



THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 237
Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237

Volume 37

August 2011

Number 3

Officers & Committees

Note: The eight elected offices are underscored.

<u>President</u>	Jay Lehmann	
<u>Vice President</u>		
Program Com:	Dorothy Paul	
<u>Correspond Sec'y</u>	Jeanette Anderson	
<u>Recording Sec'y</u>	Christine Kingston	
<u>Research Sec'y</u>	Gwen Miller	
Researchers:	Audrey Huff	Cerro Gordo
	Janice Sowers	Cresco area
	Jim Rogers	Hancock Co.
	Marilyn O'Connor	Mitchell Co.
	Ruth Liebrand	Winnebago Co.
<u>Publicity Sec'y</u>	Sharlene Stoddard	
<u>Treasurer</u>	Ray Wenrich	
Historian	Gayle Snow	
<u>Librarian</u>	Sandra Turner	
Library Com:	Jeanette Anderson	
	Merikay Mestad	
	Ruth Umbarger	
	Dorothy Paul	
	Joan Bartel	
	Linda Faridi	
Internet & Obituaries		
Chair:	Marie Thompson	
Consultant:	Jay Lehmann	
Committee:	Jim Rogers	
	Gayle Snow	
Newsletter Editor	Lea Norlinger	
Assistant:	Sandra Turner	
Assistant:	Ruth Umbarger	

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Calendar of Events

Monthly Meetings of NCIGS, 2nd

Saturday at 1:30 pm . Mason City Board Room, Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd St. SE, Mason City, Iowa. Refreshments may be purchased in the Commons area of the library

Aug 13 - Irish Heritage by Mr. Aiden Kelly from Forest City IA. Mr. Kelly was originally from Wexford - southeast part of Ireland.
Business Meeting after the presentation.

Sep 10 - When Women First Came to Des Moines by Barbara Walters from Clear Lake IA. Ms. Walters sharing the history of why and when.
Business Meeting after the presentation.

Sept 7-10 - 2011 FGS Family History Conference will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, IL. Register at www.fgs.org or by mail at FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference, PO Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940, phone 1-888-FGS-1500; fax 1-866-FGS-1350. Full cost \$235 or single day \$99.

Oct 8 - 'A Century of Caring'- over 100 years of
Film shared by Deb Haugen and Joel Rasmussen from the IOOF Home.
Business Meeting after the presentation.

Oct 14-15– IGS 2011 Fall Conference will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 10395 University Ave, Clive IA. Speaker Billie Stone Fogarty is author of *Guidebook to Researching My Family Tree*.

Oct 22 - **Digging Up Our Past**, Family History Center 4300 Trailridge Rd SE, Cedar Rapids IA. For more details, contact Kacy Novak at 319-363-7178.

Nov 12 - 'Iowans in the Civil War' battles, by Mr. David Grill from Clear Lake.
Business Meeting after the presentation.

Message from President Jay

Well, we're in the midst of another summer in Iowa. The year is half over and where has summer gone? It is time to now begin thinking about fall and election of officers for next year.

We are making excellent progress on the revision of the By-laws. At the July meeting the proposed changes were detailed. It is hoped we will review, make any changes and vote on approval on the By-laws at the August 13 meeting, so if possible, please attend. Copies of the revisions are available in the library and on our website.

We have decided to explore sending **THE GENIE BUG** to members electronically. Many societies are making this transition, due to increased costs of paper, printing and postage. With this issue, those of you who provided us with an email address will be receiving a copy of the BUG through the postal service as well as electronically. This is approximately two-thirds of our members. We are asking these members to decide if they want to **1) only get an electronic copy** of the BUG, **2) receive both** an electronic copy and hardcopy (paper) or **3) receive only a hardcopy**. We look forward to your response. If for some reason you do not receive it, we will have an Email address specifically for **THE GENIE BUG** on the website <http://ncigs.org> or in the library.

We have had a change on the board; Christine Kingston has stepped down as Vice President. She felt it was time for a change and has accepted the position of Recording Secretary for the balance of 2011. Marie Thompson was only filling in and was ready for the switch. Dorothy Paul, our past President, agreed to serve as Program chair for 2011 and already got some great programs lined up for the next few months. Sandra Turner has resigned as Editor of **THE GENIE BUG**, being replaced by Lea Norlinger. Check it out at <http://ncigs.org>.

We will probably not have a Vice President until the next election, but, if any of you has the urge or creative need, contact the board at one of the next meetings or @ exec_committee@ncigs.org.

Jay Lehmann
2011 NCIGS President
jay@ncigs.org .

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P. O. Box 237
Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237
c. NCIGS, 2011

A Message from the Librarian

Library Hours

The Mason City Public Library is 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 the library is staffed M/W/F 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1-4 p.m.

Library Location

Mason City Public Library, 1st floor
225 2nd St. SE, Mason City Iowa

We continue library training for volunteers and interested genealogists. We will complete the Library Contents training in August with a total of 30 people attending. After that we will offer one workshop on Research Strategies. If learning more about the library and its tools is of interest to you, please contact me immediately, as we will not be offering these workshops again for some time.

In May and June we had a total of 245 researchers sign our Visitor Register. We also hosted a library open house as part of the June meeting. By featuring some of our holdings, members had an opportunity to interact with each other and share research possibilities.

The Library Committee will begin meeting in July. We have a variety of needs and issues that require attention, especially selecting the collection materials to be purchased with funds from the Farrer Endowment grant. Thanks to many of you, our file of possible purchases is FULL. However, if you've run across additional items, please let me know.

We now have a member who has committed to volunteering in the library a couple of Saturday mornings a month. It would be nice to fill in the remaining Saturdays, so if you are interested, let me know.

We have completed updating our BUG Exchange list. We have 28 societies who exchange newsletters with us, most from Iowa but a few from other mid-western states.

A huge thank you to all our library volunteers. Where would we be without them? See you at the library!
Sandra Turner
Librarian

Lost in Blizzard near site of what is now Mason City

Janette Anderson provided copy from the Mason City Globe Gazette, 28 Feb 1921

There are many thrilling tales that might be related of experiences with blizzards on the Iowa prairies. One of these is dramatically told in the January "Palimpsest" published by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Mr. Ira A. Williams relates the story in the words of his father, who as a boy of 13 spent a night in a raging storm, together with an older brother of 18.

The blizzard occurred near Masonic Grove, now Mason City in December 1856. The two boys had taken some stock over to a neighboring creek for water one fine wintery morning and the storm struck them unexpectedly. Precious time was used in a fruitless attempt to drive the stock toward home in the teeth of the gale. Finally the boys took temporary shelter in a crab apple grove that was somewhat protected from the wind.

Unwisely, however, they left their shelter in an endeavor to reach home, soon they were lost and the night was spent in the bitter storm fighting the overpowering desire to drop off into the fatal numbing sleep. Morning found them on the outskirts of Masonic Grove, four miles from where they started.

Do You Need a Researcher?

Address your request to the committee at **North Central Iowa Genealogical Society**, PO Box 237, Mason City, IA 50401-0237 or go into our website www.ncigs.org and click on Research Request. Be specific about the background you have and the information you are seeking. Indicate the sources you have already searched so we don't duplicate your work.

Members of NCIGS are welcome to send in queries for publication in THE GENIE BUG. Be specific about the background facts you have and the information you want.

Our current charge is \$10.00 per hour research and report time, plus copy charges and postage. We require \$10.00 in advance; then we will proceed. Please check our website for more information.

~Nothing ever becomes real until it is experienced. Even a proverb is no proverb until your life has illustrated it. ~John Keats

Remember ? Old Memories

by Becky Christenson Evans

LeNore Nelson Forbes suggested articles appearing in the centennial publication Crystal Lake, Iowa 1898-1998. Our thanks to Marlene Bushman, Crystal Lake History Book Committee, for granting reprint permission.

** My dad, Loyd telling how he helped 'build' the road a mile south of us. East-West road, that went from Crystal Lake to Woden. He said the road gang rented the 1st team of horses he owned. We were impressed.*

** The 'Run' we used to have as kids on our 'Mile' Christensen - Siekmeier - Schauf neighbors. Working together, playing together and sometimes watching out and taking care of each other built bonds that last.*

** Big snow storm when Siekmeier's took their sleigh and as they left our driveway, drove over the top of snow banks on the way to town to collect necessary things and probably deliver cream to the creamery.*

** Walking up to the main, east-west road to catch the school bus during gas rationing and in the spring months.*

** Walking the streets on Saturday night, Free outdoor movies, then sitting there waiting for mosquitoes to bite while we ate popcorn!!*

** My Aunt Lillie Christenson telling me she worked at the Crystal Lake Hotel before she was married.*

** 'Melley' Scanlon's filling Station on the corner, later years the only one in town.*

** Albert Sonerholm's station (where the Lutheran church now sits) as kids we'd always stop by for a 'chat'.*

** When I sat in study hall one day and counted every house & its people living inside and added up to 301 residents. Could we do that today?*

** My dad Loyd, and Aunt Lillie telling their school was west of the barn on the A.O. Farm.*

** My father, Loyd saying he only went to 6th grade because he was needed to work on the farm.*

** My Mother, Ruby finishing 8th grade and taking a nanny job for a family until she married.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



**Resources
in the
NCIGS Area**

**Franklin
County**

*Continued from May 2011 issue of **THE GENIE BUG**.
Information provided by Marian Sanders Smith, the late
Burnie Greimann, Connie Meyer and Dolores Bennington
with a lot of additional help from a variety of individuals
and organizations.*

*We continue the series of articles featuring selected
resources from each of the nine counties which make up
our area of responsibility. Additions, suggestions and
corrections are encouraged and welcomed.*

Churches of Franklin County (con't)

New Beginnings – Hampton
Our Savior's Lutheran – Ackley
Saint John Lutheran Church (Danish) – rural
Coulter
Saint John's Lutheran – Hampton
Saint Mary's Catholic – Ackley
Saint Patrick's Catholic Church – Hampton
Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church –
Hampton
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (includes church
school K-8th) – Latimer
Saint Paul's Catholic Church – Geneva –
CLOSED
Saint Paul's Church (Lutheran) – Thornton
Saint Peter's United Church of Christ – Geneva
Seventh Day Adventist – Hampton
Sixth Street Church of Christ-(Acapella)
Hampton
Sovereign Grace Church – Dows
Temple Apostolic – Hampton
Trinity Lutheran Church – Hampton
United Methodist & Presbyterian – Dows
United Methodist Church of Bradford
West Fork Church (Methodist) – West Fork Twp
Zion Reformed – rural Sheffield
Zion Saint John's Church (Lutheran) – Sheffield
Zion United Methodist Church

LDS Family History Center Update

-By Mike Gibson, Director

First, I apologize to all for missing an issue. Things got kind of hectic there for a while and it seemed everything got dumped on me at once. I think this sort of thing happens once in a while.

One of my purposes for this column is to keep you up-to-date with how the LDS Church, through the Family Search website and our Family History Center, can help you with your genealogy. You may remember that we used to have access to ancestry.com but then we got kicked off. Well, ANCESTRY.COM IS BACK.

Through the computers in our center, we now have access to the library edition of ancestry. This appears to me to be the same edition public libraries pay for and make available. I believe that you can access most if not all their databases. What you cannot do are the more personal services such as storing or sharing your family tree.

Other subscription sites that are available through the Center's computers include:

19th Century British Library Newspaper
Digital Archive
Access Newspaper Archive
Alexander Street Press – The American Civil
War
Find My Past (UK info)
Footnote.com
The Genealogist (UK info)
Genline Family Finder (Swedish info)
Godfrey Memorial Library
Heritage Quest Online
Historic Map Works Library Edition
Paper Trail
World Vital Records

These are all free to patrons to use but you must use a center computer.

I am at the Center 11-4 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call in advance at 423-8255, especially if you think you will need some help from me. I have been helping some people pretty steadily, which ties me up; and it might be better to make an appointment at another time.

May you find that the hearts of your fathers are turned to you as you turn your hearts to your fathers!

Did You Really Start with Yourself?

-William Dollarhide - *Genealogy Pointers*.
May 10, 2011; www.genealogical.com – part one

When asked the question, "How do you start doing genealogy?" most genealogists will respond, "Start with yourself."

Most genealogists respond that way, but I'm not so sure that's what they actually do. The fact is we are more inclined to start with our parents and immediate family members. What we write down about ourselves is usually our name and vitals on a pedigree chart and family group sheet. The information comes from our heads. After all, we know our place of birth, marriage, and all the dates.

The unfortunate fact is we may not give as much attention to collecting written documents concerning ourselves as for our ancestors. We work from the known to the unknown. Things that are known and established don't get our attention because we would rather work on the unknowns.

For example, do you have a copy of your own birth certificate? How about a copy of your marriage license? Or perhaps you have a copy of your confirmation record from church? How about a newspaper clipping that mentions your name on the high school honor roll? Where is that old high school annual, the one with that wonderful retouched photograph of you at age 17? Do you still have your college diploma? How about the newspaper article in which you were mentioned--the one about your team winning the championship? Where is that photo of the first car you ever owned?

And then there are your memories. All the basic vital statistics have been written down, and the family group sheets and pedigree charts have all the details. But what about the history of you?

You can write quite a nice biography of your great-grandfather. You have that county history in which he was prominently mentioned, giving some details about his life. You have his death record from a county courthouse, a copy of his marriage license, and several other documents. You can prove what you say about him because you have the written documents. Can you do the same thing for yourself?

Will your descendants get anything more than your vital statistics on a pedigree chart, or is there something else you can leave them?

A Change in Leadership

Since Ruth Umbarger's retirement as Librarian of the Society back in December, I have worn two hats – that of Librarian as well as Editor of THE GENIE BUG. Much as I have enjoyed my years as Editor (2006-2011), it is time to pass this opportunity on to someone else.

It is now official! Lea Norlinger has agreed to become our new Editor. This is her first issue, so please welcome her efforts and wish her well.

Her husband, Ron was born and raised in central Minnesota. He retired from Law Enforcement in Long Prairie, Minnesota. Lea is a native Iowan, born in Mitchell County...just a few years ago. After Ron's retirement, he and Lea moved to Osage to assist Lea's aging parents and now reside at the new Village Cooperative here in Mason City.

Lea's interest in genealogy continues a family tradition, established by her grandmother and mother. Their combined research resulted in German family tree details dating back to the 1700s.

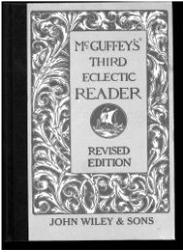
Lea states, "The position of Editor of THE GENIE BUG will enable me to communicate with you. You may suggest ideas or information for future issues. I welcome the opportunity to assist NCIGS and look forward to meeting you."

The BUG is only possible because of the many people who provide information, who write columns, who see it gets printed and mailed, who type, copy and proof, and, of course, all of you who read the end product. A great big **THANKS** to all of you for the wonderful support and assistance you gave during my 5+ years as Editor.

Sandra Turner
Former Editor

~~~~~  
***Find someone in your life who demonstrates passion in their field of endeavor. Interview them; learn from them; find out why they are so excited about what they are doing.***

***Studying the passion in others will likely spark more passion in YOU! ~Scott V. Black***



## McGuffey's Glimpse !

Welcome to the schoolroom of 1900, this month's item is a story from *McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader*. Many of you recall this was used in one room country schools in the US.

### *LESSON LXVI - The Little Loaf.*

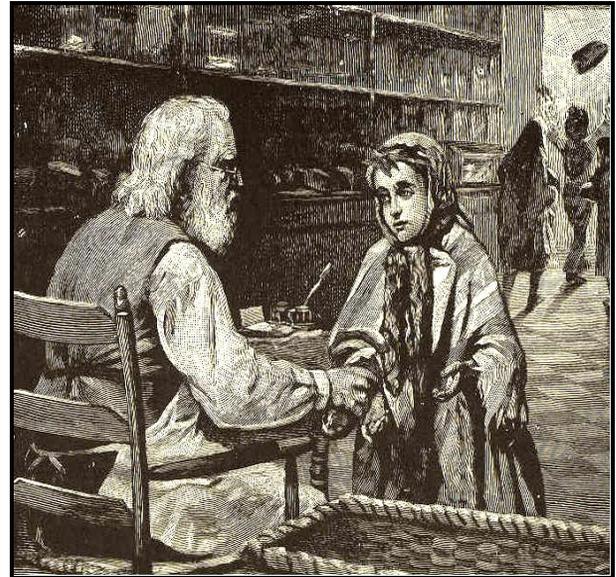
Once when there was a famine, a rich baker sent for twenty of the poorest children in the town, and said to them "In this basket there is a loaf for each of you. Take it, and come back to me every day at this hour till God sends us better times"

The hungry children gathered eagerly about the basket, and quarreled for the bread, because each wished to have the largest loaf. At last they went without even thanking the good gentlemen.

But Gretchen, a poorly-dressed little girl, did not quarrel or struggle with the rest, but remained standing modestly in the distance. When the ill-behaved girls had left, she took the smallest loaf, which was alone in the basket, kissed the gentleman's hand, and went home.

The next day the children were as ill-behaved as before, and poor, timid

Gretchen received a loaf scarcely half the size of the one she got the first day. When she came home, and her mother cut the loaf open, many new, shining pieces of silver fell out of it.



Her mother was very much alarmed, and said, "Take the money back to the good gentleman at once, for it must have got into the dough by accident. Be quick, Gretchen! Be quick!"

But when the little girl gave the rich man her mother's message, he said, "No, no, my child, it was no mistake. I had the silver pieces put into the smallest loaf to reward you. Always be as contented, peaceable, and grateful as you now are. Go home now, and tell your mother that the money is your own."

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## Membership Application

Membership includes: monthly programs, quarterly newsletter, and free query.  
 Membership dues are **\$10.00** for a calendar year (January through December).

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Box** \_\_\_\_\_ **County** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_  Receive Newsletter Electronically or  Receive a PAPER copy

**Amount enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check** \_\_\_\_\_ **Today's date** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: To receive your membership card in the mail, you must furnish a stamped, self-addressed Envelope or include postage. Give to attendant or mail to:  
**North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402-0237**



**THE GENIE BUG Newsletter** – delivered electronically with the August 2011 issue... to your email address in the first week of Feb, May, Aug, and Nov. The newsletter will also be available on our NCIGS website - [www.ncigs.org](http://www.ncigs.org). This will provide much quicker delivery and lower the rising cost of postage rates. These issues will continue to be mailed to members who prefer to a hard copy via the Post Office.

### # 1 ... Welcomes new members... up to 9 July 2011

|                    |                                    |                           |              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Barker, Geri       | 1009 Park Lane                     | Mason City, IA 50401      | 641-423-5525 |
| Braun, Teresa      | 405 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, PO Box 272 | Grafton, IA 50440         | 641-590-4393 |
| Brinkman, Maxine F | 7 Woodbine Rd                      | Mason City, IA 50401-2568 | 641-423-4877 |
| Dusheck, Blake     | 835 9 <sup>th</sup> St NE          | Mason City, IA 50401      | 641-512-1916 |
| Fleming, Sharon    | 2322 S Adams                       | Mason City, IA 50401      | 641-423-3073 |
| Kimball, Jack      | 303 Woodlane Dr                    | Clear Lake, IA 50428      | 641-357-6223 |
| Sawyer, Martie     | PO Box 245                         | Mason City, IA 50401      | 641-423-7764 |
| Schloe, James L    | PO Box 404                         | Forest City, IA 50436     | 641-585-1234 |

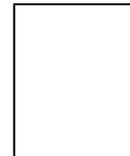
### # 2 ... Updated Email Addresses

|                    |                                                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barker, Geri       | <a href="mailto:barker@jumpgate.net">barker@jumpgate.net</a>       |
| Braun, Teresa      | <a href="mailto:braunct@hotmail.com">braunct@hotmail.com</a>       |
| Brinkman, Maxine F | <a href="mailto:brinkman6@mchsi.com">brinkman6@mchsi.com</a>       |
| Dusheck, Blake     | <a href="mailto:brdusheck@gmail.com">brdusheck@gmail.com</a>       |
| Grady, Mary E      | <a href="mailto:getmegpdq@frontier.com">getmegpdq@frontier.com</a> |
| Kimball, Jack      | <a href="mailto:Jack_K26@yahoo.com">Jack_K26@yahoo.com</a>         |
| Radke, Carmen      | <a href="mailto:cvsradke@smig.net">cvsradke@smig.net</a>           |
| Sawyer, Martie     | <a href="mailto:smsawyer@gmail.com">smsawyer@gmail.com</a>         |

### # 3 ... Address changes

|                       |                              |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Grady, Mary Elizabeth | 18420 36 <sup>th</sup> Ave W | Lynwood, WA 98037      |
| Eliason, Celene       | PO Box 428                   | Nora Springs, IA 50459 |
| Neverman, LeAllen     | 4 Third St NW, Apt 850       | Mason City, IA 50401   |
| Gallooly, Judy        | 211 Oak Hill Dr, Box 324     | Hampton, IA 50411      |

**NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 237  
MASON CITY, IOWA 50402-0237**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### ***Irish Heritage*** by Mr. Aiden Kelly

*Our presentation meeting for the 13 August 2011 will be Aiden Kelly. Aiden, transplanted Irishman, now resides in Forest City, having arrived in the United States in March of 1968. Aiden was fortunate to have an uncle in St Paul, MN, with whom he stayed until he was established. He found work at the 3M Company in St Paul, working there for 13 years. In April 1981 Aiden moved to Forest City and helped establish a Distribution Center there.*

*Aiden grew up on a farm in County Wexford, living there from the 1940s until his arrival in St Paul. The economy in County Wexford is chiefly agricultural. Cattle, sheep, pigs and some horse breeding are the dominate livestock. Crops include wheat, barley, rapeseed, oats and some potatoes. County Wexford makes up the southeast corner of the Republic of Ireland. For centuries this area served as the country's gateway to Europe.*

*It is here that the Normans, Danes, Vikings and Celts landed at one time or another so that traces of many different civilizations can be found scattered over the county. This area boasts some of the country's most fantastic scenery with the Blacklion and Wicklow Mountains on its borders, miles of golden beaches on its eastern shore and its Atlantic wracked southern shore.*

*During his talk, Aiden plans to share with us what it was like to grow up on a farm in County Wexford. He'll discuss Ireland's historical background, its pastimes and other aspects of Irish living. After his 30 minute talk, he will welcome questions.*

*Since many of us share "a bit of Irish", we hope you will come and welcome our guest at the August 13 meeting...even non-Irish are welcome. See you then!*