

THE GENIE BUG

North Central Iowa Genealogical Society
 P. O. Box 237 Mason City, Iowa 50402-0237
 Volume 44 November 2015 Number 4



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The **November 14th 2015** North Central Iowa Genealogical Society Annual Election meeting first. After will feature a program by society members from Manly, Dr. Charles and Donna Schilling entitled **“THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW**

ABOUT THANKSGIVING AND THE PILGRIMS.” Please join us for pumpkin bars after, everyone is welcome to attend, and will be held in the Clear Lake Public Library meeting room starting at 1:30 p.m.



**December 2015 – Merry Christmas
 NO meeting this month.**

January 9th 2016 program, we will explore Ancestry Academy, a resource recently made available at Ancestry.com. This feature offers a variety of video courses taught by genealogy and family history experts. The course we will be viewing is entitled **STREET SMARTS: FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE BIG CITY**. Clear Lake Public Library meeting room starting at 1:30 pm, everyone welcome.



Street Smarts: Finding Your Ancestor in the Big City
 with Juliana Szucs



"I Heard a Train a Comin" The February 13th program will be about the Orphan Trains which made stops in north central Iowa. Our speaker and society member, Rod Hungerford, will discuss the history of the Orphan Trains and what happened to some of the children who found homes here. During Rod’s research on this topic, he discovered many Orphan Train children became permanent residents. They married, had families, and lead successful lives in our county areas. Clear Lake Public Library meeting room starting at 1:30 pm.

Des Moines: Become a Legal Eagle! Law and Genealogy What’s a relict? Why didn’t my great-grandmother inherit the farm when great-grandpa died? This class introduces basic legal terminology, examines historical legal conventions, and identifies resources for locating laws specific to your ancestor’s life and times. The Iowa Genealogical Society (Des Moines) will be offering this program on November 21, 2015 @ 10:30 am. – 12:30 pm. The cost is \$5.00 IGS member/\$10.00 nonmembers Preregistration: 515 276-0287 or igs@iowagenealogy.org.

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NCIGS Board Update

Hello fellow genealogists,

As I write this the last of the warm, busy, days of summer have disappeared and it's time to once again tackle those genealogy questions that have remained a mystery. Have you ever asked yourself "why do I do genealogy"? I love the mystery, as soon as I answer one question, another pops up. How far back can I go, and in my family who was the one that first came across the pond.

All these questions made me want to learn and find all I could about him. I was hooked, and years later I still haven't answered all the questions. The stories I find always leave me in awe of the courage and willingness these people had to travel. To make a journey across the ocean in a questionable sailing vessel, leaving families behind, never to be seen again, and start a new life in the unknown. What strength and resilience.

I believe if everyone did some genealogy working with strangers and their many family lines, our world would be a kinder, friendlier, place to live. Join us for the ***Annual November Election meeting on November 14, 2016 with Thanksgiving program to follow, open to the general public.

Everyone have a blessed holiday.
2015 President, Dorothy Paul

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

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*North Central Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 237, Mason City, IA 50402-0237 c:NCIGS*

Lea Norlinger, Editor



**From the Librarian:** *The NCIGS Library is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Mason City Public Library, 225 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Mason City, Iowa. The MCPL and the NCIGS Library are open M/T/W/TH 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; F/SAT 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you need help from one of our library volunteers, remember our library is staffed M/W/F 9 a.m. – noon; 1-4 p.m.*

**Library Committee Members:** Ruth Umbarger, Joan Bartel, Linda Faridi, Kay Mestad, Dorothy Paul, Sandra Turner (Chair).

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

National Genealogical Society  
Quarterly



Volume 102, No. 4, December 2014

Let's take a look at one of the magazines we receive at the library entitled NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY. I particularly wanted to review the December 2014 issue (V. 102, # 4) since it includes an article entitled "GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN IOWA" by Marieta A. Grissom (pp. 263-306). Marieta Grissom is a genealogist who lives in Indianola. In this article she brings us up-to-date (as of November 2014) regarding some Iowa resources. More recent Iowa resources might be found on her blog [www.MarietaGrissom.wordpress.com](http://www.MarietaGrissom.wordpress.com).

After a brief introductory history of Iowa, Marieta, using specific categories and locations, details available genealogical resources. Her breakdown is as follows:

**ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND SOCIETIES:** STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA; STATE LIBRARY; STATE UNIVERSITIES; GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS.

**MAJOR RESOURCES:** AIDS TO RESEARCH (TOPICAL FINDING AIDS); ATLASES, GAZETTEERS, AND MAPS; BIOGRAPHICAL GUIDES; BUSINESSES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE AND MINING; CEMETERY RECORDS; CENSUS AND CENSUS SUBSTITUTES; COUNTY RECORDS; COURT RECORDS; DIRECTORIES; ETHNIC RECORDS; FAMILY RECORDS; LAND RECORDS; MILITARY RECORDS; NATURALIZATION RECORDS; NEWSPAPERS; RELIGIOUS RECORDS; SCHOOL RECORDS; TAX RECORDS; TRANSPORTATION; VITAL RECORDS; WOMEN OF IOWA

While the information contained in this article is not comprehensive, Marieta has provided us some interesting possibilities for our research. For example:

**DID YOU KNOW** -- Iowa has four repositories who maintain collections focused on women: *Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics (ISU); Iowa Association of Colored Women's Clubs collection (SHSI Iowa City), Iowa Women's Archives (UI), Iowa Women's Suffrage Collection (SHSI Iowa City).*

**DID YOU KNOW** – SHSI has a finding aid for pre-1917 delayed births. The alphabetical list includes Birth County and date, certificate number, and microfilm roll number for more than 225,000 pre-1880 births and 400,000 births, 1880-1916.

**DID YOU KNOW** – Most Iowa Lutheran churches are affiliated with one of three large Lutheran groups, but another group's archive may hold a church's early records. Iowa Lutheran records are held in 1) *Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; 2) *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives*, 3) *Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*, 4) *Norwegian Lutheran*, 5) *Wartburg Theological Seminary Archives*, 6) *Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*. For specifics, look for this issue of the NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY on the library shelves.

**DID YOU KNOW** – The Iowa Federation of Women's Club and SHSI co-sponsored a 1923 contest for high-school student essays about their grandparents or town.

**DID YOU KNOW** – A special census was undertaken for Mason City in 1887.

**DID YOU KNOW** – District court judges ordered county boards of supervisors to pay a monthly amount to needy widows with dependent children until the children reached a set age (14 at first; then 16 later) Records give the child's name and birth date and usually the name and status of the mother's spouse.

**DID YOU KNOW** – While Iowa's adoption records are closed, some information is available. Researchers can file a "Request for Non-Identifying Information" form. Adoptions after 4 July 1941 require adoptees to "show good cause" for needing the record. All adoptees (before and after 1941) can ask the state for the name of the county where the adoption was finalized. If the birth hospital is known, an adoptee can request the medical records concerning the birth. Researchers can requisition information from the adoption agency, if known, rather than the county. For more details on adoption information see page 302.

**DID YOU KNOW** – Iowa had many orphanages and services for orphans. Several are listed in this article.

*Marieta states "Iowa, which has largely avoided record loss and destruction, has abundant and varied genealogical record collections. Many of them, such as the Iowa state censuses, are exceptionally informative. Volunteers, working through the decades, have created indexes and publications to facilitate research in Iowa's genealogical treasures."*

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

# Historic Cemetery Records – Display by Randy Opheim Sept 12, 2015 at MCPL.

We hope you enjoyed viewing the historic documents. Thanks to Lea Norlinger, Carlene Davis, Beth Enright and Paula Bartunek for helping with this display. Thanks, also, to the Genealogy Society members for changing the time and venue of their meeting to accommodate this viewing and presentation to the public.



Introduction- **Fascinating history in Elmwood – St. Joseph Cemetery**, it all needs to be preserved and shared with the community. Our History Walk and Gravestone Preservation programs assist with this. The Cemetery History Walk is in its fifth year. The funds raised have purchased all the equipment and supplies for the Gravestone Preservation effort which has made a tremendous impact on the historic gravestones. The group has also set aside \$15,000 for matching funds and larger projects.



## **MCCA Internment record book – 1893 - 1925**



Better accessibility to information for staff and families is the driving force for developing the Cemetery Information Management System and the Historic Resources Development Program grant. We were using old leather binders with hand drawn maps and typed lists of owners. Updating was very difficult. Genealogy research was done from the books you see here, very time consuming. Look at their current condition after using them, edges were on the desk & floor.

## **Table of Historical documents and books presented to Archives!**

Cemetery Information Management System – CIMS- Geographical Information System department had drawn out the lots in 7 sections & the Information Technology department developed an Access database in 2005. Jessy Willadsen GIS and I visited a number of times about: getting the lots drawn for all the sections and linking the data base to the maps. Jessy budgeted some funds for this - as the city wanted everything on the GIS. The city contract with NewCom Technologies provides the CIMS program and setup the mapping and database within the system.

What a project this has turned out to be!!!! 7,970 lots of various sizes had to be accurately mapped and placed on the GIS so the headstones for the 19,816 burials were within the right lots. We found that plot information was not entered into the database for any burial prior to 2005, so 18,308 burials (95%) had to be assigned a plot number. Lea Norlinger and Carlene Davis, Sue Bier and I spent over 2,000 hours dividing up lots into plots and assigning plot #s to burials. Lea did the majority of this work and needs to be commended.

### *Pages from the St Joseph Internment book 1916-1949*



After a year and three months of tedious work, the CIMS was installed a couple of months ago. It's a great system with many capabilities. Internally, it's already been a great help in identifying plots that are available for families to purchase. Having the map and burial information displayed on the screen together is very helpful too. It's going to take a while to get some of the bugs worked out, (i.e. linkages corrected, complete information entered, pictures of headstones attached) before we put it on the internet for public use.

### **Treasured pictures from Elmwood-St Joseph's past**



Historic Resource Development Program Grant - As the CIMS project was being discussed at a department managers meeting, it was suggested that we submit a HRDP grant for assistance. Our Preservation and Accessibility Project awarded \$6,690 from the State Historical Society of Iowa for microfilming and digitizing our fragile historic records. These funds are through the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP). Each of the books on display will be on the office server as PDFs. Not all the digitization is complete. When it is, copies of the digitized records will be given to the Genealogy Library and the Archive. Microfilm rolls will also be available in the archives if the PDFs are not legible. You will also have access to the historic books if necessary as these will be given to the Archives after this meeting.

The grant also allowed us to scan over 7,000 lot cards that locate the burials on the lots. As time allows, these will be linked to the plots on the CIMS, as will the pictures of the headstones and the obituaries that are presently filed on the computer. (Not the obits glued in the scrapbooks. Unless someone wants volunteer to take that project on.) We can link as many files as we want. Not all the information in the system will be available on the internet, but when requests are received, information will be much easier to access and send out by email.

**Sample printouts from the New Cemetery Information Management Program now located on our computers.**



Certified Local Government Grant - To obtain grants from the State Historical Society for large projects, the cemetery needs to be on the National Register of Historical Places. The most important of these larger projects is restoring the historic mausoleums. Three of these are in dire need of attention. Rough estimates are around \$50,000 per building to repair them, so it will take a lot more money than we can raise locally. The CLG grants use Federal funds from the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A \$5,715 grant was awarded to the Mason City Historic Preservation Commission to conduct an Intensive Survey and Evaluation of the 70-acre Cemetery to determine if it qualifies as a historic district on the National Register. Leah Rogers of Tallgrass Historians L.C. was hired to do the survey and evaluation. She has done the survey and found plenty of resources. Leah is confident that the Cemetery will qualify. She has sent us a list of questions that we are presently trying to find answers to. The evaluation will be submitted to the HPC next year. If it states the cemetery would qualify, then funds will be needed to submit an application to the National Register. It will be about a two year process of grant submissions on a competitive basis before funds could be available.



**New Member > Beth Enright**

**Enclosed in the paper copy of this November GENIE BUG is a yellow paper form for RENEWAL for 2016.**

**This electronic Genie Bug sent to email members will have it placed on PAGE 8.**  
**NORTH CENTRAL IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**BOX 237, MASON CITY, IA 50402-0237**  
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The past few weeks, several 'Drop Ins' at the 'Genie' Room have asked Questions with regard to:

Orphan Train Arrivals & Members, a Person's Religious Beliefs tied to Movement from the 'Old' Country to the now-United States and subsequent Move(s) from One U.S. Region to a Different U.S. Region, and Why Land Ownership was such a Big Deal. And, did Second or Third Generation Family Members attempt to 'clean up' the Image and Practices of Their Ancestors. Kind of makes for Unique Discussions and Family Stories!!!

The Research with regard to Orphan Train Members from New York City to the Mason City-Cerro Gordo County Area (and, Forty-Mile Radius) has indicated Numerous Adoptions/Foster Care results. Many of the Children remained within a Fifty-Mile Radius into Adulthood. Twelve Orphan Train Members would be buried within Catholic Cemeteries. Nineteen Children were adopted/foster cared by Area Irish Parents/Families. Evidence illustrates Three Stops (1871, 1889, & 1913) within the Mason City-Cerro Gordo County Area.

Thanks for asking, Rod Hungerford, Librarian assistant.

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**Remember to send in your 2016 dues**  
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**2016 NCIGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Household dues are \$12.00 per calendar year (Jan-Dec). Dues paid after October 1 will extend to the next full year. Annual membership includes: quarterly newsletter with one free query, monthly meetings, support and friendship of like-minded folk, opportunity to participate in a variety of projects and use of NCIGS Library. In addition to my 2016 membership, I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

New Membership **OR**  Renewal  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Today's

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

