

THE GENIE BUG

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 237 MASON CITY, IOWA 50402-0237
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“Searching our CD-ROM Data Bases” taught by

Merikay Mestad, Garner IA, on **February 9, 2013**, at 1:30pm

in the Mason City Room at the Mason City Library. She plans to demonstrate using discs – History of Franklin and Cerro Gordo County, Iowa; Pennsylvania German Church Records; also The Family Finder index and a data disc. Do you need information on Scotch-Irish, German or Irish Immigrants? Are you interested in searching original courthouse marriage licenses for various counties in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio or Tennessee? How about searching Virginia land, marriage & probate records during the years 1739-1850? You may think you have exhausted the information in our library, but maybe not! We have 50+ CD-ROMS that many of you may never have used. Get a new perspective on our resources by coming to the February program. Follow along while Kay Mestad offers a “live” demonstration of some of these data bases. Who knows, maybe you’ll break through your particular brick wall. **Make your Reservations!**



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“Life on the Trails Westward” feature presentation will be at 1:30 pm, on **March 9, 2013**

at the Mason City Room of the Mason City Library. **Ron Billings & Dawn Billings**, Nora Springs IA, present this program about the Mormon Trail, Oregon Trail, California Trail and the Pony Express Trails westward. They will discuss the challenges faced by early pioneers as they crossed the High Plains and Rocky Mountains. Their personal stories will be entwined with a power point presentation illustrating many of the 17,000 trekkers, as they experienced some of the rigors of life on the trail. Included in these will be burial sites of the Sacajawea Indians and the beauty of an Indian cemetery. The Shashone Indians and Arappaho Indians play a part in this story also, both historically and in modern day. Mark your calendars for this special presentation and call 641-494-7614 for your reservations.



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“Gravestone Preservation and Cemetery History” presented by Manager,

Randy Ophem on **April 13, 2013**, at 1:30 pm, will be held on site at the Elmwood-St Joseph Cemetery, **entrance at 1400 South Federal Ave**, Mason City, IA. The cemetery was established in 1867 and has many of the city founders buried there. A number of monuments and markers for these early settlers are broken, leaning and/or unreadable. The Gravestone Preservation efforts were begun to address this situation. Randy will be sharing the process the cemetery is using to



restore older gravestones that he and volunteer Jo Beck learned from a workshop conducted by a respected expert in the field. History facts will be shared and a new map highlighting the gravestones of some of the city founders plus other interesting features of the cemetery. Mark your calendars and make reservations to attend this on site presentation.

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????? **May 11, 2013**, at 1:30pm will be held in the Mason City Room at the Mason City Library.

(Our program details were not finalized at this printing date.)

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From the President's Desk

Hello to all members of the North Central Iowa Genealogical Society. I am Allen Strand, your new President, I live in Forest City. I have had a long-term membership with the Lime Creek/Winnebago County Genealogical Society and other volunteer activities.

I would like to thank all of the officers and committee members for their efforts in the past year. I look forward to working with them in the future. As we all know, these people do most of the work that needs to be done to keep our society viable and growing.

I want to welcome Vice President, Randy Opheim, Manager of the Elmwood-St Joseph Cemetery, Mason City. As new Secretary, Maxine Brinkman, retired nurse and former diversity and inclusion officer at Mercy-North Iowa, has been helpful with the grant writing.

If you have any ideas that can be used for programs, please let anyone on the Program Committee know. We are always searching for new topics or speakers and would welcome your input. Programs are usually set up several months in advance, so all the necessary publicity, room arrangements and equipment needs are met.

We can always use volunteers in the Genealogical Room at the library. Library volunteers are first offered an opportunity to observe how the library operates and how researchers are assisted. Then the new volunteers receive formal training and eventually, when they feel comfortable, they chose the 3 hour shifts they want to work. Volunteering at the library is a great opportunity to learn what is in the collection, to share with others how to do genealogical research and to make some great new friends. Stop in any Mon/Wed/Fri, 9 to noon or 1-4 p.m. and visit with the volunteer on duty.

We also need volunteers to input obituaries into our website. This work can be completed on your home computer, at a time of your choosing. As with the library volunteers – you are given the opportunity to observe, receive training and eventually work independently. The Obituary Committee usually gathers once a month at the Clear Lake Public Library to share needs and concerns. Check the society's website for the date of their next meeting or call any member of the committee for more information on becoming an obit volunteer.

Thank you for now.

Allen Strand

President

2013 Executive Board Members

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society

President-- Allen Strand- astrand@ncigs.org

Vice-President-- Randy Opheim- ropheim@masoncity.net

Secretary-- Maxine Brinkman- brinkman6@mchsi.com

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Research Chair -

Gwen Miller- mc.ncigs@gmail.com

Membership Chair - Lea Norlinger- lea@ncigs.org

Publicity Chair – Sharlene Stoddard – worthgen@mchsi.com

Other 2013 NCIGS Volunteers:

Are the Library Committee, Membership Committee, Obituary Committee,

Program Committee, Website Committee and Historian



Message from the LIBRARIAN – Sandra Turner

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.

Just a reminder, the safety of our volunteers dictates our availability during inclement weather. We look for guidance from the Mason City Community School system. If the schools are closed or have delayed openings, NCIGS volunteers are not expected to report for duty. If you decide to venture out, remember the MCPL closure decisions are not the same as the school system, so you may want to listen to the local TV or radio announcements to be sure the building is open.

Our volunteers are the life blood of our library. A special thank you to Marie Thompson, she has been indexing the Mason City Globe Gazette obituaries for us. We appreciate Marie's help in this effort and acknowledge Carol Tinkey's willingness to take over this task beginning in January 2013. This is an invaluable tool that is probably one of the most used and prized items in our collection.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to work in the library. If you are interested, please call Sandra Turner at 641-380-0339 to sign up. Volunteering is a wonderful way to become familiar with our collection, share your interest in genealogy with other people and learn new research possibilities.

The Library Committee met and agreed upon the 2012 items to be purchased from the Farrer Endowment Grant. 24 titles have been ordered, received, and are in the process of being cataloged. The cost for these items was \$754.62. A list of the titles will be included in the next issue of THE BUG! We will have to wait for Carol to "balance the books", but it appears with these expenditures the Farrer Endowment balance is now around \$1300.

Cataloging of the CD collection is now complete! The following new/old titles have been incorporated into the card catalog during the past three months:

- LAND RECORDS: AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI 1790 – 1907; contains land records which identify legal land descriptions and transfer of property ownership from the U.S. government to private land owners. The records reference approximately 1,645,000 individuals. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- WORLD FAMILY TREE – EUROPEAN ORIGINS; contains the names from family trees submitted to Family Archive by customers and other family history enthusiasts. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- WORLD FAMILY TREE (v. 1-22); index to every name appearing in a World Family Tree. Donated by Pat Smith and K. & B. Walsh.
- MILITARY RECORDS: CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS, 1861-1865; contains a register of Confederate soldiers, sailors, and citizens who died in federal prisons and military hospitals in the North 1861-1865. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- CANADIAN GENEALOGY INDEX 1600s – 1900s; contains over two million records referencing individuals from all regions of Canada as well as early Alaska. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION LISTS: BOSTON, 1821-1850; includes alphabetical listing of approximately 161,000 individuals who arrived at the Post of Boston. Generally includes age, sex, occupation and county of origin. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- MORTALITY INDEX: United States, 1850-1880; names of individuals who died in the twelve months preceding the regular census (1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880). Generally includes name, age at death, sex, color, marital status, place of birth, occupation, cause of death, etc. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- NATURALIZATION RECORDS: Philadelphia, 1789-1880. Lists more than 113,000 immigrants from nearly 100 countries who applied for citizenship through the Philadelphia courts system. Donated Janet Burnett.
- MARRIAGE INDEX: ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, IDAHO, NEVADA 1850-1951; ARKANSAS, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI & TEXAS 1766-1981; MARYLAND, NORTH CAROLNA AND VIRGINIA 1624-1915; Represents information contained in original courthouse marriage licenses in various counties. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- COUNTY AND FAMILY HISTORIES: PENNSYLVANIA 1740-1900; contains images of fourteen comprehensive books on Pennsylvania county and family histories. Includes about 275,000 Pennsylvania residents. Donated by Janet Barnett.
- HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND; includes lists of early soldiers, settlers, voters, and public officials as well as marriages, patents and surveys, churches and institutions. Purchased through the Farrer Endowment Grant.
- FAMILYFINDER INDEX (v.1-4); identifies more than 248 million individuals contained within the Family Archives. Sources include census, family pedigrees, family histories, marriage, military, church and cemetery records, social security death records, etc. Donated by Janet Barnett.
- PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION LISTS: NEW YORK 1820-1850; identifies more than 1.6 million individuals who arrived at the Port of New York. May include gender, birth place, age, occupation, country of origin, port of departure/arrival, date of arrival, destination and name of ship. Donated by Janet Burnett.
- MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND MARINES IN THE CIVIL WAR; contains images of 9 volumes published by The Adjutant General of Massachusetts. Encompasses approximately 140,000 individuals. Donated by Janet Barnett.



Mason City Public Library NCIGS Genealogy Library

RESOURCES ~ A – Section 1

Shelf # 3-6, GEN929.1 SCH – GEN 929.21BRA

Let's learn what books are here to help us!



- GEN 929.1SCH **The Center**, 1996 – Genealogical research in the National Capital Area
GEN 929.1SCH **The Hidden Half of the Family**-1999 – Source book for women's genealogy
GEN 929.1SCH **Civil War Genealogy**, 1984 – Backgrounds, Informational sources
GEN 929.1SCH **Revolutionary War Genealogy**, 1984 - Background & informational sources
GEN 929.1SOU **The Source**, 2006 – Guidebook of American Genealogy, Selection & Location and use of information
GEN 929.1SPE **Index to Genealogical Periodical Literature**, 1960-1979, 1979 – Comprehensive cumulative index to all American genealogical periodicals

GEN929.1STE **Clues to our Family Names**, 1986 – Lifetime of Historical sleuthing which our names derived from
GEN929.1STE **Cemetery Record Compendium**, 1979 – Early Cemetery records and where they may be located
GEN929.1STE **The Vital Record Compendium**, 1979 – Directory of Vital Records and where they may be located
GEN929.1STE **Genealogical Evidence**, 1979 – Guide to standard of Proof – Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship & family History

GEN929.1STE **Search & Research**, 1973 – Researchers handbook source index
GEN929.1STR **Understanding Colonial Handwriting**, 1986 – Illustrations and history of handwriting
GEN929.1THO **How to write the story of Your Life**, 1984 – Step by step guide
GEN929.1WEL **A Guide to Foreign Genealogical Research**, 1976 – Selected bibliography of printed material with addresses
GEN929.1WES **Finding Your Roots**, 1977 – How Every American can Trace His Ancestors at home and abroad
GEN929.1WIL **Know Your Ancestors**: 1976 – Guide to Genealogical Research
GEN929.1WOR **World Conference on Records**, 1980 – Preserving our Heritage-13 Vols, Biographical sketches of Speakers, Salt Lake City, UT

GEN929.1WRI **Building an American Pedigree**, 1974 – Practical book based on the training and experience of the author, Provides selected sources

GEN929.2AME box **American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**, 1983-1991 – 2 boxes of Clues Periodicals
GEN929.2AME box **American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**, 1989-2001 – 6 boxes of Journal Periodicals
GEN929.2BER **Our Quaker Ancestors**, 1987-- Acquaints researchers with types of records which are available
GEN929.2BRO **Americans of Royal Descent**, 1969- Book of genealogies of the most prominent of English Barons – 2 Vols
GEN929.2BUR **Burke's American Families with British Ancestry**, 1977- Lineages of 1600 Families of British Origin
GEN929.2GER box **Germans from Russia: Norka Newsletters**, 1998-2012
GEN929.2GIN **Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies**, 1986 - Extensive listing of Amish Families
GEN929.2LAR **Huguenot Pedigrees**, Fellow of the Huguenot Society of London, 2 volumes in one, 1924-1925- Revised 1973
GEN929.2REA **The Trail of the Huguenots**, 1986 - in Europe, United States, South Africa and Canada
GEN929.2REG **Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors**, 1995 - Of the National Huguenot Society – Fourth Edition
GEN929.2REG **Register of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors**, 1996, 1997, 1998 - Annual Updates
GEN929.21BAL **The Ballew Family Journal**, 1984-2001- Newsletters
GEN929.21BAL **The Baltess Family of the Rhineland in American & Germany**, 1996- Pedigrees
GEN929.21BAR **Me, Myself & I**, 2000- Farm boy's life on the world stage
GEN929.21BED **Bedwell Family**, 1982- Surname of English Origin
GEN929.21BIG **Ahnentafel Report for John Yarrow & Amlina** (Elmira Higgs), 2008
GEN929.21BLA **Blain Family**, 1967- Pedigees and stories
GEN929.21BOD **The John Bodensteiner**, 1979- Pedigrees
GEN929.21BOO **Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas & Rosamond Booth**, 1987- of Grant county, WI
GEN929.21BRA **Bradley of Essex County**, 1915- From 1643-1746- Early Records from New England States

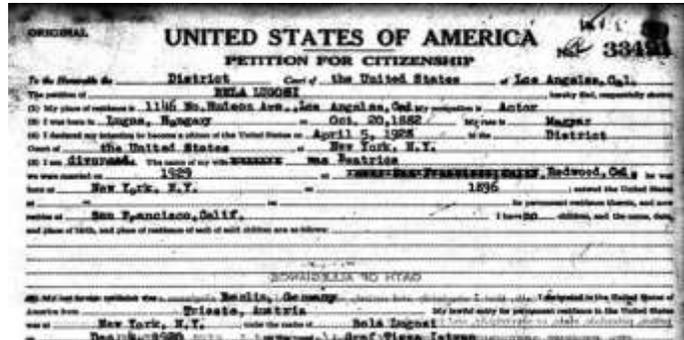
(To be continued in the next issue – Lea Norlinger)

Only “7” keys to Understanding Naturalization Records

Ancestry.com recently posted additional original U.S. naturalization records from the states of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington to its collection of [Selected U.S. Naturalization Records - Original Documents, 1790-1974](#). Because of the scattered nature of naturalization records, bringing so many of these records together online is a huge win for family historians. Here are seven keys to better understanding these records that will help you as you search for the naturalization records of your ancestors.

Prior to 1906, naturalizations could take place in any court of record. They can be found on a local, state, or federal level. You may even find them in criminal or marine courts. After 1906, while most naturalizations were processed in federal courts, some local courts continued well beyond that date.

Prior to 1906, a wide variety of forms were used in naturalizations, so you'll often find varying amounts of information from court to court, and from year to year. On 27 September 1906 the Basic Naturalization Act turned the naturalization process over to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, (now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services, or USCIS). From then on processes and forms were more uniform.



There were three steps to the naturalization process:

- 1. Declarations of Intention (or First Papers).** Normally the first papers were completed soon after arrival in the U.S., depending on the laws in effect at the time. Certain groups, such as women and children, were exempt in early years. After 1862, those who were honorably discharged from U.S. military service were excused from this first step.
- 2. Petition (Second or Final Papers).** Naturalization petitions were formal applications submitted to the court by individuals who had met the residency requirements and who had declared their intention to become citizens. (See a portion of Bela Lugosi's post-1906 petition for citizenship above.)
- 3. Certificates of Naturalization.** Most certificates of naturalization contain the name of the individual, the name of the court, and the date of issue.
- 4. The 1900-1930 U.S. federal censuses asked for the naturalization status of immigrants.** Additionally, the 1920 census also asked for the year of naturalization. The abbreviations you'll find include: **Na.** – naturalized, **Pa.** – first papers filed, **Al.** – alien The 1870 U.S. federal census had a column to be checked for "Male citizens of the U.S. aged 21 years and upwards." Non-native-born males who checked this column would have been naturalized prior to 1870.
- 5. Many times the immigrant may have filed in one court**, possibly near his port of entry, and completed the process in an entirely different location, so the declaration of intention may be in one place and the petition in another. Not all immigrants completed the process.
- 6. Many old naturalization records are not going to give us precise answers**, and if they do, the information may be less than reliable. Sometimes, incorrect answers were given quite innocently and only because the immigrant had honestly forgotten, particularly in later papers. Others may have provided the wrong dates of arrival in hopes that officials would not know the difference and that the wait to be eligible for naturalization would not be so long.
- 7. "Derivative" citizenship was granted to wives and minor children of naturalized men.** From 1790 to 1922, wives of naturalized men automatically became citizens. This also meant that an alien woman who married a U.S. citizen automatically became a citizen. (Conversely, an American woman who married an alien lost her U.S. citizenship, even if she never left the United States.) From 1790 to 1940, children under the age of twenty-one automatically became naturalized citizens upon the naturalization of their father. Unfortunately, however, names and biographical information about wives and children are rarely included in declarations or petitions filed before September 1906.

Locating Passenger Arrival Records

1. Estimate the Arrival Date

The date of immigration can be found in a number of records including some census records (the U.S. Federal Censuses for 1900-1930 all ask for year of immigration), death records (often recorded "How long in the U.S.?" on death certificates), obituaries, and many other records and home sources. Often a combination of resources can help pin down the elusive dates. Using a combination of birth dates and birth locations, particularly among siblings in the family that immigrated, it is often possible to narrow the arrival date to within a few years. Include your estimated immigration date in your search on Ancestry.com to narrow your results to those that would apply. You can add +/- 1, 2, 5, or 10 years to give yourself a little wiggle room for rough estimates.

2. Gather Identifiers

Sometimes the challenge isn't so much finding your ancestor's name in the records, as determining if it really is your ancestor. It's helpful to compile a mini-profile of your ancestor based on the information you may find in the record. How old was your ancestor? Census records are also a good source for estimating age at the time of immigration, as well as information from death records, tombstones, correspondence, marriage records, etc.

What did he or she do? Some passenger lists will list occupations. While this information typically isn't indexed in passenger arrival records, in some cases it can be helpful in "thinning the herd" to focus on the most promising individual(s).

Who might they have traveled with? Family structure can be helpful in locating families who traveled together, although it bears mentioning that it wasn't unusual for the head of the family or some family member to come over first and then send for the family later, once employment and a living space had been secured. It can also be handy to have a list of other surnames that have appeared with your ancestor. Witnesses and sponsors, neighbors, collateral relatives, and anyone whose name keeps popping up in conjunction with your ancestor, could turn up as travel companions who arrived with your ancestors.

3. Learn Ethnic Names

Our ancestor's may not have traveled with the Americanized version of their name that we're familiar with. Look for your ancestor's given name in his native language. BehindtheName.com is helpful in finding some variants. For surnames, look for information online and in print publications that can teach you the ins and outs of surnames in the land of your ancestors. For example, the website PolishRoots.org has several articles and helpful resources on Polish surnames. Search the Internet for other similar sites for your ancestor's background (e.g., German given names, Hungarian surnames, etc.)

4. Check Multiple Ports

The story of ancestors arriving through Ellis Island is a popular one and although New York was the port of choice for millions of immigrants, many traveled through Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and other U.S. ports (all of which can be searched [here](#)). In addition, for many years travel to Canada from Europe was cheaper and you may find that your ancestor took that route to the United States. [Border Crossing records](#) from Canada to the U.S. are available for the years 1895-1956, and [Canadian Passenger Lists](#) are available for 1865-1935.

5. Don't Stop Looking

Don't overlook the possibility that your ancestor may have made more than one trip. Sometimes—particularly in later years when steamships made the trip easier and faster—immigrants made several trips before finally settling in.

[Search Passenger Lists on Ancestry.com](#)

Title	Collection	Records	Activity
Public Member Trees	Family Trees	2,147,483,647	
1940 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	134,473,509	Updated
1930 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	124,962,440	
1900 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	77,277,539	Updated
1920 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	107,634,003	
1910 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	93,627,808	Updated
1880 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	50,480,997	
U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989 (Beta)	Schools, Directories & Church Histories	1,051,103,051	
1911 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	33,847,691	
1870 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	40,405,477	
Social Security Death Index	Birth, Marriage & Death	92,418,992	
England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915	Birth, Marriage & Death	32,698,349	
1860 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	27,483,658	
1850 United States Federal Census	Census & Voter Lists	20,053,649	
England & Wales, Marriage Index, 1916-2005	Birth, Marriage & Death	63,961,218	
England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915	Birth, Marriage & Death	62,793,107	
Sweden, Church Records, 1500-1941 (in Swedish)	Birth, Marriage & Death	20,037,185	
England & Wales, Birth Index, 1916-2005	Birth, Marriage & Death	71,312,033	
1901 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	30,580,800	
British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920	Military	1,907,094	
1891 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	27,126,989	
1841 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	14,772,291	
1881 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	24,766,872	
1851 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	16,625,538	
1861 England Census	Census & Voter Lists	18,450,707	

Filter Titles

Filter by Dates

Filter By Collection

[Census & Voter Lists](#)547
[Birth, Marriage & Death](#)1000+
[Military](#)1000+
[Immigration & Travel](#)393
[Newspapers & Publications](#)1000+
[Pictures](#)35
[Stories, Memories & Histories](#)1000+
[Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers](#)183
[Schools, Directories & Church Histories](#)1000+
[Tax, Criminal, Land & Wills](#)1000+
[Reference, Dictionaries & Almanacs](#)1000+
[Family Trees](#)11

FILTER BY LOCATION

Australia125 Canada1000+ Europe1000+
 Mexico19 USA1000+ Africa13 Asia52
 North America 1000+

1600s	1700s	1800s	1900s
1600s	1700s	1800s	1900s
1610s	1710s	1810s	1910s
1620s	1720s	1820s	1920s
1630s	1730s	1830s	1930s
1640s	1740s	1840s	1940s
1650s	1750s	1850s	1950s
1660s	1760s	1860s	1960s
1670s	1770s	1870s	1970s
1680s	1780s	1880s	1980s
1690s	1790s	1890s	1990s

A Scanning Sense Question: ? Is it OK to scan photos onto your computer for storage and reprinting?

The short answer is yes. Scanning is misunderstood. There is a common belief that scanning will destroy pictures. Sure scanning exposes images to heat and light, but a single pass of the scanner won't cause permanent damage. Plus, it's important to remember that by scanning your images you're creating a digital copy in case something happens to the original. While it's not recommended to scan the same image again and again, it's okay to scan it once. Photocopying is more hazardous to your images than scanning. Copiers are a toxic combination of heat, light and chemicals. Scanning is a quick pass of light. The key to saving your photos in a digital format is to know the facts.

Resolution

It's important to scan at a high resolution. You can always make a digital file smaller, but you can't increase the resolution. It's advisable to scan at the highest possible resolution (at least 600 dpi) at 100% scale, in color (even if they are black and white) and save them as Tiff files. Scanning photos at 100% scale is often all you need, but if the original is small then increase the percentage. That gives you the flexibility to enlarge the photo if you decide to publish the image in a family history book. Don't forget to scan the back too. There might be information that you'll need later on. Don't rely on being able to find the original again. You probably know at least one genealogist that has "lost" a family photo. It's a scary situation. You'll be glad you scanned the images as a back-up. Each digitized picture will be multiple megabytes. These big files take up a lot of room on your hard drive. If you have a lot of photographs, you may need an external hard drive for storage. By scanning them at these specifications you'll be able to later reduce their size for sharing, projection or uploading. Consider these high resolution files your "archival" copies. When scanning, turn off the auto-correct feature that automatically corrects flaws in an image. Save your photos in their original condition, then make copies and use photo editing software to "fix" problems. Always save those edited images as a separate file and keep the original scan.

Slides and Negatives

Not all scanners have the capability to scan slides and negatives. When purchasing a scanner specifically ask if a particular model can accommodate these types of images, and then do your research. You can find specifications on the manufacturer's website. Once you've purchased a machine, read the manual and follow their directions. If that doesn't work, do an Internet search for your scanner model followed by "scanning slides" or "scanning negatives." There are dedicated slide scanners, but they are expensive.

Cased Images: Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes

It is possible to scan these cased images, but not all scanners can manage it. Sometimes the scanner reads the glass rather than the image causing a fuzzy scan. Try scanning one on your scanner to see what happens. If you have a dedicated photo scanner rather than a combination machine it should work. If it doesn't work, don't take the images out of the cases. You could inadvertently cause damage to the image. Daguerreotypes have chemical salts on the surface of a silver plate and are very fragile. Ambrotypes are on glass, but the photographic emulsion (the picture) can flake off. If you have a collection of these cased images, you'll have better luck with a dedicated photo scanner. An alternative can use a camera to photograph these cased images, but the reflective mirror-like surface of a daguerreotype is a problem. You often end up photographing yourself in the image. Once you've scanned your pictures store the originals in acid- and lignin-free boxes. Find an organizational system that works for you. In general, keep it simple such as filing images in surname order. Use a photo organizing program to keyword your digital pictures so you'll be able to see all the digital files of "Aunt Sue" with a single click. Once you have these digital files take time to share the images and the stories with family. They'll appreciate it and you'll be saving your family history.

Family History Tip: Clipping Tip

When you clip an obituary to share or to save for yourself, be sure to include the banner at the top of the page so that you will have the name of the newspaper, magazine, journal, history book (in case you make a copy), so that you will have the "where" and "when" the obituary appeared. This will help to pinpoint a date of death, in case none is given, and also contributes to proof. Most local genealogy groups won't publish your information on their websites without those banners plus permission from the newspaper that printed the notice.

(Thank you Ancestry.com for all this shared information on above four pages)

January 2013

FamilySearch Introduces Two New Search Features By Robert Kehrer

FamilySearch.org has updated its search system with two new features that will allow users to focus their searches in a dramatic way. These two new features are:

Restrict Results by Record Location & Type

Search the FamilySearch Catalog with Multiple Search Parameters

Restricting Results by Record Location & Type

Among the many different search tasks users can do using FamilySearch, the most common include searching for every piece of information they can find about an ancestor, and then searching for a specific record within those search results, such as a birth certificate or a marriage event record.

Someone who is looking for every piece of information about a grandfather who was born in England will probably be happy to find him and his family in some unexpected record like the 1920 U.S. Census record for Wisconsin. Those who are looking specifically for the marriage record of their grandfather in London, England may not be so happy about having to sift through hundreds of other records that they don't view as relevant to the search.

In FamilySearch's new main-page search form, users can focus their search by indicating that they want to see records only from England. They can narrow their search even more by indicating they want to view only marriage records for England.

There are some collections, like the World Miscellaneous collection, where identifying information is not known for those records and they will not appear in a location and record type search. Therefore, you may want to search these collections separately.

This ability to focus in on specific location and record types will be very helpful to researchers who are seeking to know if FamilySearch has the records they are looking for.

Searching the FamilySearch Catalog Using Multiple Search Terms

Those who use the FamilySearch Catalog commonly have to look for all the records from a specific location first and then sort through hundreds, perhaps even thousands of possible hits to find the specific items they want. This is often time consuming and very frustrating.

The new catalog search form allows users to enter multiple search terms by clicking the terms they want to search on. This ability to enter both a place and keyword will greatly increase a users' ability to focus their search for a specific resource.

While the new catalog contains the same data as the old catalog did, it is continuing to change and improve usability. There are still a few features that are being developed that will make the catalog even better. Until these are features are finished, both the new version and the old version will be available for the public to use.

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

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“Gravestone Preservation and Cemetery History” presented by Manager, Randy Opheim on **April 13, 2013, at 1:30 pm** will be held on site at the Elmwood-St Joseph Cemetery, entrance at 1400 South Federal Ave, Mason City, IA. This cemetery was established in 1867 and has many of the city founders buried here. A number of monuments and markers for these early settlers are broken, leaning and/or unreadable. The Gravestone



Before

Preservation efforts were begun to address this situation. Randy will be sharing the process the cemetery is using to restore older gravestones that he and volunteer Jo Beck learned from a workshop conducted by a respected expert in the field. History Facts will also be shared and a new map highlighting the gravestones of some of the city founders plus other interesting features of the cemetery. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this on site presentation on 13th April, 2013.



After

Call to confirm details at 641-494-7614. ~ Sponsored by North Central Iowa Genealogical Society.