



The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

do John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi>

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2009

No Meeting in August 2009

Next Meeting — Sunday, 13 September 2009

Ed Annable

"Pioneers of the West Eden Community"

As the result of the horrific storm of 8 May 2009, Mr. Annable was unable to deliver his presentation. GSSI is pleased that he will be able to join us on Sunday, 13 September 2009. He will share with the gathering information on some of the true pioneers and earliest permanent settlers of the Cache River Basin. Don't miss his power point presentation which is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. in the John A. Logan College Library.

2009 Fall Conference and Book Fair

The Annual GSSI Fall Conference and Book Fair is scheduled for Saturday, 17 October 2009 in the Ray Hancock Conference Center at John A. Logan College, Carterville, Illinois. Important information and the registration form are included in this issue of the Newsletter. See middle section.

The Library Collection will be open from Noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, 13 September 2009.

The GSSI Library Collection is available during the week when the College Library is open.

Executive Board Meeting — 1:00 p.m. General Meeting - 2:30 p.m.

GSSI General Meetings are free and open to the public.

Membership in the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois is not required to attend meetings.

Announcement of meetings cancelled due to bad weather will be made on local So. IL radio stations.

President's Message

By Mike Brush

The Spring Conference, entitled *DNA and Genealogy*, was held on 13 June at the Metropolis Public Library. The registration data indicates that upwards of 40 attendees were present. It was a near perfect sized gathering for the meeting space in the lower level of the library. The majority of those attending were from the local area of GSSI, but it was interesting to note that there were people from as far away as Chicago, Champaign, St. Louis and one member of GSSI came all the way from Tennessee. There was some concern about attendance when it was discovered that Metropolis was celebrating the famous Superman Festival on that same weekend. But there did not appear to be any negative impact on the traffic or parking around the library. Attendees were able to mingle with the Superman fans at lunch in local eateries and it was hoped that some would stay in town afterwards and partake in some of the nighttime festival activities. I certainly want to thank our Spring Conference Chair, Virginia Street, for her time and effort in coordinating the conference, speakers and publicity. The panel of experts included Ken Cochran, Colleen Norman and Pete Piotrowski and they all gave very informative presentations which were well received by the audience. A special word of thanks is extended to our host, Brenda Mizell, who had the meeting room prepared and even provided morning coffee for those of us who needed an early morning eye opening boost.

I have recently experienced a breakthrough on one of my "brick walls" which has been a source of frustration for several years. And what is most satisfying about this discovery is that it involves the surname **SMITH** which I usually avoid at all costs. Let me share my epiphany with you. There were two Holloman sisters from Union County in the first decade of the 1900's who married two Smith brothers from Nebraska. I had been unsuccessful in tracking where these families lived in the land of the Cornhuskers. I just knew that there were two sisters named Pearl and Mabel who were married to two Smith brothers named William and Fred. Obituaries of the girls' siblings indicated that they lived in Douglas, NE. Unable to locate a town by that name in Nebraska, I incorrectly assumed that they lived in Douglas County which is in the immediate vicinity of Omaha. Trying to match the names in Omaha was leading nowhere. Census records and cemetery records were unproductive. At some point I came to the realization that there was a very small village in Otoe County by the name of Douglas. It was located about an hour south of Omaha. Armed with this piece of information, I went to the census data and used some search criteria which allowed me to search by using the mother's place of birth. Knowing that Pearl and Mabel's mother was born in Wisconsin and the father was born in Southern Illinois, I plugged in those criteria and was rewarded with census readings that placed the families on adjacent farms in the township of Otoe County which contains the village of Douglas. Moreover, the cemetery readings for Otoe County revealed that both families were buried in the same cemetery in adjacent lots near the village of Douglas. Immediately I contacted a Nebraska lookup volunteer who promptly sent me copies of the obituaries of the two sisters. The obits were very meaty as they tend to be in small rural communities. The mystery of the two Holloman/Smith sisters was finally solved. Whereas the siblings and parents are buried at the Cobden Cemetery in Union County, Illinois, the two sisters Pearl and Mable Smith are resting in far off Douglas, Otoe County, Nebraska. I learned a couple of valuable lessons in this search. First is to double check locations and be skeptical when unable to find a town or village on an atlas index. Second is to use search criteria such as the parent's place of birth more frequently when confronted with these problematic surnames.

As we embark on the second half of the GSSI year, the annual Fall Conference and Book Fair becomes the main focus of our efforts. Our Fall Conference Chair, Rick Allen, and our 2nd Vice President Virginia Street have been working long hours to pull all the loose ends together on this giant task. This issue of the newsletter contains detailed information on the conference which promises to be a very stimulating event. Please take the time to mark your calendars, fill out the registration forms and spread the word to your friends and acquaintances. Your support and attendance at these Society events are truly valued and appreciated. Happy Hunting!

Summertime Freebie at Willard Library

The Special Collections Department at the Willard Library in Evansville, IN has scheduled an all day event that is bound to please those of us who are looking for an obscure source of genealogical information. The event is entitled *Tree Roots: Using Obscure Genealogical Sources* and will be held on Saturday, 22 August 2009 on the 2' floor of the library from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on site at 21 First Avenue in Evansville, IN 47711.

The featured speaker will be Ron Darrah, an experienced Indiana genealogist who has spent 20 years researching various surnames in his family. His presentations will include:

**Dying to Help Out: Probate Records for Genealogists*

**School Days: A Great Records Source*

**Special Census Schedules: Going Beyond the General Population Rolls*

**Show Me the Money: Work, Jobs and Our Ancestors*

Lunch will be available by reservation or attendees can walk or drive to nearby Evansville eateries. For reservations, either call 812.425.4309 or email lmartin@willard.lib.in.us for further information. Registration can be done online at www.willard.lib.in.us, Calendar of events.

Evansville is a short drive from the GSSI area and offers a wide variety of activities and attractions. Visiting and touring the Willard Library is worth the trip in itself. Mark your calendars for this one.

Item of Interest

Canada Census

For those of us who have ancestors who may have lived in Canada during the second half of the 19th century, exciting news has greatly enhanced our ability to track those ancestors via census records. Online indexes to the 1851, 1861 and 1871 Canada Census are now available. In the index, one can expect to identify heads of households, their family members, and any lodgers at the time. Street addresses can also be captured as well as ages, occupations and other valuable information. To learn more about this promising development, see: <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazrr/gazrr182.htm>.

Mailing Problem — An Apology

An error in the program which prints mailing labels for GSSI Newsletters and Saga envelopes has caused a few members to miss some recent issues. We have corrected the error and replaced the missing issues for those members we know were affected. All current members should be receiving this combined July-August issue.

If any other member failed to receive one of the previous six Newsletters for 2009 or either of the two Saga issues already published this year, please notify us. Write to our Carterville address, send an E-mail to us at ilgssi@earthlink.net or call (618) 457-4002 and your missing publication will be on its way to you within days. Please accept our apology for this lapse on our part.

Attending A National Genealogical Conference

Submitted by Rick Allen

To a kid, I guess it would be Disneyworld. To a football fan, it would probably be the Super Bowl. So what would be the ultimate dream vacation for an addicted genealogist?

I'd probably have to say 1st choice would be a week or longer at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. But my 2nd choice would definitely be attending a national genealogical conference.

In May, I had the privilege of attending the National Genealogical Society conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. While not my first conference, it was one of the best!

This was not just any conference — there were nationally known speakers like Elizabeth Shown Mills and Helen F. M. Leary, probably two of the most well-known source methodology experts in the U.S. On Tuesday, there were many pre-conference tours and research trips to enjoy. I decided to spend the day at the University of North Carolina's Wilson Library at Chapel Hill. Wonderful collection and the staff were very helpful. I didn't find my John Allen but I found some that weren't him and that's just as helpful.

Four days in Raleigh were filled from morning to late night with lectures and workshops on topics from land records to problem-solving to DNA. Some of my favorites were: Scots-Irish Settlers in America and Okay, I Got the Neighbors, Now What Do I Do with Them?

On Thursday evening, Ancestry offered a free dessert reception and spoke of what is new and upcoming on their website. Other lectures throughout the conference gave us a little glimpse of what a genealogist can expect in five to ten years (I can't wait!). On Friday evening's banquet, Mark Lowe gave a very entertaining and much-deserved tribute to honor Helen F.M. Leary of North Carolina.

One of my favorite parts of a national conference is getting to browse the exhibit hall and check out all the new publications and software. Let me just say that my luggage was a little heavier on the return trip than it was when I left home.

I wanted to squeeze in a little research time at the nearby North Carolina State Archives but couldn't tear myself away long enough.

If you've not been to a national conference, there is one September 3 — 6 in Little Rock by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. If you miss that one, try the National Genealogical Society one from April 28 — May 1, 2010 in Salt Lake City, UT.

A Little Humor

Mark Twain once remarked

"Why waste your money looking up your family tree?
Just go into politics and your opponents will do it for you!"

Introducing

The GSSI Speakers Bureau

In an attempt to increase the public awareness of the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois and promote membership and participation in the Society, the Board of Directors has taken steps to create a mechanism by which members of the Society volunteer to step forward and speak about topics about which they have some degree of expertise. This is the beginning of a program which will hopefully grow in the future as groups and organizations in the greater community within Southern Illinois become aware of the treasure trove of knowledge and talent that exists within the Society. Local historical and genealogical societies as well as social, civic and fraternal organizations could benefit from the availability of GSSI speakers and the Society itself could benefit from potential memberships.

Although the bureau is starting with members of the board, it is hoped that participation in the program will expand to include others from the GSSI membership who would be willing to speak in their own local communities. This is an outreach to the greater community and no honoraria are sought but would be accepted in the name of the Society. Individual speakers can arrange details of mileage or other expenses incurred on a case by case basis if warranted.

The following list of speakers and topics is presented here in the newsletter and will be available on the GSSI website as well. Updates to the list can be made at any time and will be published in both formats. Speakers can be contacted via email addresses which will be included both here and on the website.

Speakers/Topics

Mike Brush

mrbrush@midwest.net

Genealogical Research in Jackson County, Illinois

Ken Cochran

jchs@verizon.net

Why we are who we are: Ethnic Background

Jackson County History

Introduction to Genealogy

Brick Walls

DNA Genealogy

Joyce Dinnis

jedinn@verizon.net

Illinois Regional Archives Depository

Jeanette O'Boyle

yoricat@aol.com

Dowsing

Research for Lineage Societies

Speakers Bureau Continued

Speakers/Topics

Edward J. O'Day

edoday@siu.edu

General Topics

Pathways to Illinois (Beginner)

Canals and Railroads and their Records (Intermediate)

Effective Use of City Directories for Tracing Families (Advanced)

Immigrant Genealogy

Immigrant Records: Ships, Emigration Rolls and Passenger Arrival Lists (Beginner)

Naturalization Law and Naturalization Records (Intermediate to Advanced)

Chain Migration and Family Dispersal: Special Problems of Immigrant Ancestry (Advanced)

German-American Genealogy (Beginner)

Irish and Irish American Genealogy

Emigration Patterns as Clues to Irish Ancestral Research (Beginner)

Family Research in Irish Sources (Beginner)

Irish Research: Census, Church and Vital Records (Intermediate)

Irish Research: Using Tithe, Tax, Land and Estate Records (Advanced)

Internet Genealogy

Genealogy on the Web: What's There, What's Not (Beginner)

Rootsweb, GenWeb, WebConnect and other Volunteer Websites (Beginner to Intermediate)

Maximizing your Rewards and avoiding Pitfalls on Pay Genealogy Sites (Intermediate)

Inge Rader

ingerader@yahoo.com

Interpreting German Script

Dorothy Rudoni

rudoni@verizon.net

Thomas Jefferson and Sally Henning: The Consequences

Mary Russell Muchmore

mrdaril@aol.com

White House Weddings

Joy Upton

joyfulup@comcast.net

Library Resources in Genealogical Research

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois invites you to step forward and add your name to the list.

You can expand this menu of topics and further the public awareness of the Society.

Won't you please consider participation in this new initiative?

Thank you.

Member Queries

Wilma Jo Schnare 2941 Westborough Dr. St. Charles, MO 63301-4548 (636-947-1762)
wschnare@att.net

(NB... This query is repeated from last month with an updated and correct email address.)

Query: Would like to correspond with descendants of James "Wilson" Butts b. ca 1788 NC d. 1871, and Lucinda Huff 1853 Union Co. His parents may have been Jesse and Rhoda Butts. Francis Marion Butts, son of Wilson and Lucinda is my great-grandfather.

Cheryl Pagan 733 Midway Road Makanda, IL 62958 (618-549-3966) ckpagan@gmail.com

Query: Desire information on Saline County families Gulley, Dunning and Stricklin; Johnson County families Choate, Hewitt and Colboth; and Williamson County families Bozarth and Simmons.

Reprint of Darrel Dexter's Union County Probates Available

UNION COUNTY ILLINOIS PROBATE RECORDS 1818-1855 by Darrel Dexter, first published by GSSI in 1996 and long out of print, has been reprinted. **The hardbound reprint** is now available for \$40.

Dexter's eight page introduction in PROBATE 1818-1855 explains the records and the process of administering and settling estates. The following 221 pages of transcripts provide names of persons involved with each estate including administrators, creditors, purchasers and heirs. An 82 page INDEX completes the meticulous work.

A second volume, UNION COUNTY ILLINOIS PROBATE RECORDS 1856-1868, still in inventory, sells for \$38. For a limited time, both books (Probate 1818-1855 and 1856-1868) may be purchased for \$75. Please use the coupon below for orders.

GSSI Publications: Please send _____ copy (copies) of Darrel Dexter's UNION COUNTY PROBATE RECORDS 1818-1855 @ \$40 _____ or both the 1818-1855 and the 1856-1868 books at \$75. Circle your choice.

Prices include postpaid delivery to GSSI members. Orders from non-members should add \$5.00 postage and handling for one book or \$7.50 for two books. (Enclose check and mail to GSSI c/o John A. Logan College 700 Logan College Road Carterville, IL 62918-2500)

Your Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State and Zip + 4 _____

Telephone # _____ e-mail address _____

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Carterville, IL 62918-2500

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DATE MAILED: 17 July 2009



MEMBERSHIPS

All memberships are for the calendar year
(Jan 1 – Dec 31).

2009 Dues

Household -- \$25

Sustaining -- \$35

Supporting — \$50 or More

Please add \$10 for mailing outside the U.S.

Make checks payable to:

**Genealogy Society of Southern
Illinois**

Mail to: **GSSI**

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

Please enclose a SASE with
correspondence requiring a reply.

SAGA OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Published quarterly.

Submissions of items of interest in the
southern 28 counties are welcome.

**SAGA Editor
c/o John A. Logan
700 Logan College Drive
Carterville, IL 62918 -2500**

MEETINGS

GSSI meetings are held on the second
Sunday of the month in the Library of John
A. Logan College. Route 13 & Greenbriar
Road, Carterville, IL beginning at 2:30 PM.

**There are no meetings in July and
August.** The all-day Fall Conference and
Book Fair are held on a Saturday in
October. Please check the *Newsletter* for
specific details of meetings.

The Genealogy section of the John A.
Logan College Library is open for research
on meeting days from noon to 4:30 PM.

GSSI Executive Board Meetings are held at
1 PM on meeting days.

NEWSLETTER

Published monthly.

Queries may be submitted at no charge.
Please send notices of family reunions, new
book publications, items of interest to:

**GSSI
c/o John A. Logan
700 Logan College Drive
Carterville, IL 62918-2500**

GSSI MEETINGS

(Second Sunday each month except
June, July, August, & October)

**July/August 2009
No Meetings**

**Sunday
13 September 2009
Ed Annable
"Pioneers of the West
Eden Community"**

**Saturday
17 October 2009
GSSI Annual
Fall Conference
And Book Fair
Featuring
Michael Neill
"New Ways to Solve
The Family History
Mystery"**