



The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

do John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, R. 62918-2500
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi>

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Next Meeting — Sunday, 8 November 2009

Martha Schwegman

"Brigham Young's first wife"

Our speaker for this month will be Martha Schwegman of Metropolis, IL. A native of Union County, Martha attended SIU in Carbondale where she received a degree in education. She has taught elementary education, the visually impaired, the hearing impaired and special education. She is married to John Schwegman and they have two sons, John Andrew and Christopher. Together Margaret and John live in Massac County and she assists her husband with his conservation work.

The subject of Martha's presentation will be **Mary Ann Angell, Brigham Young's first wife**. Martha will describe her life. GSSI welcomes Martha and is very pleased to have her address the gathering at the JALC library beginning at 2:30 p.m.

**A special word of thanks is extended to all of you
who contributed in any way to the success of the Fall Conference and Book Fair.
Whether you were an attendee, a vendor, a worker or a booster,
the part you played is truly appreciated.
Thank you!**

**The Library Collection will be open from Noon to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, 8 November 2009.
The GSSI Library Collection is available during the week ONLY 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 Southern Illinois
radio stations.**

President's Message

By Mike Brush

It is so gratifying to examine the registration roster for the 2009 GSSI Fall Conference and take note of the wide geographic distribution of attendees. Not only does one observe representative attendance from the local and regional area but also from remote areas of Illinois and distant states. Northern Illinois is represented as well as Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. This speaks well not only of our featured speaker, Michael John Neill, but also of GSSI itself. The long hours of preparation spent by Rick Allen and Virginia Street have brought credit to themselves as well as the Society. My hat is off to them both and to all who played a part in making the conference a big success.

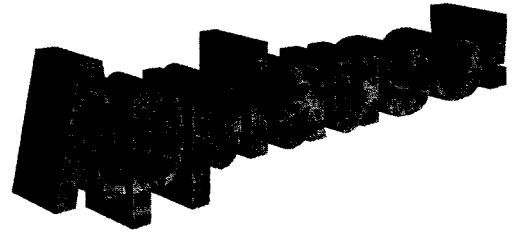
With the advent of fall, I again look forward to all the harvest festivals, local homecomings and community celebrations that are so much a part of the fabric of life in Southern Illinois. It is rare to have a weekend on my fall calendar that is not taken up with some local celebration. I hope you all have the opportunity to take in some of the truly unique festivities in your communities. Sometimes I find these gatherings reap an abundant harvest of genealogical information. Need I say more?

Another activity I look forward to at this time of the year is the research visit to remote and abandoned cemeteries. At this time of the year when the frosts and early freezing temperatures wilt the vegetation and drive the snakes away, I plan a trip to one, or more, of those forgotten ancestral burial grounds. I have learned through experience to dress properly so as to avoid the snare of the briars and brambles. Never again do I approach an overgrown cemetery without leather gloves, Carhartt overalls and a first aid kit. At times I have wished I had a flame thrower, but age has blessed me with patience and persistence.

Speaking of cemeteries, I wish to share with you a story told me recently by a friend from Perry County. My friend took his Sunday school class to a cemetery to teach them a lesson about not only respect for the dead but also the importance of a life well lived. Using the poem entitled *The Dash* he proceeded to tell his students that of all the characters on a tombstone, the dash was the most important of all. Dates of birth and death are important bits of data about a person, but the time spent between those two milestones represented by the dash, is the true measure of the decedent's life here on earth. A life full of purpose and spirit and lived in virtue was the theme of his lesson that day. Although not all of our ancestors had a virtuous dash, they do provide their genealogy bent descendants with the challenge to accept things as they find them. But at times some of us uncover a dash in which we can take deep pride and admiration. The lessons learned in that Sunday school class can be lessons for us also.

Library Etiquette

GSSI enjoys a working relationship with the John A. Logan College Library which allows members of the Society to utilize the genealogy collection subject to commonly accepted guidelines. One of the commonly accepted guidelines is that the genealogy collection is available ONLY when the JALC Library is open. This means that during regular business hours when the college library is in operation and when GSSI occupies the library spaces for its regularly scheduled meetings, members can conduct genealogical research using any of the publications and microforms in the genealogy library or the genealogy databases on the library computers. Use of the library during other times is unauthorized. When closing time approaches, be prepared to leave the library promptly. It is inappropriate to expect or ask library personnel to extend their shift. JALC students do not have that liberty, nor should GSSI. Please protect our working relationship with the college. Thank you.



"Four Generations of Women at Southern Illinois University" wins the Family History Award at GSSI. Ms. Hailee Clark is seen here with her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Ed O'Day and Mike Brush proudly present the award to Hailee at the 13 September 2009 GSSI meeting in the John A. Logan College Library.

Medieval Soldiers Database

The detailed service records of 250,000 medieval English soldiers (covers the period 1369-1453) have gone online in a free database. The database includes records of archers who served with Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt. The records of soldiers who fought in the Hundred Years War reveal salaries, sickness records, and records of knighthoods granted. These fairly records of soldiers of this time period will allow researchers to piece together fairly detailed accounts of the military service of nobles, knights and common soldiers.

The database is the product of a research project by Professor Anne Curry of the University of Southampton and Dr. Adrian Bell of the University of Reading.

Dr. Bell said: "The service records survive because the English exchequer had a very modern obsession with wanting to be sure that the government's money was being spent as intended.

Therefore we have the remarkable survival of indentures for service detailing the forces to be raised, muster rolls showing this service and naming every soldier from duke to archer."

Bell added that accounts from captains showing how funds were spent plus entries detailing when the exchequer requested the payments can be found. This free database (which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council) also shows which mounted soldiers rode the furthest.

<http://icmacentre.ac.uk/soldier/database/search.php>

Reprinted from: SCCGS Newsletter 32:7 (September 2009)

Straight Talk

By Mike Brush

There are some undeniable facts that GSSI is confronted with as we face the coming year. Our membership is declining and our dues income is decreasing in a corresponding manner. No doubt, the current economy is playing a part in this, but with an ageing membership, death has also taken its sad toll. In addition, internet genealogy has impacted our numbers. Costs of printing, postage and supplies increase yearly, but our dues have not increased since 2004. Dues are our primary source of income, but they cover only about 60% of our expenses. Income from publications has helped to fill the gap in the past, but we have published only a few manuscripts in recent years. I'm sure you are starting to see the picture.

What do we do about this situation? First of all we examine our mission and our priorities and then take a long hard look at our fiscal status. To this end, over the summer the finance committee closely examined annual income and expenses and drafted a Budget which the Executive Committee approved in September. That budget was arrived at only after painful and difficult compromise. It holds the line on dues, which remain at \$25 for 2010, but it defers some expenses and will deplete our meager reserve funds by the end of next year. But some concrete actions have been identified which promise to provide the Society with some relief.

First of all, we have taken steps to limit the number of complimentary and exchange subscriptions of the Newsletter and Saga. Over the years, this list had grown out of proportion to the extent that postage and printing costs were not being recouped. Secondly, the Saga and Newsletter mailings have been combined quarterly to save postage. Third, we have deferred reprinting some publications and have delayed major purchases to expand the GSSI Library. We have also continued to use a ten year old donated computer to manage our membership and mailing lists. Lastly, we have added postage and handling charges for late renewals to cover the extra mailing expense of providing those members with back issues of the Saga and Newsletter.

We are also asking members to step up to the plate and play an important role in the process of adding new life to the future of the Society. In addition to renewing your membership now, consider increasing your level of support to a Sustaining or Supporting Membership. That additional income can really make a difference in meeting expenses. Encourage and solicit new members among your family and friends. If every member would recruit just one new member, the Society could recoup the loss seen over the last several years.

The Society always welcomes donations. GSSI is a non-profit organization, and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our GSSI Librarian would most graciously accept new book donations to the library collection. The budgetary squeeze on the library could be eased in this manner and allow the librarian to focus on major purchases. Future issues of the Newsletter will include a list of "want books" from the GSSI Librarian. All donations will contain a "Donated By" book plate inside the front cover to document your donation. An additional "want list" (for other than library books) will be developed and published in the newsletter. It will focus on office supplies, software, hardware etc. The needs are many.

This "straight talk" is not meant to be alarmist, but to highlight the need for the Society to come together to meet the challenges which we face. Please examine your talents and treasures that can help in this endeavor. I want to reassure the membership that the Executive Board has endeavored to serve as a responsible steward of Society funds in these difficult times. We are deeply grateful for your continued support as we strive to provide programs and services to you, The Membership.

Thank you and continued Happy Hunting!

New Ways to Solve the Family History Mystery

The vendors had arrived and were welcoming the conference attendees to the 2009 Book Fair. The first session of the October 17th GSSI Conference was about to begin when it became evident to everyone that a system failure with the power point presentation was in progress. As the time for delivery approached, the program chair and the speaker were confronted with the nightmare of crafting an emergency plan B. With quick thinking, Rick Allen and Michael John Neill decided to proceed with a lecture planned for later in the day which required less technology. In the meantime, Board Member Ken Cochran raced to the rescue and secured his personal projector which would be used with the speaker's personal laptop computer for the remaining lectures. The potential for embarrassment was neutralized, and the audience seemed to be phased little by the situation. The skill of Michael John Neill in capturing and maintaining the attention of the audience was remarkable.

The first lecture was entitled "Problem Solving Analysis" and was based on the theory of George Polya. Outlining the four step process of Polya, the speaker emphasized the importance of understanding the problem, devising a plan, carrying out the plan and finally looking back. Neill took the audience through the various methods of organizing genealogical data which are familiar to seasoned researchers. He defined consistency and gave examples of three categories of consistency. His utilization of discrepancy charts and an acquaintance sheets were refreshingly informative.

The next lecture was entitled "Researching the Entire Family" and it highlighted the importance and value in examining the records of siblings of direct ancestors. He emphasized the likelihood that searching the records of ancestral aunts, uncles and cousins would also provide clues on direct ancestors. Using siblings and cousins of his own ancestors, Neill provided vivid examples of this theory.

The third lecture was entitled "Determining Your Own Migration Trails and Migration Chains." Neill opened the discussion with an incomplete bibliography of migration trails and encouraged the audience to familiarize themselves with these sources. His approach to this fascinating topic was to establish the ancestral neighborhood by learning of the neighbors, kinfolk and associates. Examples of this practice were demonstrated through the close look at such documents as wills, estate settlements, deeds, bonds in addition to tax lists, census and church records. He provided some clever search techniques when using databases. He impressed the audience with what can be discovered with these clever search techniques.

The final lecture of the day was entitled "Searching Tips and Tricks" and it proved to be a strategic plan for approaching online databases. Neill gave a primer on Soundex and how the codes are determined. He then proceeded to provide specific examples of how these tips are applicable to such databases as the Illinois State Marriage Index (pre-1900), the Social Security Death Index, the Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 — 1956 and the Bureau of Land Management site. He demonstrated the use of wildcards and impressed the audience with their potential.

The lectures were well received by all in attendance. Mr. Neill was articulate, animated and entertaining. His command of the subject matter was apparent from the very beginning of the program. "New Ways to Solve the Family History Mystery" was a most appropriate theme for the program. Attendees departed with many clues on how to improve their hunting skills.

Reviewed by Mike Brush

Member Query

Ruth H. Jones 802 N. 12th Street Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 RWJ480593@SBCGlobal.Net

Query: Larry, Lerry: Charles Larry born ca 1836 MO died 1892 MO. Charles married Louisa Creasy(?) 1866, Alexander County, IL. Louisa born 1837 died ca 1896 MO. Charles and Louisa's daughter, Mary Alice Larry, married Alphonso Jones 1883 in Alexander County, IL. They had two children, Charles Henry Jones born 1884 and Francis Pearl Jones born 1887. Francis Pearl married Wm. Jos. Matlock in 1901 Pulaski County, IL. Would like information on Charles Larry, Laney or Lerry Family.

Newberry Notes

Anyone bound for Chicago may wish to take note of a couple of items from the Newberry Library. First of all for those of you who have a special interest in Abraham Lincoln, there is an exhibit from October 10th thru December 19, 2009 entitled **With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition**. In addition to the Bible upon which both Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama took the Oath of Office, there is a draft of the Gettysburg Address which is thought to be the earliest copy that exists, plus the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated. Put it on your agenda while in the Windy City.

Also worth noting from The Newberry are the new reading room hours effective October 2009. The reading rooms will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Newberry Library is located at 60 W. Walton Street on the near north side of Chicago and is a "must visit" for the serious genealogist.

Additions to the Library

Please take note of the recent addition of several shelves of family histories. They will complement the collection which occupies the most recently installed shelving units on the south wall. This expansion of bound family histories may just contain the clues you need to locate that elusive ancestor.

Also we are pleased to announce the addition of an overhead screen in the GSSI Library area. Thanks to the generosity of Judy Vineyard, the JALC Librarian, the screen has been made available to GSSI for use during our monthly meeting programs. It will enable the viewing of video and power point presentations in the GSSI Library area. The next time you stroll through the library, search out Judy and give her a word of thanks.

It's Not Too Early

The National Genealogical Society has announced its 2010 Family History Conference. Entitled ***Follow Your Ancestral Trail***, the conference will be held at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City, Utah from 28 April-1 May 2010. Session topics will include African American Research, British Isles Research, German Research, Irish Research, Italian Research, Scandinavian Research, Family Search, DNA, Hispanic Research and Technology. A special added event includes an evening with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org for more information.

GSSI MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois (GSSI) was organized in March 1973 at John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL.

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month, except in July, August and October, in the Library of John A. Logan College. There are no meetings in July or August. The October meeting is an all-day Saturday conference and book fair held on the campus of John A. Logan College.

On meeting days the **GSSI** Library collection is open for research by members and visitors. The **GSSI** Executive Board meets at 1:00 PM. The general meeting begins at 2:30 PM.

The **GSSI** Library collection is located in the John A. Logan College Library. It is available for research on meeting days and during regular College Library hours.

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois includes the counties in Illinois south of Interstate 70 in its geographic area. These counties include: Alexander, Clay, Clinton, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, St. Clair, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White and Williamson.

Membership in **GSSI** is open to everyone, regardless of race, creed or religion.

Membership includes a monthly *Newsletter* and the quarterly *The Saga of Southern Illinois*. Queries are published at no charge as space permits. Submissions of items of interest in the southern 28 Illinois counties are welcome and encouraged.

The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. If joining during the year, members will receive all *Newsletters* and quarterlies (*SAGA*) for the year paid. Add \$5 postage and handling for back issues of the *Saga* and *Newsletter* if joining or renewing after March 15, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

Make check payable to: Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

Mail to: Membership Chairman, Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois,

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

STATUS: New Membership Renew Membership Rejoin Membership

DUES: Individual or Family Membership - \$25

Sustaining Membership - \$35

Supporting Membership — \$50 or More

YEAR: 2010 2011

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY — STATE — ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

Do you want your phone and/or email listed in the *Newsletter*? _____

Please list the surnames — time period — counties or states that you are researching:

Query to be published in the *Newsletter*:

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

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U. S. POSTAGE PAID
CARTERVILLE, IL 62918
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATE MAILED: 29 October 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
do 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
do John A. Logan
700 Logan College Drive
Carterville, IL 62918-2500**

GSSI MEETINGS

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

**Sunday
8 November 2009
Martha Schwegman
"Brigham Young's
First Wife"**

**Sunday
13 December 2009
Darrel Dexter
"Bondage in Egypt:
Slavery and Indentured
Servitude in
Southern Illinois
1720-1865"
By speaking about the
Life of Harry Dougherty**