

# **Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society**



**Celebrating 50 Years  
1972----2022**

*This 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet was created by committee members Linda Polich, Judi McDowell and special thanks to Linda Walker for information supplied for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and duplicated here*

**Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical  
Society**

**Member Appreciation and  
50 Year Anniversary Celebration**

**Sunday July 17, 2022**

**From 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**At the QC Botanical Center**

**2525 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Rock Island, Illinois**



# Welcome

A Few Words From Our President

\*Recognition of Charter Members

\*Recognition of Life Members

\*Recognition of Past Presidents

\*Recognition of Past Officers & Committees

\*Special Recognitions

\*Recognition of Current Officers and Committees

\*Special Door Prizes

\*Upcoming Events

Reception and Fellowship

*Special thanks to the Anniversary committee for organizing  
this event:*

*Linda Polich, Ann Noyce, Jay Matlock, Julie Vogel, Sally  
Bartosh and Judi McDowell*



# Our History

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972. In 1974, 5 members submitted Articles of Incorporation to the Internal Revenue Service requesting nonprofit status and in June 1975 determination was granted as a 501 (c)(3). The five members that submitted the request were:

Mr. Gerald Wood  
Mr. J Kenneth Baker  
Mrs. James R Sampson  
Mrs. William Coopman  
Mrs. Albert Loete

The original name of the Society was Blackhawk Genealogical Society and in November 2004 revised Articles of Incorporation were submitted by President Lorraine Hathaway to change the name to "Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society", to better reflect who we are to the genealogy community around the country.

Our society was a member of FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) and co-sponsored a national FGS conference in September 2001 with the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society (SCIGS).

The event was held at the River Center in Davenport, Iowa. You may remember that "infamous" day in 2001 when terrorist planes flew into the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington DC and another plane went down in Pennsylvania, but the FGS Conference went on with only slight modifications.



In October 2020, FGS and NGS (National Genealogical Societies) merged into one unified organization and kept the name NGS of which we are still a member.

We are also a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society

## **Membership**

There were 110 charter members who founded the society in 1972. Many of them have passed on, but their work lives on in our memories, our resources and our progress. Thanks to the efforts of the charter members and many dedicated members that followed, we are a thriving genealogical organization with over 150 members today. Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogical research. Dues were \$5.00 annually in 1972, payable each January. Increased to \$10.00 in 1992, then \$15.00 in 1996 and finally \$20.00 in 2008, where they remain today.

Student Memberships, Family Memberships and Life Memberships are also options. We currently have 14 Life Memberships.

## **Life Members**

Nancy Larson Alexander

Rosalie Barman

Debra J Depaepe

Gary Diehl

Mary Gardner-Karcher

Lauri Gartner

Delores Hauger

John McDonald

Jan McKenzie

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin

Robert Millett

Dwineice Mohlenbruck

Janet K Pease

Ann Norris Price



## **Quarterly Newsletters**

Newsletter publishing began in March 1973. The first issue was 7 pages of typewritten material and the original name was Smoke Signals. It became a quarterly publication, published 4 times each year until the end of 2019.

## **QC Genealogy Conference**

The QC Genealogy Conference is a long standing event co-sponsored by Rock Island County Illinois Genealogy and Scott County Iowa Genealogy.

The first "conference" was held by our Society in May 1973 and was called a "workshop". 2 speakers were scheduled to speak at the Rock Island Arsenal from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Attendees were asked to bring their own sandwich and the society would provide cookies and coffee. The cost was \$2.00.

The QC Genealogy Conference became an annual event beginning in April 1975 with well known speakers providing all day educational seminars. The first Conference was held at the Putnam Museum and in 1979 the conference began meeting at the Viking Club in Moline, continuing that venue through 2016. Many conferences welcomed 200 attendees. In 2017 and 2018 the conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Rock Island and in 2019 at Stoney Creek in Moline. In 2020 the conference was canceled due to the Covid 19 pandemic and is still on hiatus.

In April this year we held our first "Virtual Conference". It was a half-day seminar with 2 topics via Zoom. It was a success and we plan to do it again in October.



## **Website**

Our website was first created in the spring of 2002 by William Burrows. It contained surname links, township maps and cemetery links as well as information about the society and its meetings.

Since discontinuing the Quarterly, our website has become our most valuable asset. Content for members and guests includes family histories, ancestral photos, newspaper abstracts, obituary indexes and cemetery information. Continually updated, it continues to grow each year as early publications are digitized and made available to members from the comfort of their home.

We have added a Blog and Facebook page to keep members and guests informed of new programs, resources, library acquisitions and meeting dates and topics.

## **Education**

*Education has always been an integral part of our society. In 2003 we began holding Beginner Workshops to help people get started and learn how to research and what sources were available locally as well as nationally. This first workshop was a huge success with a waiting list for the next one. In 2017 we began the Lunch and Learn program for members. Each month a meeting is scheduled to focus on a certain type of record. Participants bring a sack lunch and everyone is encouraged to share their own experience or resources. And in 2022, two new SIGs were started. A Special Interest Group to focus on a specific goal.*

- 1. Using DNA in your research*
- 2. Writing Your Family History--to preserve and pass on your research*





## **Field Trips**

*Field trips added a bonus to monthly meetings, letting members learn more about local history and local depositories. The first field trip was organized in 1973 when members scheduled a trip to Salt Lake City to do research. Through the years field trips have included:*

*The Davenport Family History Center*

*The Davenport Library and Special Collections Department*

*The Essley-Noble Museum in Aledo*

*Geneseo Historical Museum*

*Buffalo Bill Museum in LeClaire*

*The Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN*

*The Historical Society Library in Madison, WI*

*And various Cemeteries in Rock Island County*

*(I think it is time for another field trip—how about you)*

## **Library**

Our physical library also continues to grow with over 3,000 books, publications, CDs maps and periodicals available. It is housed at the Rock Island County Historical Society. A complete catalog of our holdings is available on our website. In addition to national authors, our library contains many publications created or donated by our members focusing on Rock Island County.

- ✓ Newspaper extractions, by Janet Pease
- ✓ Death Indexes compiled by Dwight Mohlenbruck
- ✓ Cemetery Books by Eva Fuhr and her committee
- ✓ Mercer County Census Records by Eulalia Garrett
- ✓ Family Histories donated by members



All library materials can be viewed free of charge during Rock Island County Historical Society's regular hours. Always call ahead to confirm hours of operation. 309-764-8590.

Our library was originally housed at Moline Public Library and later at the Rock Island Library.

## **Annual Dinners**

*Annual Dinners have been held each year to thank members for their participation, to reflect on the past year and prepare for the next year by installing the new officers. Annual Dinners have been catered events by Hy-Vee and Mulkey's Restaurant or Bridges Catering served at the QC Botanical Gardens. For many years we enjoyed buffet dinners at O'Melias, then Jake 'O's, and River View Grill. Some dinners were held at South Park Presbyterian Church. Remember the dinners prepared and served at the Bethel United Methodist Church with their famous Apricot Chicken and homemade pies?*

## **Meeting Locations**

*Meeting locations have been at various locations throughout the years, Butterworth Center, Moline Library, Union Federal Savings and Loan, Milan, Rock Island Library, Rock Island County Historical Society, Hauberg Civic Center and for many years at the South Park Presbyterian Church in Rock Island.*



# Charter Members And Officers

*Listed on the next several pages are our Charter Members and Past Officers.*

*We are proud of the many members who have served in leadership roles throughout the years and a big THANK YOU to those serving currently.*

## **Our Charter Members**

- ❖ Anna Albrecht, Berkshire, NY
- ❖ Durward B. Allaman, Abingdon, IL
- ❖ Mrs. George R. Baker, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ J. Kenneth & Lorraine Baker, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Gertrude Becker, Geneseo, IL
- ❖ Svan & Evelyn Benson, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Scharlott Blevins, Davenport, IA
- ❖ William J. Blick, Geneseo, IL
- ❖ Hazel Blocklinger, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Jesse Boone, East Moline, IL
- ❖ Mrs. Walter Bristow, Jr., Savanna, IL
- ❖ Jon Brodd, Moline, IL
- ❖ Marge Buel, Moline, IL
- ❖ Helen Burgess, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ W. H. Clark, Milan, IL
- ❖ Mary Clifford, Colona, IL
- ❖ Phyllis Coopman, Moline, IL
- ❖ Lawrence & Joyce Cornelius, Moline, IL
- ❖ Byrle & Aletha Cosner, Woodhull, IL
- ❖ Allen & Bradley Curtis, Coal Valley, IL
- ❖ Cornelia J. & Harriet C. Darling, Moline, IL
- ❖ Vicki L. Davis, Chicago Heights, IL
- ❖ Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dawson, East Moline, IL
- ❖ Madeline Edwards, Rock Island, IL



- ❖ Walter T. & Eva Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, IL
- ❖ Sally Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, IL
- ❖ Mrs. Leslie Griffin, Moline, IL
- ❖ Mary Lou Hall, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Delores Hauger, Milan, IL
- ❖ Sally Henry, East Moline, IL
- ❖ Ruth Herrick, Abingdon, IL
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hilligoss, Milan, IL
- ❖ Virginia Hinrichs, East Moline, IL
- ❖ Jean Houston, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Margaret Hudson, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Larry E. Humberstone, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Florence D. Hutchison, Jacksonville, IL
- ❖ Miss Helen E. Hutchison, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Bernice O. Irwin, New Boston, IL
- ❖ Adaline Isaacson, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Patricia Kinney, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Ina M. Kuzel, Moline, IL
- ❖ Joanne Loete, Moline, IL
- ❖ Jane Lundeen, Moline, IL
- ❖ Harry Lyon, East Moline, IL
- ❖ Maurite Mahlstedt, Geneseo, IL
- ❖ Mona Kadel Martin, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Mrs. Wm. Budd Matlock, Oak Harbor, WA
- ❖ Mrs. Earle R. McBride, Austin, TX
- ❖ Helen J. McMurtry, Oak Park, IL
- ❖ Sister Frances Marie Melroy, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Robert & Laura Millett, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Lois Mitchell, Moline, IL
- ❖ Gilman & Helen Mitton, Moline, IL
- ❖ Glenn & Jeannene Moffitt, Aledo, IL
- ❖ Mary Morrissey, Moline,
- ❖ Bernice & Dennis Moseley, Milan, IL



- ❖ Verna Mumma, Hillsdale,
- ❖ L. P. Neuerberg, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Caroline Newman, Milan, IL
- ❖ Joseph A. & Phyllis Normoyle, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Darlene Ward Paxton, Bettendorf, IA
- ❖ Janet Pease, Arvada, CO
- ❖ Mrs. John Perry, Moline, IL
- ❖ Harold & Kitty Pierce, Milan, IL
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Larry L. Pittman, Abingdon, IL
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Orin Rockhold, Milan, IL
- ❖ Barbara Rosser, Gatesville, TX
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Ruud, Moline, IL
- ❖ Lucille Sampson, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Rachelle Schopp, Geneseo, IL
- ❖ Gerry Sisson, Milan, IL
- ❖ Marjorie Smith, Thomson, IL
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Louis Spaeth, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Fredrick Steiner, Bettendorf, IA
- ❖ Mrs. K. T. Stimpson, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Gladys Treadway, Bettendorf, IA
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Walker, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Mrs. John T. Walsh, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Mrs. Richard A. Welch, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Mrs. Cecil Whiteside, Milan, IL
- ❖ Mildred M. Wiggers, Eldridge, IA
- ❖ Dorothy M. Williams, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Flora D. Wilson, Davenport, IA
- ❖ Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wood, Rock Island, IL
- ❖ Sylvia B. Young, Moline, IL
- ❖ Virginia Young, Creve Coeur, MO
- ❖ Robert, Winifred, & Steven Ziegler, Palatine, IL



## **Past Presidents**

1972-1973	Phyllis Normoyle
1974	Gerald Wood
1975	Virginia Hinrichs
1976	J. Kenneth Baker
1977	Joyce Cornelius
1978	Scharlott Blevins
1979	Dennis Strieder
1980	James Lannoo
1981	Eulalia Garrett
1982	Joseph Normoyle
1983-1984	Grace Shager-Eastland
1985-1986	Edward Jordan
1987	Dean Ring
1988-1989	Christine Lage
1990-1991	Zelma Hendricks Stufflebeam
1992-1993	Louise Davis
1994-1995	Virginia Horton
1996-1997	Judy Rueckert
1998-1999	Dorothy Darland
2000-2001	Pamela Langston
2002-2003	Marilyn Mix
2004-2005	Lorraine Hathaway
2006-2007	Linda Polich
2008-2009	Beth Hoffman
2010-2011	Linda Walker
2012-2013	Debra VanSant
2014-2015	Shay Elliott
2016-2017	Catherine Humphrey
2018	Debra VanSant
2019-2020	Shay Elliott
2021-	Ann Noyce



## **Past First Vice Presidents**

*J. K. Baker*

*Harry Lyons*

*Ivan Rice*

*Delores Hauger*

*Eulalia Garrett*

*Jim Lannoo*

*Laura Millett*

*Elsie Roba*

*Larry Neuerberg*

*Earl Tenpound*

*Eva Johnson*

*Grace Eastland*

*Christine Cox Lage*

*Virginia Horton*

*Judy Rueckert*

*Chris Fiedler*

*Zelma Stufflebeam*

*Robert Millett*

*Laura Millett*

*Bill Burrows*

*Eileen Nelson*

*Linda Polich*

*Pamela Langston*

*Jill Hoff*

*Beth Hoffman*

*Ken Jones*

*Jean Wistedt*

*Shay Elliott*

*Tammy Castagnoli*

*Kitty Humphrey*

*Debra VanSant*

*Jay Matlock*



## **Past 2nd Vice Presidents**

Laura Millett	Virginia Horton
Mrs. Jim Neumann	William Downing
Mrs. James Sampson	Judy Rueckert
Sally Schroeder	Ruth Thompson
Helen Mitton	Beverly Francque
Cheryl McCaw	Bill Burrows
Elizabeth Blixt	Barbara Evans
Ralph Hughes	Pam Lawson
Belinda Zukas	Jean Wistedt
Sally Etheridge	Pamela Langston
Phyllis Winhurst	Beth Hoffman
George McMasters	

## **Past Corresponding Secretaries**

Mrs. William Coopman	Diane Lovell
Mrs. Harold Pierce	Louise Rabe
Mrs. James Lannoo	Beverly Francque
Phyllis Normoyle	Shirley Herman
Ruth Kirby	Betty Westensee
Barbara Scott	Zelma Stufflebeam
Dorothy Johnson	Judy Rueckert
Phyllis Coopman	Shirley Plumb
Grace Eastland	Jill Hoff
Shirley Ricketts	Catherine Humphrey
Julie Vogel	





## **Past Recording Secretaries**

Mrs James Sampson	Merriel Coon
Mrs William Coopman	Louise Davis
Barbara Scott	Lorraine Hathaway
Mildred Martin	Tim Moore
Laura Millett	Ruth Thompson
Pam Lannoo	Lois Larson
Betty Westensee	Christine Vanderkerchove
Joan Loete	Diane Lovell
Claire Simonet	Jessica Wentzloff
Virginia Horton	Linda Walker
Beatrice Fritz	Shirley Ricketts
Joan Lehan	Denise Wassenhove
Kathy Elliott	Betty Hagberg
Kathy Elliott	Ronna Stickrod

## **Past Treasurers**

Mrs. Francis Moseley	Joseph Normoyle
Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius	Eugene McCarley
Mrs. William Coopman	Patty Doonan
Thyra Perry	Lorraine Hathaway
Kenneth Baker	Greta Brooks
Lucille Sampson	Judi McDowell
Gerry Sisson	Pat McCoy
Jon Brodd	Betty Hagberg
Betty Westensee	Beth Hoffman
Linda Walker	Judi McDowell



## **Past Historians**

Mrs. Richard Henry  
Eva Johnson  
Betty Westensee  
Lois Jackson  
Linda Polich  
Tammy Castagnoli

Mrs. Lowell Hauger  
Phyllis Anderson  
Barbara Scott  
Delmar Moore  
Phyllis Witherspoon  
Linda Walker

## **Past Registrars**

Mrs. Albert Loete  
Scharlott Blevins  
Phyllis Anderson  
Mildred Sutton  
Eleanor Calsen  
Marilyn Mix

Sally Schroeder  
Gerry Sisson  
Grace Eastland  
Lorraine Ring  
Carol Huber  
Barbara Evans

## **Past Librarians**

Pamela Langston  
Dorothy Darland  
Debra VanSant



## **Meeting Programs for 2022**

*\*\*Meetings are held at the Butterworth Education Center and also via Zoom.  
Annual Dinner event held each November at a location to be announced.*

**\*\*Winter Months may be ZOOM ONLY\*\***

**Jan 2022** – Create Interactive Family History Tours, Google Earth  
By Lisa Louise Cooke

**Feb 2022** – The 1950 Census  
By Thomas MacEntee

**Mar 2022**- Simple Steps , Writing the Story of You  
By Devon Noel Lee

**Apr 2022** – Swedish and Norwegian Researching  
By Laura Reich

**May 2022** - Mapping Your Migrating Ancestors  
By Tina Beaird

**June 2022** - Federal Land Records  
By Michael John Neill

**July 2022** – Finding Female Ancestors  
By Alice Hoyt Veen

**Aug 2022** – Was my William Smith in the Civil War  
By Brian Rhinehart

**Sep 2022** – Share Stories of Your Ancestors  
By Jay Matlock

**Oct 2022** – Top 10 Genealogy Tricks and Tips  
By Jacquie Schattner

**Nov 2022** – Annual Meeting and Dinner  
Location to be determined



## **Lunch and Learn for 2022**

Lunch and Learn programs will be held Wednesdays January through October from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

These programs are for RICIGS Members only and will be held via Zoom in January, February and March, in person meetings will be considered the following months depending on the current medical pandemic—watch the website, Facebook or your email for any updates.

**Jan 26, 2022 (Zoom)** – Clubs and Organizations Your Ancestors May Have Joined

**Feb 23, 2022 (Zoom)** – Using Facebook and Blogs for Your Family History Research

**Mar 23, 2022 (Zoom)** – Family History Potpourri – Recent Research Discoveries

**Apr 27, 2022** – Getting Ready for the Release of the 1950 Census

**May 25, 2022** – Ethnic groups (Mexican, French, Italian, Asian, Eastern European, and more)

**June 22, 2022** – Visiting Major Family History Libraries

**July 27, 2022** – Death Records (Coroner's Report, Funeral Home Records, Obituaries, Memorial Cards)

**Aug 24, 2022** – City Directories, Phone Books, School Yearbooks

**Sep 28, 2022** – Research Tips and Tricks (including helpful forms)

**Oct 26, 2022** – Sharing Ancestor Stories



# Our Logos



# 2022 Officers

President	Ann Noyce
Vice President	Jay Matlock
Recording Secretary	Ronna Stickrod
Corresponding Secretary	Julie Vogel
Treasurer	Judi McDowell
Member At Large 2022	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Member At Large 2023	Alan Noyce
Member-At Large 2024	Sally Bartosh

# 2022 Committee Chairs

Cemeteries -	Judi McDowell
Computer Interest -	Julie Vogel
Conference -	Beth Hoffman, Judi McDowell
Education -	Linda Polich, Lorraine Hathaway, Linda Walker, Betty Hagberg, Beth Hoffman and Mary Gardner-Karcher
NGS Delegate -	Deb VanSant



# Committee Chairs Continued

Fundraising -	Linda Polich
Goals -	Linda Polich
Historian Emeritus -	Delmar Moore
Historian -	Open
Librarian -	Debra VanSant
Funeral Cards -	Janice McKenzie
Publications -	Betty Hagberg
Queries & Research -	Deb VanSant
Registered Agent -	Beth Hoffman
Registrar -	Marilyn Mix
Mailings -	Shay (deceased 2022) & Kathy Elliot



# Our Future

*No one can predict the future, but if we continue with our current agenda of strong leadership, dedicated members, expanding our library, enhancing our website and digitizing of records,*

*I think our future looks bright--maybe another 50 years!*





To help finish this booklet, I decided to add this poem for a little bit of humor. Originally published in one of our newsletters from 2015.

***Grandma Climbed the Family Tree***

***By Virginia Day McDonald, Macon, GA***

*There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed as of late*

*She's always reading history, or jotting down some date.  
She's tracing back the family; we'll all have pedigrees,  
Grandma's got a hobby, she Climbing Family Trees*

*Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he states  
He even has to wash the cups and dinner plates  
Well, Grandma can't be bothered; she's busy as a bee,  
Compiling genealogy for the Family Tree  
She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.  
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.*

*She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,*

*The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.*

*The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far.*



*Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.  
A monumental project – to that we all agree,  
A worthwhile avocation – to climb the Family Tree.  
There were pioneers and patriots mixed with our kith and  
kin,  
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through  
thick and thin.  
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light  
up with glee,  
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.  
To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more.  
She learns the joys and heartaches of those who went  
before.  
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept –and now  
for you and me,  
They live again in spirit around the Family Tree.  
At last she's nearly finished, and we are each exposed.  
Life will be the same again, this we all suppose.  
Grandma will cook and sew, serve crullers with our tea.  
We'll have her back, just as before that wretched Family  
Tree.*





\*\*\*Published July 2022\*\*\*