

THE GENIE BUG

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Volume 38 November 2012 Number 4



"A Prehistoric Journey in Stone" on November 10, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.,

by Dean Steffen, Osage, IA in the Mason City Room located in the Mason City Library. In 1970's Dean Steffen discovered his first stone point in Mitchell County; his collection to Native American Culture has become a sizable collection since. His knowledge in stone artifacts grew with each personal find. A partial collection of his 800 stone implements will be on display. Everyone is welcome! Call 641.494.7614.



"A Fifer in the Iowa 32nd Infantry Company B, Cerro Gordo County, IA" will be presented by

Cary Maassen of Mason City, at **1:30 p.m. on December 8, 2012** in the Mason City Room of the Mason City Library. Promising letters to his mother, Frank heads off to the Civil War. His travels down the states and records details of their journey. His knowledge and talents as a Fifer found favor with his troops. Follow the steps of Frank M Rogers as he accounts each detail. Cary Maassen will fill us in on the interesting life of Francis M Rogers.



"US Military Cemeteries Around the World" shared by Nancy Marsh, Mason City on Jan 12, 2013 at

1:30 pm in the Mason City Room of the Mason City Library. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) was established by Congress in 1923 to commemorate the service, achievements and sacrifice of our U.S. armed forces. ABMC manages 24 overseas military cemeteries, and 25 memorials, monuments, and markers. Nearly all the cemeteries and memorials specifically honor those who served in World War I or World War II. Almost 125,000 American war dead are buried at these cemeteries and an additional 94,000 individuals are remembered on the walls and tablets of the missing. Join us to be part of this interesting presentation by calling 641.494.7614 for your reservations.



"Searching our CD-ROM Data Bases" taught by Merikay Mestad, Garner on **February 9, 2013** at 1:30 pm in the Mason City Room at the Mason City Library. 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!**

+++++

In this November Issue:

President's Letter & LDS Update	2	Librarian's Message	3
Library RESOURCES - bookshelf	4	50 PLUS Brick walls-Part 2	5
50 PLUS Brick walls-Part 2	6	50 PLUS Brick walls-Part 2	7
50 PLUS Brick walls-Part 2	8	50 Plus & Ellis Immigrations	9
World War I Draft	10	Membership	11
Frank M Roger's Civil War Letters	12	TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS	



Presidents letter to NCIGS Members

As I am writing this, we are once again nearing the end of another great year. It is a poignant time for me, as I have decided not to run for president of the society for a fifth term. It has been a great four years for me, but it is now time for me to move on to other challenges and someone else to have the privilege of serving as the society's leader. Please accept my thanks for all the support I received from the board, the various committee members, and the library volunteers as well as the membership at-large. Together I think we have accomplished a great many positive things for the society during my time as president. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve.

The nominating committee (Sandra Turner, Lea Norlinger and Linda Faridi) is hard at work developing a slate of candidates for 2013. Please contact Lea (641-494-7614) or Sandra (641-380-0339) if you wish your name on the ballot. They are specifically searching for a Vice-President and two or three people to serve on the Programming Committee, but if you wish to run for one of the other offices, just let them know so your name may be included on the ballot. As you may recall, the slate of candidates is presented and voted on at the November meeting, with installation of the officers at the December meeting.

Don't forget it's time to renew your membership in NCIGS! Your membership and support are essential to make 2013 another successful year.

Jay

Jay Lehmann, President/Webmaster

<http://www.ncigs.org>

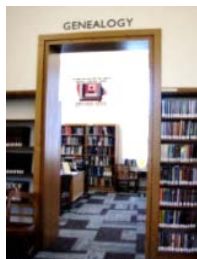
~~~~~

### ***LDS Family History Center Update - By Mike Gibson, Director***

In the last 3 months, I've had a bit of a crisis here at the center. For the first time in quite a while, there were some microfilms ordered. This time they were through the new online ordering system so I now have had some experience with that system. Please call me before ordering because I have never entered my inventory into the system so if I already have the film, the computer will not know it. But that was not the crisis. When people started reading the films, the readers would break. Before long, I had all 3 of my microfilm readers out of service. It seems that they had sat for so long without use, a rubber band-like belt drive on each one of them ossified (became rock-like). The Church sent me new belt drives and I had to replace them (which was not easy). But it is done. Maybe the readers need to be used more often. Please keep it in mind. Besides, I'd love to have people use the center.

Remember my new hours, Tuesdays 11 am – 4 pm, Friday nights 6pm - 9 pm and on Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon. But also remember -- I can come in at almost any time that is convenient for you. So call me for an appointment. Please give me a call before coming in so I'm sure to be at the center. The center phone is 424-4211 during hours. My home phone is different now. Call me anytime at 423-TALK (8255). If I'm not home, leave a message. Or call again. Don't worry about bugging me.

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



## *A message from our 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 only staffed M/W/F 9 a.m.-noon; 1-4 p.m.

### *Collection changes during the past three months*

Some of these items are new to the collection. Others have been in the collection for some time, but have received additional processing.

Immigrants to the New World 1600s-1800s (CD-ROM)

SAR Patriot Index (CD-ROM)

Scotch-Irish Families in America (CD-ROM)

Marriage Index – IL, IN, KY, OH, TN (CD-ROM)

Genealogical Records: Virginia Land, Marriage & Probate Records 1739-1850 (CD-ROM)

Belmond – Donated by Arlene Gilbert

Belmond, Iowa Quasquicentennial 1856-1981 – Donated by Arlene Gilbert

History of Belmond, Iowa 1856-2006 – Donated by Arlene Gilbert

Celebrate a Century - Buffalo Center, Iowa 1892-1992 – Donated by Arlene Gilbert

Biographical Record and Portrait Album of Hamilton and Wright Counties, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Franklin County, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Kossuth, Hancock and Winnebago Counties, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Franklin and Cerro Gordo Counties, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Floyd County, Iowa (CD-ROM)

History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa (CD-ROM)

Immigrants to Pennsylvania, 1600s-1800s (CD-ROM) Farrer Endowment Foundation

Early Ohio Settlers, 1700s-1900s (CD-ROM) Farrer Endowment Foundation

Irish Immigrants to North America, 1803-1871 (CD-ROM) Farrer Endowment Foundation

Pennsylvania German Church Records, 1729-1870 (CD-ROM) Farrer Endowment Foundation

Early New England Settlers, 1600s-1800s (CD-ROM) Farrer Endowment Foundation

Selected U.S./International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 (CD-ROM)

Military Records: U.S. Soldier, 1784-1811 (CD-ROM)

Family History: Southern Biographies and Genealogies 1500s-1940s (CD-ROM)

Family History: Mid-Atlantic Genealogies 1340s-1940s (CD-ROM)

Local and Family Histories: New England, 1600s-1900s (CD-ROM)

\*\*\*\*\*

**A plea for help!** Due to illness, accidents, jury duty, life changes and snowbird moves, the number of library volunteers has been severely reduced. More hands, talents and time are needed. If you have not volunteered at the library in the past, but would like to in the future, please let me know, so we can schedule a training session for you. For those of you who have already been trained, I'd appreciate any support you can provide. My Mason City phone number is 380-0339. Thank you for being part of this effort. Sandra

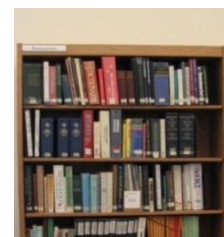


# Mason City Public Library NCIGS Genealogy Library

## RESOURCES ~ A – Section 1

Shelf # 2-3, GEN929.1DAR – GEN 929.1SAR

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



GEN 929.1DAR  
GEN 929.1DAR  
GEN 929.1DAR  
GEN 929.1DOA  
GEN 929.1EIC

GEN 929.1GAL  
GEN929.1GEN  
GEN929.1GEN  
GEN929.1GEN  
GEN929.1GOR  
GEN929.1GRE  
GEN929.1GRO  
GEN929.1HAN  
GEN929.1HAR

GEN929.1HEL  
GEN929.1HER

GEN929.1HON

GEN929.1KIR  
GEN929.1LAC  
GEN929.1MCC  
GEN929.1MEY  
GEN929.1MIC  
GEN929.1MIL  
GEN929.1MIL  
GEN 929.1MUN  
GEN929.1NAT

GEN929.1NAT  
GEN929.1NEA  
GEN929.1ORP  
GEN929.1PEH  
GEN929.1PER  
GEN929.1PIN

GEN929.1RAI  
GEN929.1RIL  
GEN929.1ROT  
GEN929.1RUB  
GEN929.1SAR

**Daughters of American Revolution, 1991-1997** - Listed Alphabetical by issue from DAR publications

**Daughters of American Revolution, 1991-1997** - Patriot Index & Corrections

**Daughters of American Revolution, 1990** - Patriot Index Centennial Edition, Three Volumes

**Searching for Your Ancestors, 1960** - 3rd Edition

**Red Book, 3rd Edition** – American State, County & Town Sources, 2004 - Arranged by States, provides sources for locating Vital Records, including maps and origins of counties

**Collecting Dead Relatives, An Irreverent Romp through the field of Genealogy**

**Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, 1996** 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Genealogical Seminar: Harvesting the Family Tree, 1987** ...the Cumulating of Years of Research

**Genealogy Begins with You, 1984** - Help for beginners, misc. articles from various sources

**Family Diseases Are You at Risk? 1989** - Inherited disorders

**The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy, 1975** - Guide to records used in American Research

**Tracing the Civil War Ancestor, 1973** - Guide to tracking your civil war Ancestors, North & South

**Handbook for Genealogical Correspondence, 1976**

**Guide to Draper Manuscripts, 1983** - State Historical Society of WI, Reference o historical papers & documents of early Wisconsin history

**Tracing Your Ancestry, 1976**

**The Hereditary Register of the United States of America, Two volumes 1972-1974** - Organization, Their objectives and membership requirements

**Land & Property Research in the United States, 1997** - Explains Land Acquisitions & how to locate records

**The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 years, 1973** - Illustrated with examples

**Cite Your Sources, 1980** - A manual for documenting family histories and genealogical records

**Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy, 2012**

**Printed Sources, Guide to Published Genealogical Records, 1998** – Discusses aspects of published sources

**Don't Cry "Timber", 1970** - Research Tips

**Migration, Emigration, Immigration, 1974** -Two Volumes, List of Sources and timelines of Routes

**Professional Genealogy, 2001-** Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians

**Index to American Genealogies with Supplement, Fifth Edition**

**Lineage Book: National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, Volume XI-1957, Volume XII-1961, Volume XXIII-1979, Volume XXVI-1986**

**Locating Your Revolutionary War Ancestor, 1983** - A guide to military records

**United States Military Records, 1994** – Guide to Federal & State sources Colonial America to the present

**Orphan Train (Box), 40** Misc. articles & pamphlets

**Order, 1973** - Pedigree Charts & basic record keeping forms for your family ancestor's names and dates

**Periodical Source Index, 1986** Annual Volume – prepared by Genealogy Dept., Fort Wayne, IN

**The Genealogists Encyclopedia, 1969** – A guide which includes treatment of British, Continental, Celtic, Jewish, Latin, American & Oriental records

**Railroad Unions** - Selection of Railway History Journal pages

**The Adoption Search book, 1981-** Vast quantity of knowledge shared by her own experiences

**Finding Our Father, 1977** – Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy

**Pitfalls in Genealogical Research, 1987-** Helpful to the beginner

**Sons of the American Revolution, Edition III** – CD contains 732,000 records

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

## 50 plus Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions - Part 2

*"Every wall is a door." Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### Death

27. **Mortuary Tables** – When estimating the age of death of an ancestor (narrowing down date ranges is often a necessary first step before digging into archives), try to find a mortuary table for the country of your ancestors. The internet contains historic mortuary tables for several countries. If you cannot find one, consider contacting the main government statistical agency for your country. Alternatively, consider contacting a life insurance company. Life insurance companies use mortuary tables to calculate policy premiums. You can use mortuary tables to estimate a reasonable age at death. A word of caution: use historic mortuary tables, not current mortuary tables. People live much longer these days.

28. **Mortuary Records** - Mortuary records at funeral homes often list the full names and place of origin of next of kin. Typically this will mean that mortuary records often have the full names and origin of the parents of the deceased. This is an excellent way to find out names and places of the previous generation. It always pays to look at the mortuary records in a funeral home.

29. **Funeral Sign-in Books** – Funeral sign-in books are those books that all visitors are asked to sign when they go to a funeral. They are usually given to the family at the end of the funeral. If you can gain access to a funeral sign-in book, it can provide a wealth of information about your ancestors. Funerals are typically attended by family members both close and distant on the family tree. This is a great way to get leads on missing branches of the family.

30. **Walk the Cemetery** – A simple, but effective, genealogy brick wall solution for ancestors that came from small towns is to take a walk through the local cemetery. This is a good way to look for clues by reading the inscriptions on the tombstones. Many cemeteries are divided by religion. You can save yourself much time and narrow your search in the cemetery if you happen to know the religion of your ancestors.

31. **Neighbors in the Cemetery** – Families often buy several plots in a cemetery. Usually these plots are located next to each other. When you are visiting the gravesite of an ancestor always take photographs of the neighboring gravesites. They could be your relatives. Sometimes this is not obvious at the time but it can become more apparent at a later date. For example, two sisters could buy neighboring family plots. In this example, the sisters have both married and have different last names. They may not look like they are related when you glance at the tombstones. Always be safe and take some photographs of neighboring tombstones. With digital cameras this is a quick and simple thing to do. Alternatively, check online at the many websites that now show tombstone pictures. This is a surprisingly effective way to find additional ancestors.

32. **Newspaper Stories** – Most genealogists think to look in newspapers for death announcements. However, local newspapers should also be used for researching stories on death. Any ancestor who did not die of natural causes will likely have received a write-up in a local newspaper story. For example, ancestors who died in a war are often written up, as well as people who drowned or died in mishaps or accidents. This is always worth checking, especially if your ancestor came from a small town.

### Family

**33. Family Bibles** – This one is an old chestnut for genealogists who are experienced at tracking down relatives, but we feel compelled to mention it anyways. One hundred years ago most people were either illiterate or barely literate. The typical household had only a handful of books. One of these books was almost certainly a family bible (or other religious text depending on the religion of your ancestors). For many people, it was the only book they would ever read. It was also the place where many people would write down important information. Like the names and birthdays of family members. Spend the time asking your relatives if they have an old family bible. Check the blank pages on the inside front and back covers and you may make an incredible family discovery.

**34. Existing Family Trees** – In most families, there is usually one person (often a distant relative) who has spent the time and energy to put together the family tree. It is always a good idea to ask around the family to see if a family tree has already been created. Most genealogists know this and they also know to look at online family trees from various resources (try our [Family Tree Search Engine](#) which checks online family trees and genealogy forums). One often overlooked resource for family trees are the local libraries near where your ancestors lived. Especially in small towns, a collection of published family histories in local libraries will often touch on some part of your family tree.

**35. Picture in a Frame** – So many clues can be gathered from looking at old family photographs that there are entire books devoted to the subject. There is, however, one simple exercise that should always be done with old family pictures that are framed. Take the photograph out of the frame and examine the back of the image. People often write notes on the back as to where the picture was taken and who is in the photograph. Don't miss this simple exercise when looking at old family photographs. This same trick can be used on family jewelry. Always inspect family jewelry (especially rings and bracelets) closely with a magnifying glass. Check for engravings of names and dates on the inside. Also check for stamps and other marks of the jeweler. This can be used to date the age of the jewelry.

**36. Skip a Generation** – Most people build their family tree by starting with themselves and working backward. This works well until it doesn't work. When it doesn't work well is when you come across an ancestor who seems to have treaded lightly on this earth. Some people cannot be found simply because they never wanted to be found. People trying to escape debts, trying to escape businesses that have gone sour and trying to escape questionable (sometimes criminal) activity all had an incentive not to be found.

Even people who were never married or were married but never had children can often be difficult to trace. The solution: skip a generation. Try researching their parents first. Often a detailed knowledge of an ancestor's parents can shed light on what happened to their children. You might even find your missing ancestor turning up in unexpected places, like a funeral sign-in book when one of the parents died.

**37. Widows Remarrying** – Except for the last couple of decades, economic necessity usually required a widow with children to remarry fairly quickly. It was not uncommon for a woman would remarry within three to four months of the death of her late husband. As well, women usually picked the church where they were married. These two facts can be used to your advantage. One way to trace the marriage of a widow is to start with the local church records from the date of the wake of her late husband and read forward on a day-by-day basis. Don't be surprised to find a wedding within six months. This trick also works backwards. Start on the wedding day of the widow and go backward in time a couple of months and you will probably find the details on the death of the previous husband.

**38. Elderly Parents** – Elderly parents (and the widowed) often went to live with one of their children. Always consider this possibility when you lose track of someone later in their life.

**39. Shotgun Weddings** – A shotgun wedding is a wedding where the bride is already pregnant. Families rarely like to talk about shotgun weddings but the reality is that shotgun weddings are common. When trying to estimate the date of birth of a child from a wedding date (or visa versa) do not assume there is a minimum nine-month gap between the two dates. It could be much shorter. The child could even have been born before the wedding date. This type of situation is more common than most people realize.

**40. Wills** – Wills are a golden source of information for genealogists, written by the deceased and they are legally binding documents. Therefore, wills contain accurate spelling of names, correct dates, correct addresses and a correct list of the property owned by the deceased. As an added bonus, wills typically list all of a person's aliases and variants as well as a list of all immediate family members, such as siblings. Always ask family members if they have any old wills of your ancestors or spend the time tracking down the will at the local probate court.

**41. Adopted versus Abandoned** – When researching your ancestors, it is important to understand the difference between adopted and abandoned. Adoption is when someone who is not kin assumes the parenting of a child. It has been practiced throughout history, but it only became a common phenomenon in the 1920s or later (depending on the country). Prior to this, most children without parents were *abandoned*. Abandoned children usually ended up in orphanages and were often placed out as indentured servants or apprentices for certain trades. Oddly enough, abandoned children are usually easier to trace because they were wards of the state or a non-profit organization. To account for the funds needed to feed and maintain these children, ledgers were normally kept giving details of the children at orphanages and poorhouses.

Adoption records on the other hand can often be much more difficult to obtain and genealogists (not to mention the adopted children themselves) are often at the mercy of local legislative regulations. As well, in some jurisdictions adoption was a for-profit exercise. The people running the adoption business often had a vested interest in not keeping good records as to the origin of the children. It is difficult to ascertain what percentage of children were historically adopted/abandoned (families rarely want to admit such issues), but adoptions in most countries today run from 1% to 3% and the numbers were almost certainly much higher one hundred years ago. Never discount adoption/abandonment as a possibility.

**42. Relatives Raising Children** – A very common variant of adoption/abandonment is relatives raising a child. Sometimes genealogists come across a child in a family with a name used in another branch of the family. Consider the possibility the parents are raising a relative's child. Another possible variant that could occur is when sisters adopt children who are related to one another (typically the adopted children are brother and sister). Finally, when looking at old census records that list servants in a household, pay particular attention to the names of the servants. They could be distant relatives of the family.

**43. Search Sideways** - When you get stuck and have trouble tracing the parents of your ancestors, consider taking a different path. You may have inadvertently stumbled upon an ancestor who was the black sheep of the family and did not have much interaction with the parents. Take a closer look at the brothers and sisters of your ancestor instead. This may ultimately lead you to the parents.

**44. Contact Distant Living Relatives Through the Grave** – In the internet age, here is an oddly strange and obscure way to contact distant living relatives that can actually produce results. If you track down an ancestor to a particular gravesite in an old graveyard, pay attention to how well maintained the gravesite is relative to the neighboring gravesites. If the gravesite is better maintained than other gravesites in the cemetery then this is a good indication that someone with a connection to your ancestor lives in the area. Consider leaving a message at the gravesite with all your contact details. However, this is not email, so don't

expect a reply within a week. It will likely take months (or never) before someone replies. Make sure you leave the message in a well-sealed container and firmly attach it to the gravesite. Also, if necessary, inform the cemetery staff to make sure they are ok with the procedure and to make sure they do not throw your message out. They may even know who is maintaining the gravesite.

**45. Retirement Homes** – Retirement homes (especially those run by non-profit organizations) would often have to take on senior citizens with no money. In order to cover their costs, they would often attempt to track down family members. Part of this process involved interviewing the senior citizen to try to establish family connections. These records were often kept by the retirement home. These records can be an effective way to find other ancestors.

**46. Family Timelines** - One obvious genealogy brick wall solution is to check key family dates across generations to look for inconsistencies. For example, children cannot be born after their mother has died or more than nine months after their father has died. Similarly, children cannot be born if the mother is too young or too old. A simple rechecking of dates in this manner can help eliminate erroneous data and can also be used to narrow down estimated date ranges. For large, complicated families, consider building a family timeline in a spreadsheet to check for consistency across dates.

**47. Family Recipe Books** – Family recipe books are almost as common as family trees. Oddly enough, there can be a connection between the two of them that can be exploited by an astute genealogist. For example, one of the biggest hurdles that genealogists can face is when an ancestor has migrated to a new country and Anglicized their name. Trying to find out where they came from can often become an involved exercise. Here is a novel approach. Look through the family recipe book. A number of (say) Polish recipes would suggest that your ancestors came from Poland. Even within a country, certain dishes can be very local in origination. Do a bit of research on unusual dishes or dishes that use unusual ingredients and you may be able to narrow down your search to a particular area of a country. Sometimes it pays to think with your stomach!

**48. Military Medals** - Always check to see if your ancestors earned any military medals and ask family members if you can see the medals. Several nations (including Britain and many Commonwealth countries) engraved the name of the recipient, their rank and unit on the edge of the medal. You can often use this valuable information as a starting point to contact the appropriate military authorities (or national archives) to gain access to full military records.

**48. Military Medals** - Always check to see if your ancestors earned any military medals and ask family members if you can see the medals. Several nations (including Britain and many Commonwealth countries) engraved the name of the recipient, their rank and unit on the edge of the medal. You can often use this valuable information as a starting point to contact the appropriate military authorities (or national archives) to gain access to full military records.

**49. Underage Soldiers** – Underage soldiers are a common problem during periods of large scale conflicts and mass conscription (such as World War I and II). When tracing a male ancestor, try to determine how old they were when major military conflicts broke out in the region. If they were 14 or older, then they may have signed on as soldiers even if they were not of legal age. Most armies were happy to take any warm body and would often turn a blind eye to such activity. Just be aware that underage soldiers (who obviously lacked proof of age) would often sign on under an alias or fake their age.

**50. Military Pensions** – Military pensions are granted to veterans and widows of veterans. If you have an ancestor that was between the age of 15 and 40 during a major war, consider the possibility they may have been a soldier even for a very brief period of time. In some conflicts (such as the US Civil War), pensions were granted to soldiers after only a couple of months of

service. Contact the appropriate authorities to see if they may have received a military pension. In most countries, military pension records are very complete and contain everything from birth certificates to information on next of kin to details on military engagements.

**51. Original Documents** – Always check the original document. Transcription errors occur all the time when old records are digitized. For example, in order to keep costs down one major firm (Ancestry.com) does most of their transcription work in China. English is not the first language of these transcribers. Reading old handwritten text is a difficult task even for native English speakers. Therefore, expect some errors. Always check the original document. We cannot say this enough times.

**52. Network** – The internet provides many opportunities to network with other genealogists. Consider joining a family association or group that specializes in your family name. The internet is not just a great place to find online ancestral records; it is also a wonderful place to hook up with other people who are also interested in researching their ancestors.

(Provided by the [GenealogyInTimeMagazine](#) Newsletter - July 2012)

~~~~~

Ellis Island Immigration Records

(Provided by 29 Sept 2012 [GenealogyInTime Magazine](#))

Ellis Island was the main port of entry for immigrants to America. More immigrants arrived through Ellis Island than all the other North American ports of entry combined. Thus, anyone searching for ancestors in North America (even Canada) should check the Ellis Island immigration records. Ellis Island operated from 1892 to 1954. During much of that time, Ellis Island was the main port of entry for immigrants not just to America but for much of North America. Ellis Island processed an average of 5,000 people per day and a total of 12 million immigrants passed through the island over the years. As the table below shows, more immigrants passed through Ellis Island than all other North American ports of entry combined.

Top 10 Ports of Arrival in North America in 1903

Port	Number of Immigrants
Ellis Island	706,113
Baltimore	69,541
Boston	64,358
Montreal & St. John's	33,048
Philadelphia	29,926
Honolulu	11,439
San Francisco	9,504
Key West Florida	5,129
New Orleans	4,685
New Bedford Mass.	4,435
Source: Ellis Island	

When looking at Ellis Island immigration records, here are the things you need to know: Not all immigrants were successful in entering the United States. About 2% of immigrants were rejected and sent home. The most common reason for rejection was a concern by immigration officials that the person may become a ward of the state. This could be due to health issues (especially a fairly common eye disease called trachoma, which lead to blindness), mental illness or lack of sufficient funds for immigrants to support themselves. People were sorted based on their health condition, financial status and language. Therefore, when looking at the records, don't assume all your ancestors passed through Ellis Island. Some may have been sent home.

United States World War I Draft

On 6 April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and officially entered World War I. Six weeks later, on 18 May 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed, which authorized the president to increase the military establishment of the United States. As a result, every male living within the United States between the ages of eighteen and forty-five was required to register for the draft. The period of 1880-1920 was a high immigration period to the United States. Young men were required to register for the draft regardless of their U.S. citizenship status. Of course, not all the men who registered actually served in the armed forces, and there were some who served in the war but did not register for the draft.

The World War I draft consisted of three separate registrations.

- **First Registration.** The registration on 5 June 1917, was for men aged twenty-one to thirty-one—men born between 6 June 1886 and 5 June 1896.
- **Second Registration.** The registration on 5 June 1918, was for men who had turned twenty-one years of age since the previous registration—men born between 6 June 1896 and 5 June 1897. Men who had not previously registered and were not already in the military also registered. In addition, a supplemental registration on 24 August 1918, was for men who turned twenty-one years of age since 5 June 1918.
- **Third Registration.** The registration on 12 Sept 1918, was for men aged eighteen to twenty-one and thirty-one to forty-five—men born between 11 Sept 1872 and 12 Sept 1900.

The complete registration included men between the ages of 18 and 45—males born between 1873 and 1900—who were not already in the military. Each of the three separate registrations used a slightly different version of the draft registration card. Because different cards were used, the information included in each varies.

In general, the registration cards included the following information:

- Full name
- Home address
- Date and place of birth
- Age, race, and country of citizenship
- Occupation and employer
- Physical description (hair and eye color, height, disabilities)
- Additional information such as address of nearest relative, dependent relatives, marital status, father's birthplace, or previous exemption from service
- Signature

The card used for the first registration (sometimes called the Twelve-Question card because of twelve questions on the front) includes this information: name, age, address, date and place of birth, citizenship status, employer's name and address, dependent information, marital status, race, military service, and physical appearance. The card used for the second registration (sometimes called the Ten-Question card because of ten questions on the front) includes this information: name, age, address, date and place of birth, father's birthplace, citizenship status, occupation, employer's name and address, dependent information, name and address of nearest relative, and physical appearance. The card used for the third registration (sometimes called the Twenty-Question card because of twenty questions on the front) includes the name, address, age, date of birth, race, citizenship status, occupation, employer's name and address, name and address of nearest relative, and physical appearance.

2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Annual Membership: monthly programs, FEB, MAY, AUG, NOV newsletters,
and free query.*

Renewal Membership dues are \$12.00 for a calendar year (January - December)

Name _____ Street Address _____ County _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Today's date _____

Email _____  receive Newsletter email or receive Newsletter by 

Post Office Mail

*To receive your membership card in the mail, you need to furnish a stamped self-addressed
envelope or include postage.*

*Mail to North Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402-
0237*

*Please submit your \$12.00 annual renewal today. You may submit more than one year
at a time.*

November 2012 is your last newsletter.

+++++



This GENIE BUG is designed to keep members well informed of the activities and opportunities of the NCIGS, to offer a place for publications of queries of members and provide information on their genealogical searches as well as insuring preservation of our heritage. In order to accomplish these purposes, we need your cooperation of time and good talents. Please help us by sending a family query and joining us in helping others. Write or email to the Editor lea@ncigs.org. Send 'Query' to Editor, The Genie Bug, NCIGS, PO Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402.

The Genealogist's Psalm

**Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.
It leadeth me into still courthouses;
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me in the paths of census records and
ship's passenger lists for my surname's sake
Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research
Libraries and microfilm readers, I shall fear no discouragement,
For a strong urge is within me.
The curiosity and motivation they comforteth me
It demandeth preparation of storage space for the
Acquisition of countless documents.**

**It annointeth my head with burning mid-night oil;
My family group sheets runneth over.
Surely birth, marriage, and death dates shall follow me
All the days of my life:
And I shall dwell in the house of a family history seeker forever.**

~~~~~ The GENIE BUG is published in Feb, May, Aug, & Nov. A benefit for members of the non-profit NCIGS. C.NCIGS 2012 ~~~~~

**NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PO BOX 237**

**MASON CITY, IA 50402-0237**

**WWW.NCIGS.ORG**



## **“A Fifer in the Iowa 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Company B, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa”**

will be presented by **Cary Maassen** of Mason City at 1:30 p.m. on **December 8, 2012** in the Mason City Room of the Mason City Public Library. Francis “Frank” M. Rogers was a local boy who enjoyed much success. He was raised and educated by his mother while living in Lynn Grove, Geneseo Township, Cerro Gordo, Iowa.

Before leaving for military service during the Civil War, Frank promised his mother he would write a letter every day he was gone. In his first letter, dated 28 Aug 1862, he and his fellow recruits were near Waterloo, traveling toward Dubuque. They later arrived at Camp Franklin and his ‘Fifer’ musical duties began. Over the next three years 179 letters of his experiences in the Civil War were written to his family.

As the troops made their way South, Frank describes long days of muddy walks, losing the lieutenant to typhoid, taking prisoners, almost starving, and many difficult times. They finally arrived in Vicksburg, Mississippi in March of 1864. His later letters reveal the details of capturing rebels at Meridian, Mississippi and encountering slaves looking for freedom. The troops marched to the Red River, where they participated in the battle at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. From there, they travel to New Orleans and finally to Alabama’s Dauphine Island. On 12 April 1865 when word



arrived that the War was about to be terminated, Frank was stationed at Fort Blakely, Alabama. Due to illness, Frank did not arrive back home to Iowa until June 1865.

After his discharge, Frank served as Clerk of District Court and eventually became a banker in Clear Lake, where the Victorian home he built still stands on the north side of Central Park. Cary Maassen's account of Frank M. Rogers' life will begin prior to his arrival in Iowa and will include information about the lives of many families and relatives in Cerro Gordo County. This historical accounting of the Civil War will be most interesting, plan to attend.

Call now to make your reservations at 641.494.7614. Sponsored by the NCIGS.