



What's it worth to you?

Kevin Spire , President

How much money do you spend on your genealogy hobby each month? \$10? \$100? More than you're willing to admit? We've all been there before. Spending money on that one website that will give you all the answers you've been looking for. Or requesting yet another land record to see if this might be the ancestor you've been looking for. Maybe you've hired a professional in hopes to break thru that brick wall. Some of those experiences were worth it. Others.... not so much.

My experience has been that it all comes down to your expectations. What was it that you were expecting to get from your purchase? Now, I'm certainly not here to judge you. You can spend your money in any manner that you see fit. But after the payment was made, was it worth it?

Many of us have been at this hobby (some call it an addiction) for a long time. And yet we still get pulled in by some random offer that grabs our attention. The one thing I have read often is that Genealogical Societies and Libraries are underutilized. This last weekend I was teaching a Beginning Genealogy class and one of the participants told me, "I spent a lot of money for my online subscription and didn't find anything for months. But my first 30 minutes with the volunteers at the Iowa Genealogical Society helped me more than I could ever imagine. And at a fraction of the cost for that website." What a great value!

(cont. pg. 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
GPS	3
Executive Director	5
Danish Genealogy Center	6
Items of Interest	7
IGS Class Schedule	8
2017 Spring Conference	9
Membership	10

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

628 E Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50309-1924

Phone: (515) 276-0287

Email:
igs@iowagenealogy.org

Website:
www.iowagenealogy.org

Facebook:
[https://
www.facebook.com/
IowaGenSoc/](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.

IGS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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IGS Newsletter

[Jennifer Ewing](#)

From the President (cont.)

Here's another idea. What about teaching a class? Or volunteering at the library? You would not believe how much more you can learn once you get involved at this level. Researching with others can open up an entire different area of understanding that you may have never considered before. By considering the perspective of another, it can shine a new light on old problems. And you never know, you may even develop a new friendship along the way.

Give some thought to what your expectations are for the money you spend on genealogy. Maximize the value of your membership cost by taking advantage of all that is offered at the Iowa Genealogical Society. And if you want to get involved, let us know. We'd welcome your participation and support.

Cheers,

Kevin

IGS YouTube Channel

IGS has created two YouTube videos.

The first video, talks about what IGS has to offer. If you have not checked out the IGS Library or programs recently, you will want to view this video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WmPWkqVgLU>

We also have a video on Iowa Marriage Records available on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbLwFxWUzE>

RETURNING TO IGS: THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD STUDY COURSE

By Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM

Have you wandered through a genealogical wilderness of dead ends and questionable online resources? Do you have years of undocumented family information and piles of unsourced photocopies with no idea where they came from or what they mean? Has your project plateaued, and are you looking for a way to jump-start the research and take your work to a higher level?

Linda Greethurst and I are pleased to announce the return of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) Course to the IGS summer schedule. Offered in 2014 and 2015, the GPS course is an in-depth study of modern genealogical standards and their application to the research process. If you missed out in the past, or would like a refresher, we invite you to join us for this special course.

What is the GPS?

The GPS is a disciplined research approach that involves basic steps. Working through these steps helps researchers arrive at reliable, well-reasoned conclusions to genealogical questions.

The GPS Course: Learn the Basics

Understand the “reasonably exhaustive search.” Gain critical thinking skills in analyzing sources, information and evidence. Identify and resolve conflicting evidence through comparison and correlation techniques. Learn to concisely and credibly share your conclusions with others.

Participants experience focused instruction on the step-by-step GPS process, hands-on activities, and practical application of concepts to their own research projects. Linda and I are instructors, coaches, and cheerleaders as class members hone their investigative skills and perhaps smash a brick wall or two!

Prerequisites

Attendees should have some genealogical research experience or have completed the IGS “Introduction to Genealogy” class.

The IGS class “Documentation & Source Citation” is a prerequisite for the GPS Course (see schedule). Exceptions: those who have completed the NGS Source Citation course, NGS American Genealogy home study course or Boston University’s Genealogical Research program.

PREREQUISITE & INTRODUCTORY CLASSES

The following classes fulfill the Documentation & Citation prerequisite and provide an overview of the GPS research process and the GPS Course.

27 May 2017 Documentation and Source Citation. 10:30 a.m. Instructor: Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

Prerequisite for the GPS Course. Keeping track of information sources is an important step in the research process, and it’s not as difficult as you might think. Learn the basics for documenting the sources you access and learn why documentation is necessary. Discussion includes the key elements of source documentation, how to construct a standard source citation, and basic, practical examples with step-by-step practice. Open to all. Pre-registration required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/ \$15 non-members.

Introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard. 1:30 p.m. Instructor: Linda Greethurst

Recommended, especially for beginners, but not required for GPS Course participation. Not sure the GPS course is right for you? This introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) looks at the development of modern genealogical standards, their importance for all genealogists, and provides an overview of the step-by-step research process. Discussion includes what to expect in the upcoming GPS Course. *Open to all.* Pre-registration required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$15 non-members.

RETURNING TO IGS: THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD STUDY COURSE

By Alice Hoyt Veen, CGSM (cont.)

THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD (GPS) COURSE

The GPS Course is comprised of two 2-hour classes one day each month June through August 2017. All sessions meet on Saturdays in the West Wing, IGS Library. To get the full benefit of the course, please try to attend all sessions.

24 June 2017 Research Questions, Plans and Logs. 10:30 a.m.

Learn to craft a focused research question, identify relevant sources, and construct a solid research plan. We'll discuss tips and techniques for efficient, effective research and how to track your progress with a well-organized research log.

Conducting a "Reasonably Exhaustive Search." 1:30 p.m.

To meet accepted genealogical standards, research must be as thorough as possible. But how do you know when you've met that standard? When is enough, enough? We'll work together step-by-step through a typical research problem, applying the concepts for a "reasonably exhaustive search."

22 July 2017 Analysis & Correlation: Sources, Information & Evidence. 10:30 a.m.

Healthy skepticism is a valuable attribute in genealogical research. Careful evaluation of sources, information, and evidence leads to reliable answers to family history questions. Discussion includes understanding the concept of sources, information, and evidence; and how to effectively analysis your research findings. We'll explore tools for correlation and put the concepts to work solving a genealogical question.

Resolving Conflicts in Evidence. 1:30 p.m.

Different sources often provide different answers to the same question. If your findings include major inconsistencies or disagreements, it's important to try and resolve these conflicts. We'll discuss strategies for resolving conflicts in evidence and work through a typical "brick wall" problem.

26 August 2017 Writing a "Well Reasoned Conclusion." 10:30 a.m.

You've asked a focused question, conducted a "reasonably exhaustive search," analyzed, correlated and resolved all the evidence. Now share what you know! Content includes simple, effective ways to present source-cited information; and how to present conclusions based on direct, indirect, or resolutions of conflicting evidence. This session includes a hands-on practicum for all participants to hone their writing skills.

Engage! The Joy of Writing. 1:30 p.m.

Your genealogical writing should not only explain your findings but also engage readers in a way they will understand and enjoy. The afternoon session completes the morning practicum with tips and techniques for adding depth and context to enhance your unique family story.

Preregistration for the GPS Course is required. GPS Course tuition: \$35 IGS members/ \$40 non-members. Registration deadline: 19 June 2017.

Registration for the introductory classes and the GPS Course is now open! For more information or to register, contact the IGS office.

Alice Hoyt Veen, Certified Genealogist (SM), is the founder of [Prairie Roots Research](#), providing professional genealogical and historical research services to clients who seek superior research solutions. She specializes in solving

Busting that Brick Wall

By Jennifer Ewing, Executive Director

I don't believe that anyone that has done family history research has been able to march several generations back without struggling to find an elusive ancestor. Running into that brick wall can be discouraging, frustrating and sometimes soul crushing.

So, how do you break through that brick wall? If you are early in your research, sometimes learning about other resources and techniques is helpful. If you have never taken our Beginning Genealogy class, it is a great place to start. If you have been researching your family history for a long time, we offer many learning opportunities throughout the year. Attending a conference can be a great way to improve your skills and find other ways of approaching a problem.

Getting a second opinion on your problem is a great way to break through that brick wall. First and foremost, our volunteers and staff are exceptionally knowledgeable and willing to help. Just come in to the library and we have people available to help you. Another option, if you are trying to search across the pond, a special interest group can be very helpful and lots of fun. It is a great way to network with people with like interests.

Many of us have turned to DNA to find those lost ancestors. But DNA is not so straightforward as receiving your results and those lost souls suddenly appearing with all the answers. To help you understand how DNA works and how to use the results to further your research, IGS is offering two DNA Special Interest Group. One meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month and the other meets at 6:30 p.m. on the same Tuesday. The sessions cover the same information, just offered at different times. Personally, using DNA, I actually was able to find the maiden name of my third great grandmother who died in 1863 in upstate New York. Granted, the name is "Jones" but I have the maiden name. Others have had great success connecting with distant cousins that might have that tidbit that helped them break through.

Recognizing the struggles we all face, IGS has started a new program for members only, "Brick Wall Busters". If you are a member, you can sit down with one of our brick wall busters for 30 minutes of dedicated time. The next session will be Sunday, May 21. You must register in advance by contacting Jennifer Ewing at execdir@iowagenealogy.org and you must submit your question in writing at least 2 weeks in advance.

Breaking through a brick wall requires patience, time, knowledge, networking, tenacity and sometimes a bit of luck. Just be sure to use all of the assistance that is available to you.

Do you have some suggestions or ideas that you'd like to share? If so, we'd like to hear from you. What would you like to see offered on our website? What is working well, or what would you like to see improved? Please submit your ideas or suggestions to: president@iowagenealogy.org.

Resources at the Genealogy Center

4210 Main Street, Elk Horn, Iowa

Submitted by Kara McKeever, Manager of the Genealogy Center



At the Museum of Danish America Genealogy Center, we help people learn more about their Danish roots, either in person at the Center or via mailed requests. Our library is a rich trove of Danish-American narratives and family connections, as well as Danish and Danish-American culture and history. Our collection is always growing and includes:

- Files on thousands of Danish immigrants
- Over 800 family histories, biographies, and memoirs of Danish immigrants
- Directories, church records, cemetery records, local history books, etc. for the counties of Shelby, Audubon, Cass, and Pottawattamie, as well as many other counties in Iowa and around the country, primarily in areas where Danes settled
- The Elk Horn-Kimballton Review, 1928-2007, with obituaries indexed, as well as obituaries from other local papers
- Danish-American obituary collection, a nation-wide collection
- Danish-American church registers and indexes
- Danish Brotherhood in America membership records on microfilm
- A book collection on a wide variety of topics relevant to Denmark, Danish-America, and immigration
- Current and back issues of Danish-American newspapers and genealogical publications
- Emibas™ Swedish emigration database
- Danish maps, gazetteers, and local histories

Our library has computer workstations for patrons with access to in-house database files as well as several paid subscription databases, including Ancestry LibraryEdition™, NewspaperArchive™, Newspapers.com™, HeritageQuest Online™, Fold3™, and ProQuest Obits™.

Members of the Museum of Danish America may use our library for free; for non-members, a fee of \$5/hour goes to helping care for our collection, equipment, and subscription databases. To work in-depth with an experienced researcher, we charge \$10/hour for members and \$20/hour for non-members.

Research requests done remotely are \$30/hour for members, and \$40/hour for non-members, with a minimum of two hours per request. We also provide translation services for the same hourly fee. More details at www.danishmuseum.org/explore/genealogy, or call 712-764-7008 or email genealogy@danishmuseum.org



museum of
danish america
GENEALOGY CENTER



Open Sundays will resume on Sunday, April 9th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will continue to offer Open Sundays on the third Sunday of each month from May to September and then will be open the Sunday after the Spring Conference and the Fall Conference. The remaining dates for 2017 will be May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 and Oct. 22.

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.

Open Sundays for Members Only.

April 9, 2017

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IGS CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday March 18, 2017

Beginning Irish Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Saturday April 15, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Donna Anderson

Wednesday April 19, 2017

FamilySearch Wiki Lunch & Learn

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Jennifer Ewing

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

Saturday April 22, 2017

Czech Research

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Tasha & Curt Jackson

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

Preparing to Go to a Cemetery - While You are Still Alive!

1:30 am - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Linda Greethurst

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

Wednesday May 17, 2017

Heritage Quest Lunch & Learn

noon - 1:00 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

Saturday May 27, 2017

Documentation and Source Citation

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor - Alice Hoyt Veen, CG

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

Intro to the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Linda Greethurst

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

Saturday June 10, 2017

Beginning Genealogy

10:30 am - 12:30 pm FREE

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

Sanborn Maps

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Instructor - Theresa Liewer

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

All programs are held at IGS, 628 E Grand Ave, Des Moines IA 50309-1924. 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 50309-1924

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**

March 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.**