



**What Do You Want to Accomplish in 2017?
From the President, Kevin Spire**

In my prior message, I talked about how quickly 2016 seemed to pass by. Now it's the start of a new year, and I'm determined not to let that occur again. Well, let's just say I have good intentions and we'll see how it goes. I'm going to try something different this year which is to set myself some Genealogy Goals for 2017. Maybe you'd like to try it too?

Here is the general approach or idea:

Make it simple and achievable

Just identify 1 or 2 things you'd like to accomplish within the year

Set some dates

Give yourself a date to accomplish what you'd like to do

If the date passes you by, then set a new date

Write it down

No one has to see this, except you

Research has shown that taking time to write it down, ensures your likelihood of success

I recently heard a YouTube presentation by Crista Cowen from Ancestry on this topic. I will be the first to say that the personal goals she shared are pretty ambitious, but I like her ideas. Feel free to hear her goals on YouTube, if you're interested. For me, I've decided to borrow her approach and break it down to something simpler and achievable for me. Below is what I'm considering:

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IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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igs@iowagenealogy.org

Website:
www.iowagenealogy.org

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/IowaGenSoc/>

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday
10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m.— 9 p.m.

**2017 Spring Conference
Information on Pg. 9.**

From the President (cont.)

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Research

Break thru that blasted brick wall. (Sanke Detlef Nielsen I will find you once and for all!)

Consider hiring a professional to provide coaching on research avenues not considered. This could be someone local or abroad

Review new databases that have been made available on my favorite websites

Education

Attend at least one major genealogy conference in the year (national, regional or state)

Listen to at least one genealogy presentation a month

Take a class at the IGS and/or listen to presentations provided online

Take notes and apply what was learned

Service

Teach at least 2 classes at IGS (it will likely be more, but we'll start with this)

Index records for others

Can be done at IGS. Can also be done for Ancestry, FamilySearch and other organizations

Satisfy a request for local research (take a summer road trip)

A friend has asked for photos of their ancestor's gravesite in SE Iowa

Find A Grave also has requests for gravesite photos

Housekeeping

Spend the winter months scanning certificates, photos, old docs and uploading them to the appropriate people in my family tree.

Review my computer backup routine

Clean out old paper files

Cheers!

Kevin

Citizen Soldiers: Iowa's Frontier Militia by Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

From territorial times to present, Iowans have answered their nation's call to arms. Your ancestor may not have served on the front lines, but for decades every "able-bodied free white male age eighteen to forty-five" was required to serve in the state militia ("white" was struck from the law in 1867). These original "citizen soldiers" were available at a moment's notice to defend their families, homes, and communities.

The militia tradition dated to earliest colonial times, and every colony or state had some form of established militia. In times of war or other threats to peace, militias were theoretically trained and ready first responders. Political sensibilities frowned on large standing federal armies; the militia were frequently called to serve federal duty in place of regular army troops.

Iowa's legislature spelled out requirements for organization and training, but few Iowa counties took militia duty very seriously prior to the Civil War. Native Americans were for the most part peaceable, and peacefully removed from Iowa lands as the frontier pushed west. Those communities that did organize their "able-bodied men" often considered it more of a social occasion than critical military training. One Iowa regiment was formed in response to the Mexican War but only four companies were mustered into federal service and of those, only Co. K of the 15th U.S. Infantry, served in the line of battle. County assessors were responsible for compiling the rolls and the governor was the official Commander-in-chief. The State Adjutant General's Office was charged with maintaining company rosters, equipping the troops and monitoring their strength.

Several events pushed Iowa's militia organization into resolute action. The Spirit Lake massacre in 1857 and Sioux uprisings in southern Minnesota, followed by the advent of the Civil War in 1861 prompted the state to address the needs for state security and federal volunteers.

In 1862 the Northern Iowa Brigade (also known as the Northern Border Brigade), drew militia volunteers from northern counties to protect the frontier from Indian attacks. The Southern Border Brigade organized militia volunteers from the southern counties to protect Iowa's Missouri border communities from Confederate attack.

Counties became more conscientious in compiling the rolls and training stepped up. Many men moved from militia duty into the columns of volunteer Civil War regiments, organized by the state and federalized for Union duty.



Citizen Soldiers: Iowa's Frontier Militia by Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

The close of the Civil War and final removal of frontier threats relaxed the need for citizen soldiers. Iowa maintained rolls and training, but organized militia companies were primarily found at colleges and universities. These became known as the "State Guard," and on 15 January 1877 the name was changed to "National Guard, State of Iowa." Citizen soldiers continued to serve their communities in times of disaster and unrest—and formed the nucleus of volunteers sent to future military conflicts.

Resources are plentiful for learning more about your citizen soldier.

Because militias were organized by the colonies and states, their records are found at the state level. Check state archives for military collections.

Local histories often include information about militia companies and their role as federalized volunteers.

Iowa county-level militia rolls are available from 1862 onward as late as 1910. Rolls were usually arranged alphabetically by town or township and might include information about age, residence, birthplace and occupation. Check county assessors' offices or local historical societies; some records are available on Family History Library (FHL) microfilm.

Iowans will want to explore the resources of the State Historical Society and Archives. Record Group (RG) 101 preserves documents of the State Adjutant General's Office. Textual and microfilm sources include correspondence, rosters and records, general orders and much, much more.

Your ancestor's service as a citizen soldier was the blueprint of today's modern military. On the front lines and on the home front, Iowans have a proud tradition of honor and service.

© 2017 Alice Hoyt Veen CGSM. *Prairie Roots Research*. <http://www.prairierootsresearch.com>

Alice Hoyt Veen, Certified Genealogist (SM), is the founder of [Prairie Roots Research](http://www.prairierootsresearch.com), providing professional genealogical and historical research services to clients who seek superior research solutions. She specializes in solving genealogical "brick walls."

DNA Interest Groups

Due to popular demand, we have started TWO DNA Interest Groups. Both groups will meet on the first Tuesday of the month. One group meets at 1:30 p.m. and the second group meets at 6:30 p.m. You do not need to have had your DNA done to attend these groups, but continued attendance will require current IGS membership.

The DNA Interest Group will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday February 7, 2017

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

From Jennifer Ewing, Executive Director

I published a family history for my father-in-law who has been in a very slow physical and mental decline for the last few years. I was vaguely aware of how quickly things can change but had chosen to ignore that fact. He was able to mow the lawn in August and by Thanksgiving could not get out of the chair by himself and his dementia has become advanced. Of course, I was thinking that I waited too long to finish it, but at least my children would have a published copy. My husband and I even had that discussion in the car on the way to my in-laws.

On Christmas Day, my husband discreetly set up the camcorder in the corner of the room. My father-in-law opened his gift and started reading it. He would come across a name and tell a story about that person. Who knew his brother was such a trouble maker? My children (who constantly roll their eyes at me when I start sharing family history) started asking questions about his family and growing up on a farm in southwestern Missouri. He was more engaged than he had been for a long time and we got a glimpse of the man he used to be including his delightful sense of humor. Christmas 2016 was a really good day.

Now, if you create a written family history for an older relative, the result might not be the same experience that I had. But for our family, it was worth the time and effort. My eye rolling children will always remember that Christmas.

The moral of this story is to not wait.

Don't wait to interview those relatives. Don't wait to write the story down. Record those stories however possible. Write those stories down while they are fresh in your mind.

If you don't know how to start, IGS is offering a class "How to Write Your Family History" on March 11, 2017. FamilySearch Wiki offers many tips on how to interview your relatives.:

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Step 4. Gather oral histories from your oldest relatives .](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Step_4._Gather_oral_histories_from_your_oldest_relatives)

Don't wait to share the story. Lulu.com offers inexpensive self publishing options. I feel that an actual book is less likely to get tossed by the eye-rolling children than a stack of slightly organized papers. Just to make sure, the eye-rollers got a copy of the family history as well. And a cost of roughly \$30 for six copies is less than copying and putting together six notebooks.

Creating a family tree website is not impossible. Some genealogy software programs allow you to share your family history. FamilySearch is free and allows you to share your tree and photos. Paid sites such as Ancestry, allow you to do this as well.

Don't wait to gather the DNA if you are using this tool to help you break through brick walls or just want to find out more about your family. All three of the companies offering DNA services (Ancestry, 23 and Me, and Family Tree DNA) usually offer sales around the holidays, and Mother's and Father's day.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to start writing and sharing the stories of your family. Don't put it off any longer. Don't wait.

Volunteers

IGS could not function without our fabulous volunteers. We average over 600 volunteer hours a month. That is over twice the number of paid staff hours.

We have some volunteers that are indexing at home, never to be seen . One individual put in over 200 hours indexing Camp Dodge records at home.

Our IT volunteers keep the network, hardware, software, email, website and internet up and functioning. It is extremely difficult to conduct business without these things so a special thank you to those that keep the wheels spinning.

Our Social Media volunteers spread the news about IGS through Facebook and Twitter.

Our library attendants are exceptionally knowledgeable and always willing to help anyone who visits our facility. Our books would not get catalogued without a volunteer.

Several volunteers helped shift books between Christmas and New Years and CLEANED. They dusted shelves, vacuumed and cleaned carpet. Our fabulous president, rewarded them with pizza and cookies.

The IGS Board is a volunteer board that spends hours in meetings traveling from the far corners of the state. The IGS staff would not get paid if we did not have a volunteer treasurer.

Our trash and recycleables are collected and disposed of by volunteers. Our pop machine is maintained by a volunteer. Our flower bed gardens are tended by a volunteer.

I cannot name every task that our volunteers handle as there are just too many. No matter what their contribution or the amount of time that our volunteers are able to give, everyone is valuable and necessary. I cannot thank them enough.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me, Jennifer Ewing at execdir@iowagenealogy.org.

Capital Campaign—Thank you to all who have contributed!

We have raised of \$15,000 towards our goal of paying off the mortgage on our building. We appreciate the generosity of our members and others that contributed not only to the Capital Campaign but in any way to IGS. IGS is supported solely by memberships and donations.

It is not too late to make a donation. The Iowa Genealogical Society is a 501©3 non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.



Is there something specific that you would like to learn? If so, let Jennifer (execdir@iowagenealogy.org) know so that we can develop a program!

Class fees for **non-members** are \$15 effective January 1, 2017. Class fees for members will remain at \$5.

Are you receiving this newsletter via snail mail? Receiving it by e-mail saves IGS printing and postage. Please contact igs@iowagenealogy.org if we can send the newsletter to you via e-mail. If you are not getting our Weekly Updates via email, you can sign up on our home page: www.iowagenealogy.org.

Don't miss out on important communication from IGS.

Software User Groups

There has been a lot of change in genealogical software programs. IGS offers two software Interest Groups and an Ancestry.com group. Ancestry.com meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Legacy Family Tree Interest Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month @ 1 p.m. and RootsMagic meets on the 4th Saturday of the month @ 10 a.m. If you are thinking of purchasing one of these programs, this is a great way to learn what each program offers.



IGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

All groups meet at the IGS Library, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines:

German Interest Group meets on the **first Monday** of each month at 7 p.m.

Irish Interest Group meets on the **third Tuesday** of each month at 7 p.m.

Norwegian Interest Group meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month (except December) at 7 p.m.

British/Welsh and Scottish Interest Group meets the **second Thursday** of the month at 7 p.m.

Legacy User Group meets the **third Thursday** of the month, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

RootsMagic Interest Group meets the **fourth Saturday** of the month, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Ancestry.com Interest Group meets the **second Sunday** of the month, from 1:30 p.m.

DNA Interest Groups meets the **first Tuesday** of the month, at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

IGS is a Family History Library Affiliate. You can order microfilm rolls from familysearch.org and have them delivered to IGS to view! We are open six days a week with extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday. That means just one trip to IGS to research and view microfilm.

January Open Sunday will be Sunday, January 15, 2017. We are open this Sunday for
Members Only.

IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Facebook for Genealogy

12 noon—1 p.m. Lunch & Learn

Instructor - Mary Lohr

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

Beginning Internet Genealogy

1:30 pm—3:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Cloud Computing for Genealogy

Noon—1:00 pm

Instructor—Jennifer Ewing

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Donna Anderson

The Immigrant Experience

1:30—3:30 pm

Instructor—Donna Anderson

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Analysis & Correlation: Strategies for Success

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Resolving Conflict

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Monday, February 27, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Jennifer Barsetti

How to Write Your Family History

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Donna Anderson

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

WorldCat Lunch & Learn

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

\$5 IGS members / \$15 non-members

All programs are held at IGS, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines IA. For more information about IGS programs and activities, or to register for classes, contact us at 515-276-0287; igs@iowagenealogy.org, or visit the IGS website: www.iowagenealogy.org.

2017 Spring Conference featuring J. H. Fonkert

“Back to Your Roots”

April 8, 2017

SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference fee includes lunch

Early Registration (Before March 31)

_____ IGS Member x \$55 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$75 = _____

Late Registration (after March 31)

_____ IGS Member x \$60 = _____

_____ Non-member x \$80 = _____

_____ I prefer a vegetarian lunch

IGS MEMBERSHIP

I want to join IGS, which entitles me to the above member registration rate:

Individual \$35 = _____ Family \$45 = _____

Check enclosed.

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____

(we add \$2.50 for credit card handling fee)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Account Number _____

Expiration date _____

CVV _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Complete this form & mail it with your credit card information or check to:

IGS Spring Conference

628 E Grand Ave

Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Register online: www.iowagenealogy.org

For more information contact IGS:

515 276-0287; igs@iowagenealogy.org

The conference will be held at IGS, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines IA 50309

Conference Schedule

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Registration

9:00 a.m. - Announcements

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Finding Your Ancestors' European Origins: A 3-Step Strategy

10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Documenting the Immigration Trail: A Five-stage Approach

11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Why Were They There?

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Use All the Sources: A Complex Case of Confounded Identity

Iowa Genealogical Society
Membership Application

Membership Benefits:

- Free access to IGS research library
- Bimonthly Newsletter
- Admission discounts to all IGS classes & events
- Discounted hourly research rate
- Free WiFi

- Individual: \$35 Family: \$45
 New membership Renewal

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

My company has a matching gift program. Company name:

My gift is in Memory/Honor (circle one) of

My gift may be best utilized for:

- Mortgage Fund \$_____
- General Fund \$_____

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day phone: _____

Email: _____

Check enclosed.

Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____

(+\$2.50 credit card handling fee)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Account No. _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924



**IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

January 2017

The Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter is a publication of the Iowa Genealogical Society. Members receive the newsletter as part of their membership.

Individual members, member chapters, regional representatives and the public are invited to submit articles, reviews, chapter news and program information for publication.

Contact IGS for more information or to submit your article:

Iowa Genealogical Society
628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924
515-276-0287

igs@iowagenealogy.org

**NOTE: Please check
the mailing label for
your membership
expiration date.**