



# The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

c/o John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi)

## NEWSLETTER

July 2008

***No Meeting - July & August***

***Next Meeting - 14 September 2008***

**Juli Claussen** of **Search & Genealogy Services** will discuss the more interesting family history and family search projects she's been involved with since her last visit to GSSI, including:

- Here today, gone tomorrow---the slave children who sued their masters
- The man with no family
- Search for connection to a famous ball player strikes out, but we hit a homerun regardless
- Great-grandpa was Al Capone's pal, Chicago bookie
- Survey of pre-1820 Miller's in Monroe & St. Clair Counties
- The wrong William Stephens---75 years of NSDAR memberships upset
- Goal: Find Dad's second family Result: A big surprise
- Genealogy as comedy---the IRAD funny file

***Next - Fall Conference & Book Fair***

"Ancestors on the Move" is the theme for the **Fall Conference & Book Fair** to be held Saturday, October 11, 2008, at the Ray Hancock Conference Center, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL. **Patricia Walls Stamm** will speak on "They Served Our Country", "The Face of the River", "Iron Rails across America", "Probate - One of Death's Many Faces". The Book Fair and Registration at the door begin at 8:00 a.m. Conference sessions start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$30.00 if received by October 4, 2008, after October 4 and at the door will be \$35.00. Lunch is optional, \$9.00, but must be purchased in advance. Registration for the Conference is not necessary to attend the Book Fair, but is required for all other activities.

Library Collection will be open from Noon to 4:30 PM on Sunday, 14 September 2008  
The G.S.S.I. Library Collection is available during the week, when the College Library is open.  
Executive Board Meeting - 1:00 PM      General Meeting - 2:30 PM  
G.S.S.I. meetings are free and open to the public

## **President's Letter**

*by Jeanette O'Boyle, yoricat@aol.com*

I'll keep this short this month. We had an outstanding Workshop! **Joy Upton** did a great job. I learned a lot and can hardly wait to get back to Brehm Library to try the new techniques.

There are no summer meetings. Next meeting will be **September 14** when **Juli Claussen** will return with more of her fascinating stories. **October 11** will be our **Fall Conference and Book Fair** with **Patricia Walls Stamm** as speaker. The next Newsletter, August – September, will be combined into a double issue.

Have a great summer vacation.

## **Common Genealogy Conference Misconceptions**

Many people have never considered going to a genealogy conference because they mistakenly believe that they aren't intended for 'everyday' genealogists or because they don't think they are worth the monetary investment. Here are some of the most popular misconceptions and an explanation of why they really aren't true:

### ***“Genealogy Conferences Are Only for Professionals”***

Contrary to popular belief, most genealogy conferences include lectures and events geared from the beginning hobbyist to the advanced professional, and everyone in between. Plus, even those of us who have been researching for years have areas in which we are novices.

### ***“Genealogy Conferences Are Too Expensive”***

While it is true that most conferences require registration fees, I consider it to be money extremely well spent. You will find that the information, new ideas and research strategies, and great friendships that you bring home with you are worth every penny of those fees, and then some. If you plan to attend a genealogy conference away from your hometown, then try contacting local genealogical societies in your area to see if they can connect you with others who also plan to attend. Travel and hotel expenses can be minimized by sharing them with others.

### ***“Genealogy Conferences Are All Too Far Away”***

While the national and international genealogy conferences will often necessitate travel, there are also hundreds of local and regional conferences, seminars, and workshops held each year. Contact your local genealogical society to see if they know of one planned near you! Genealogy conferences really aren't as scary as they may seem. The people are very friendly, there is nowhere else that you can find as many genealogy books and products in one location, and the educational opportunities just can't be beat! If you have never before attended a genealogy conference, then make it your goal to do so this year. Check out the links on the following page to find some opportunities near you!

*From an article by Kimberly Powell for “About.com”. To read the complete article visit <http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa060900a.htm>*

## ***Last Meeting*** *by Dr. Dorothy Rudoni*

Initially the title “Libraries Are Scary Places” seemed to be a misnomer.

Eager GSSI board members appeared light hearted as they set up shop for the organization’s Free Workshop at Brehm Library in Mt. Vernon Saturday, June 14. Well over fifty attendees happily picked up an impressive packet of printed handouts and relaxed with small talk and coffee “plus” prior to the opening presentation at 10:30 a.m. A lavish spread of mid morning goodies provided by the Jefferson County Genealogical Society, co-host of the event, constituted the “plus”.

After **Ester Curry**, Assistant Director of **Brehm Library**, and **Joan Nelson**, President of the **Jefferson County Genealogical Society**, welcomed the GSSI and participants to Mount Vernon and Brehm Library, **Sharon Gaddis**, GSSI Vice President, introduced **Joy Whitson Upton**, principal Workshop speaker.

Ms. Upton, retired Collinsville High School Librarian and currently GSSI Librarian and board member, in a charming and lively fashion, revealed why “Libraries Are Scary Places.” Not only because as her subtitle stated “You might uncover a family secret!” but, also, because the immense amount of resource information available at and through a library can be downright “scary.” Clearly any researcher’s necessary friend is the librarian and a local library membership is an important and useful research tool.

**Joy Upton** utilized an overhead projector and lively commentary to take listeners on a virtual tour of the special world of libraries. She opened by introducing the GSSI web page and the John A. Logan College web site with links to the JALC Library. The Library features helpful links to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, the GSSI, Google Scholar, I-Share, and the Shawnee Library System. That library catalogues may be accessed on line is signal information for today’s researcher in any field.

To guide listeners through what could be a maze of library resources, Joy used examples of researching her family line, Moore. In so doing, she imparted a wealth of general information about library collections and systems including the **Dewey Decimal System**. Her explanation of Dewey System call numbers was particularly meaningful. “General information about Illinois is found in 977.3. Knowing the Dewey Decimal number for a county or a series of counties within a state makes it easier for a researcher to browse the shelves. A list of Illinois counties with their Dewey Decimal number was included in the handout.

In addition to the JALC Library where the GSSI Genealogical Collection is housed, Joy discussed resources available at the Lincoln Presidential Library, the CE Brehm Library Online, the Library of Congress, the DAR Library in Washington DC and the St. Louis County Library which houses collections of the St. Louis Genealogical Society and the National Genealogical Society. She also touched on special aids for research such as Cyndi’s List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet and WORLDCAT for Genealogy (OCLC).

This avid listener and “note taker” during Joy Upton’s presentation was so impressed with the depth of her knowledge I decided henceforth my icon for Librarian would not be “Marion, the librarian of Music Man” but Joy Upton. As for Libraries being “scary places,” they are in one sense. They both house and lead the way via interlibrary loan and Internet to an overwhelming universe of information. But a truly frightening proposition would be not to know and access that universe of the mind.

Following a break for lunch at various Mount Vernon hospitality sites (from a near by Dairy Queen to downtown restaurants), Workshop participants reassembled with follow-up questions on the morning’s

## ***Last Meeting continued***

program. They then consulted with special resource persons assembled for the Workshop and used Brehm's genealogical collection for personal research. The Library staff graciously assisted in the latter undertakings.

Of special interest to Workshop participants was the DAR Genealogical Collection housed along and near the back wall of the reference section. **Rose Mary Orr** was delighted to find photographs of DAR ladies in early 20th century Edwardian dress in volumes of DAR Proceedings of State Conferences. Member of a committee planning the centennial anniversary of the **DAR's dedication** of the **George Rogers Clark** monument at Fort Massac State Park, Rose Mary needed authentic details on what ladies wore at the time. Others took advantage of the opportunity to search for patriot ancestors or explore Illinois DAR history. Special resource persons assisting the Workshop included, **Mike Brush, Sara Caddell, Martha Emling, Emily Lyons, Jeanette O'Boyle, Ed O'Day**, Treasurer **Joyce Siason** efficiently manned the registration table while **Inge Rader** and other board members helped "stuff packets." The material which included a guide for **Joy Upton's** presentation was well received. **Sharon Gaddis** was responsible for planning the workshop program.

GSSI President **Jeanette O'Boyle** wishes to thank every contributor and participant. All involved with the Workshop join Jeanette in thanking **Joan Nelson, Shirley Payne, and Fran Scott** of the **Jefferson County Genealogical Society** for their outstanding hospitality. And GSSI wishes to extend special thanks to the Brehm Library for hosting the Workshop. The **Brehm Library** is wonderful place to do research and learn. Many Workshop participants plan to return.

## ***New Book Available***

### ***"Williamson County, Illinois Birth Records 1877-1878-1879" Volume I***

**By: Mary Jo Moore**

This new book contains **900 individual birth records** that were recorded in **Williamson County, Illinois** during the years **1877, 1878 and 1879**. Information found in these records include:

**Name** – Sex – **Birth Date** – Place of Birth of the Child  
**Name** – **Place of Birth** – **Age** – Residence – **Nationality** of both **parents**  
**Mother's Maiden Name** – **Father's Occupation**  
**Number of Children** Born to the Mother  
**Name of Physician** or **Person** that attended the **Birth**

**8 ½ x 11 – Soft Cover – 225 pages – 16 page index**

**Cost: \$30.00 (Includes Postage)**

**Order from:**

**Mary Jo Moore  
105 Cassie Circle  
West Paducah, Kentucky 42086**

# Union County, Illinois Marriage Records 1893-1900

Transcribed by  
Darrel Dexter

Union County, Illinois, marriage records covering the years 1893 through 1900 will be published by The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois as the fourth book in a series of Union County marriage records.

The transcription includes the name of the groom, the name of the bride, the date of the marriage, the name of the person officiating, and the book and page number where the marriage was recorded. From the original marriage licenses was also transcribed the ages of the bride and groom, their residences, their places of birth, the names of their parents (including the mother's maiden name), and the number of their previous marriages (if any). Included also is the occupation of the groom, the place of marriage, and the names of the witnesses.

The hardcover book is over 397 pages and contains an every-name index. The book will be available by the end of June 2008.

Please make your check payable to: **Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois**

Mail to: GSSI Publications, c/o John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL, 62918-2500

## *Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois*

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi)

### *UNION COUNTY, ILLINOIS MARRIAGES*

Please send _____	copies of 1893 – 1900	397 pages	hard cover @ \$50.00	\$ _____
Please send _____	copies of 1886 – 1892	325 pages	hard cover @ \$40.00	\$ _____
Please send _____	copies of 1869 – 1885	300 pages	hard cover @ \$35.00	\$ _____
Please send _____	copies of 1818 – 1868	180 pages	hard cover @ \$35.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>				\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Items of Interest***

### ***“Researching Famous (or Infamous) Ancestors, Black Sheep & Scoundrels in the Family tree”***

By **Kimberly Powell**, About.com

**Am I related to someone famous?** This is one of the questions that often first sparks a person's interest in genealogy. Maybe you've heard that you're descended from **Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln** or **Pocahontas**. Or perhaps you suspect a family connection (however distant) to **Princess Diana, Shirley Temple**, or **Marilyn Monroe**. Maybe you even share a surname with someone famous, and wonder if you're somehow related.

If you suspect a "famous" individual or two in your family tree, begin by not jumping to conclusions. Research the line that supposedly connects to that individual just as you would any other. Whether you're directly descended or a tenth cousin, twice removed, you'll likely have to research your own family back several generations before attempting to connect to the famous person. Distant cousin relationships often require following the family tree to a point several generations prior to the time of the famous individual, and then tracing your way back down various side branches.

In addition to working on your own family history, you should also explore the information that exists for the famous individual you think you are related to. If they are pretty famous, chances are that their family history has already been researched by someone. If not, it's likely that their biography or other resources are available to get you started in the right direction.

**Biographies** of thousands of famous individuals can be easily found online. [Biography.com](#)<sup>1</sup> includes short biographies of over 25,000 famous people, ranging from actors and actresses to political leaders and historical figures. [Infoplease.com](#)<sup>2</sup> features 30,000 notable people. Biographical information for actors, actresses and other individuals associated with the movie can be found at [E! Online](#)<sup>3</sup> and [The Internet Movie Database](#)<sup>4</sup>. Biographies of notable women are a prominent feature at [About Women's History](#)<sup>5</sup>.

Popular **cemetery Web sites** showcase dates and pictures of celebrity tombstones. [Find a Grave](#)<sup>6</sup> includes transcribed gravestone information (and sometimes pictures) for thousands of famous and infamous individuals, while Hollywood Underground gives the scoop on the final resting places of famous people buried in and around Los Angeles. A similar site, [Political Graveyard](#)<sup>7</sup>, tells you where all the dead politicians are buried. If your famous ancestor was in the military, then many [military cemeteries and memorials](#)<sup>8</sup> have information online.

If the person is pretty famous, their family tree may have already been researched. **Famous lineages** can often be found online (see [famous family trees](#)<sup>9</sup>), or in published biographies or family histories. [Heritage and lineage society](#)<sup>10</sup> publications and membership applications are another rich source of lineages for famous individuals.

**Newspaper accounts** of a famous individual, especially those written during his (or her) lifetime, may detail his participation in historical events or include accounts of his daily life. Marriages, obituaries, and other newsworthy items found in [historical newspapers](#)<sup>11</sup> may also provide information on family members.

## ***Items of Interest continued***

notorious gun fighter, convict, pirate, madam, famous outlaw or other "colorful" character hanging from your family tree. This hidden past often presents some unusual opportunities for uncovering more details. In addition to the resources listed on the [previous page](#)<sup>12</sup> for finding famous ancestors, [court records](#)<sup>13</sup> are an excellent source for learning about everything from houses of "ill repute" to bootleggers. Criminal and prison records are also worth a look. The [Federal Bureau of Prisons](#)<sup>14</sup> maintains a database of former inmates (records prior to 1982 can only be accessed by mail). Many of the early American settlers from England were originally transported to the colonies as convicts - over 25,000 can be found listed in Peter Wilson Coldham's "The King's Passengers to Maryland and Virginia." Court TV's [The Crime Library](#)<sup>15</sup> includes biographies and stories of hundreds of notorious gangsters, outlaws, terrorists, spies, and murderers. Famous pirates and pirate ships can be researched at the [Salacious Historian](#)<sup>16</sup>. The [Associated Daughters of American Witches](#)<sup>17</sup> searches for and preserves the names of those accused of witchery in Colonial America. On the Web site of the [International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists](#)<sup>18</sup>, you can read about other's family connections to scandalous black sheep and find help for researching your own. More links for tracking down the black sheep in your family can be found at [Black Sheep Ancestors](#)<sup>19</sup>.

*To view this page in its original form, please visit*

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/famous\\_family\\_trees/a/ancestors\\_2.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/famous_family_trees/a/ancestors_2.htm)

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### **Links in this article:**

1. <http://www.biography.com/>
2. <http://www.infoplease.com/people.html>
3. <http://www.eonline.com/>
4. <http://www.imdb.com/>
5. [http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_list.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_list.htm)
6. <http://www.findagrave.com/>
7. <http://politicalgraveyard.com/>
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13. [http://genealogy.about.com/od/court\\_records/](http://genealogy.about.com/od/court_records/)
14. <http://www.bop.gov/iloc2/LocateInmate.jsp>
15. [http://www.crimelibrary.com/gangsters\\_outlaws/](http://www.crimelibrary.com/gangsters_outlaws/)
16. <http://www.kipar.org/piratical-resources/pirate-fame.html>
17. <http://www.adeaw.us/>
18. <http://ibssg.org/blacksheep/>
19. [http://genealogy.about.com/od/black\\_sheep/](http://genealogy.about.com/od/black_sheep/)

### ***“Aprons through the Ages”***

Marie Samuel's display of "*Aprons Through the Ages*" will be in all the display cases in John A. Logan College including the Ray Hancock Conference Centers (except the cases east of the library). The west display area and front of the college cases all should be filled. The leather blacksmith apron is a treasure. The show is available to view anytime the college is open through July 27.