

## RICIGS "50th Anniversary" Society Highlights

Highlight #	Description
1	<b>First meeting</b> – 26 September 1972 at Moline Public Library
2	Newspaper headline the next day read: Genealogical Society Formed
3	Mrs. Joseph Normoyle named as President
4	Other Officers: Gerald Woods, First Vice President; Mrs. Ralph Clifford, Second Vice President; Mrs. Kenneth Buel, Recording Secretary; Mrs. William Coopman, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Francis Moseley, Treasurer
5	Next meeting was scheduled for 24 October at the Student Union at Black Hawk College
6	<b>Conferences</b> have always been a big part of our Society - starting in 1975, we co-hosted the QC Genealogical Conference with SCIGS
7	These conferences have always featured a nationally known genealogy speaker, and several vendors
8	Speakers over the years have included George Schweitzer, Kathleen Hinckley, J. Mark Lowe, Michael John Neill, Paula Stuart-Warren, Lisa Louise Cooke, and Thomas MacEntee
9	Our last co-sponsored conference was in 2019; COVID-19 pandemic stopped this long-lasting QC tradition in 2020 and 2021
10	This year we are attempting to bring back the Conference - in a virtual format - with Judy Russell as our speaker
11	In 2001, our Society co-sponsored the FGS National Conference - during the same week as our country experienced the horrific 9/11 attacks. Very challenging for the organizers, but the conference went on!
12	Besides our monthly meetings/programs, we have had some fun <b>field trips</b> over the years
13	We've gone to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana - the second largest genealogy library in the country (Salt Lake City is the largest)
14	We've gone to Madison, Wisconsin to the Historical Society Library there
15	We've made several visits to the Family History Library in Davenport and also to Special Collections in the Davenport Library
16	And we've had some fun local and historical visits, too
17	We've visited the Essley-Noble Museum in Aledo, Illinois; the Geneseo Historical Museum; the Buffalo Bill Museum in LeClaire, Iowa
18	And we can't forget the cemetery visits - we took a bus tour of historical cemeteries out towards Andalusia
19	And Dorothy Darland even taught us the art of "Grave-Witching" at the Immanuel Lutheran cemetery in Rock Island

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20	Many more field trips in our future - stay tuned!
21	<b>Education</b> is an important part of any genealogy society - Our Society has offered consistent education to our members for over 20 years.
22	Schar Blevins has presented many classes over the years.
23	Lorraine Hathaway and Linda Polich started Beginning Workshops in 2003. In those early classes, Bill Burrows, Pam Langston, and Shirley and Ken Plumb all helped us with different segments of the classes.
24	Our educational offerings have definitely grown in the use of technology! We started with transparencies and an overhead projector. We then moved forward to using PowerPoint presentations for our annual workshops.
25	In 2017 we added Lunch and Learn programs, and in 2022 we added two Special Interest Groups (DNA and Family History Writing).
26	We have also provided education as part of our Community Outreach, with programs at the Port Byron Library, Rock Island Library, and Viola Public Library. Several years ago, Linda Walker and I even put together a customized presentation for a local Family Reunion where the reunion organizer contacted our Society for help! Starting in 2022, we are partnering with Moline Public Library to offer classes to our members and to the public. Our current Education Team -- Lorraine Hathaway, Linda Walker, Betty Hagberg, Beth Hoffman, Mary Gardner-Karcher, and I -- will continue to keep our curriculum interesting for our members! And suggestions are always welcome!
27	25th Anniversary - celebration planned in conjunction with the QC Genealogical Conference, but later cancelled
28	30th Anniversary - celebrated at the Annual Dinner
29	40th Anniversary - program and reception at Butterworth Center where we displayed our newly digitized Society scrapbooks. Three charter members were in attendance, and nine past presidents. Several members were recognized for "Making A Difference".
30	Milestone - In 2005 we changed our name from Blackhawk Genealogical Society to Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society to better reflect who we are to genealogists around the country.
31	50th Anniversary - celebrated throughout the year with drawings at General Meetings; sharing Society Highlights; and a Membership Appreciation Reception in July. We also had two virtual conferences during 2022.
32	Our <b>Library Collection</b> is currently located at RICHS. Previous Location - RI Public Library.
33	Librarians - Pam Langston, Dorothy Darland, Deb Van Sant

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34	Ever-growing - Deb does an amazing job finding books to add to our collection ... and thanks to members for donating books over the years
35	Currently we have over 3000 books and periodicals in our collection
36	<b>Special Projects</b> Eva Fuhr and other members walked the Rock Island County cemeteries and compiled our original cemetery books. Judi McDowell is our current Cemetery Committee chair.
37	Dwight Mohlenbruck transcribed hundreds of newspaper articles by hand, then typing the info on index cards. This info was bound in several books at RICHS.
38	Janet Pease has been going through RI County newspapers for decades, excerpting genealogical information and typing them onto pages that were then bound and placed in our library collection.
39	Marilyn Mix and Dorothy Darland spent months at the RI County Courthouse many years ago making copies of marriage records that were then bound into three volumes for our library collection.
40	Phyllis Witherspoon and Linda Polich digitized the many scrapbooks that were put together by Delmar Moore.
41	Liz Casillas and Linda Walker collected RI County obituaries and had them bound into books for our library collection
42	Shirley Plumb, Linda Polich, and currently Jan McKenzie compiled funeral cards into a spreadsheet from QC area funeral homes. This listing is a great resource on our website.
43	Betty and Darrel Hagberg have scanned all of Janet Pease's books and are now scanning the cemetery books for our website.
44	Mary Gardner-Karcher coordinated our first ever participation in a FamilySearch community project - the 1950 census! There were over 1000 groups - schools, societies, and church groups, that participated. We finished in the TOP 50 of all of them for name review!
45	What's in our future? More topic-specific education
46	Maybe some genealogy craft classes - creative ways to display your family history
47	More community outreach - we are fortunate in the QC area to have so many heritage-related organizations and we need to work together to promote family history
48	More member engagement - our members have so many skills and we need to use these skillsets for future programs and classes
49	Ask our members how we can better help them with their family history research
50	Continue to promote and support RICIGS into the next 50 years!!