hunt deer, wild turkey and fish. They ate pumpkin, but not as pie, as well as corn.

The American celebration of Thanksgiving was first declared a yearly celebration in Abraham Lincoln's time during the Civil War. President Lincoln hoped this celebration would unite North and South so that America would incorporate both sides. Of course, we now celebrate this day, giving thanks also for our gifts. (This was a very interesting program, thank you for sharing it.)

# 2016 NCIGS Membership Application

Household dues are \$**12.00** per calendar year (Jan-Dec). New member dues paid after October 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 Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ 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

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**WELCOME** new members... Jerry McGuire & Larry Spencer! We are pleased to have new people join at every meeting. Thanks for sharing the fun and helping with our genealogy mysteries.

## REFRESHMENTS needed.....

Please let us know what meeting you would like to bring cookies or bars to share.

We need 36, so pair up with a friend and help us out on one of these future 2016 meetings.

April 9 - \_\_\_\_\_, May 14- \_\_\_\_\_, June 11- \_\_\_\_\_

July 9 - \_\_\_\_\_, August 13- \_\_\_\_\_, September 10 - \_\_\_\_\_

October 8 - \_\_\_\_\_, November 12 - \_\_\_\_\_.

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## World War II Bonus Case Files, 1947-1954

In May 1947, the Iowa Legislature approved bonus payments of up to \$500 for men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces between 16 September 1940 and 2 September 1945. To qualify, applicants had to be legal residents of Iowa for at least the six months prior to their service. This database contains applications for those payments. The forms in this database were filled out by veterans. Beneficiaries could also apply for the payments, but did so using a separate form. This database can be searched on Ancestry.com. Along with name, birth date and place, place of residence for six months prior to enlistment or induction, and address where a check could be sent, forms may provide a wide variety of details related to the applicant's service:

- applicant's service or serial number
- name the applicant served under
- date of entry into and separation from active service
- credit for foreign service
- school attendance during service
- time lost to AWOL, desertion, confinement
- branch of service
- address at time registered for Selective Service
- application made to any other state for compensation
- units served in during WWII



Hello fellow members in 'E-mail land',

I just wanted to say that it has been a pleasure being involved in the several avenues of the Board through 2015. I am honored that you chose me to be President, it is a huge responsibility and I pray with your help I can live up to it. With Rod Hungerford as Vice-Pres and the rest of our dedicated co-team we will do our best to bring in programs of interest to you as they have in the past.

Please enjoy the BUG and send me an email now and then to keep me in line... I want to hear all your input on all topics and will be glad to talk with all of you. Have an awesome FEB, MAR and join us for a great member talk session in APRIL. Before that meeting we will be asking what topics you would like to discuss, need help with or can you share with others on your own success for five minutes?

Your next issue will be in May and will include a list of all NCIGS current members.

(SPECIAL SPACE USING message) Lea

### ***Rules for our Ancestors or How to confuse your descendants:***

- Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Richard, Thomas, William.
- Thou shalt name your female children: Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Virginia.
- Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
- Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey—making them difficult to trace.
- Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and you may use only initials on legal documents.
- Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hick, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks.
- Thou shalt, after no more than 3 generations, make sure all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
- Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors & vague innuendo regarding your place origination. You may have come from: England, Ireland, Scotland, or Iran. You may have American Indian ancestry of the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe. You may have descended from one of three brothers who came over from \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records or head stones with legible names.
- Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages or deaths.
- Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of the records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
- Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative. Thou shalt name at least 5 generations of males, and dozens of their cousins, with identical names in order to totally confuse researchers.