

# History of the Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference



From 1975 through 2021

# Introduction

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society began in 1972 as Blackhawk Genealogical Society and Scott County Iowa Genealogy Society began in 1974. By 1975 the two societies partnered to create the first Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference with committee members from both societies and that tradition continued for 45 years until the Covid 19 pandemic hit in 2020.

The following pages include a review of each year detailing the speaker and the topics presented.

The conference started out small using meeting locations such as conference rooms at the Putnam Museum or Masonic Temple. In 1979 the conference began using the facilities of the Viking Club in Moline and continued that tradition for 38 years, reaching the maximum capacity it allowed. In 2017 a new venue was used, the Holiday Inn and Suites in Rock Island and in 2019 The Stoney Creek Hotel was the meeting place. Everyone loved the new spacious location, comfortable with easy access from both Iowa and Illinois. The committee planned to use it again the following year, BUT Covid 19 squelched the plans.

There were many exhibitors each year with supplies, books, maps, jewelry, etc.

You could visit representatives of other Genealogy or Historical Societies from the surrounding area or Lineage Societies that had a local connection.

The conference was a full day of learning, shopping, and fellowship with other family historians and always included a nice buffet lunch.

# 1975

**Committee Chairs:** Pat Scott and  
Joyce Cornelius

**Date:** April 26, 1975

**Venue:** Putnam Museum, Davenport, IA

**Speaker:** Clifford Neal Smith

- ❖ Midwestern Genealogical Research
- ❖ German American Research

**Workshops:**

- ❖ Preserving Old Records & Documents,  
Betty Keen
- ❖ Gothic Script Writing  
Marcia Krayenhagen
- ❖ Methods & Materials For Research  
Darlene Paxton, Doris Friederichs, Carol  
Gentenbein, Virginia Hinrichs,  
& Jean Hoston
- ❖ German Immigrants To The Quad-Cities  
Clifford Neal Smith

# 1976

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

**Committee Chairs:** Mary Morrissey and  
Bette Gadiant

**Date:** April 24, 1976

**Venue:** Masonic Temple, Rock Island, IL

**Speaker:** James Walker of Washington, D.C.

### **Topics:**

- ❖ How To Do Genealogical Research In the National Archives
- ❖ How The National Archives Can Assist A Person In Writing Local History
- ❖ How The National Archives Can Assist in Ethnic Research
- ❖ How The National Archives Can Be A Resource For The College Student Studying America History

# 1977

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

**Committee Chairs:** Carl Anderson & Pam Lannoo

**Date:** April 23, 1977

**Venue:** Putnam Museum, Davenport, IA

**Speaker:** Carol Willsey Flavell C.G.

- ❖ Ohio Research
- ❖ Newspaper Research

### **Workshops:**

- ❖ DAR Lineage  
Carol Willsey Flavell
- ❖ Tracing Swedish Ancestor Through  
Church Records  
Lilly Setterdahl
- ❖ Which Way To Go – And How to Get There  
(Publishing)  
John K Anundsen
- ❖ Beginning Genealogy  
Darlene Paxton

# 1978

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Committee Chairs:** Jim & Pam Lannoo &  
Angie Fitzgibbons

**Date:** April 22, 1978

**Venue:** Arsenal Island, Rock Island, IL

**Speaker:** Harriet Stryker- Rodda C.G.  
❖ Pitfalls, Analysis and Synthesis  
❖ Final Disposition off Your Genealogical  
Research

### **Workshops:**

- ❖ Researching Illinois Records  
Lowell M Volkel
- ❖ Beginning Genealogy  
Darlene Paxton
- ❖ Migration Patterns in the Settlement of  
the Mississippi Valley  
Grenville C. King
- ❖ Land Records as a Genealogical Reference  
Scharlott Blevins

# 1979

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Committee Chairs:** Angela Fitzgibbons  
Scharlott Goettsch-Blevins

**Date:** April 21, 1979

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Helen L. Harriss

- ❖ History of Western Pennsylvania as  
Related to Genealogical Research
- ❖ Genealogical Sources In Western  
Pennsylvania

Albert G. Overton

To Be Announced

Due to an airline strike the scheduled speaker P. William  
Filby was unable to attend the conference

# 1980

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Scharlott Blevins

**Date:**            March 29, 1980

**Venue:**           Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Larry O. Jensen

- ❖ Research Procedures in Germany
- ❖ Advanced Research in Germany

Mary Keysor Meyer

- ❖ Research in Maryland
- ❖ Ancestor Migrations from Maryland and  
New York into Pennsylvania Ohio &  
Kentucky

**1981**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Chair Person** Roy Roba

**Date:** May 2, 1981

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Lilly Setterdahl

❖ Swedish Family Research Using Swedish  
American Church Records & Newspapers

Ben Bloxham

❖ English and Welch Record Repositories,  
Archives and Libraries

❖ Research in the British Isles through  
correspondence

Carol Schiffman

❖ LDS worldwide Micro-filming and Use of  
Mormon Branch Libraries

# 1982 8<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Roy Roba

**Date:**            April 17, 1982

**Venue:**          Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** James Corsaro

❖ Tracing Your Ancestors in New York State

Edna Milliken

❖ Finding and Following Your Ancestors in  
Kentucky

❖ Kentucky Migration and Genealogical  
Research Materials

# 1983 9<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Betty Westensee

**Date:**            April 16, 1983

**Venue:**          Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Ben Bloxham

❖ Church Records of Britain—Their Use  
and Where to Find Them

❖ English Research—Including  
Unusual and Little-Known Resources

Robert Dructor

❖ Vital Statistics and Other  
Genealogical Records at the  
Pennsylvania State Archives

❖ Harmony Society Records 1897-1951

**Panel:**            Ask the Experts: Roy Roba

Lorraine Duncan

Lucille Sampson

# 1984 10<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Roger H. Robinson

**Date:**      April 7, 1984

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Michael Clegg

- ❖ Research at Ohio Libraries and Archives
- ❖ Ohio Courthouse Research, Census and Military Records

Larry Jensen

- ❖ Tracing your German Ancestors (2 parts)

# 1985 11<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Roger H. Robinson

**Date:**      April 20, 1985

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Carol Mehr Schiffman

❖ Introduction to Genealogical Research

❖ Beyond the Vital Records

Donna Reid Hotaling

❖ Tracing your Irish Roots

❖ Do Your Homework

# 1986 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Roger H. Robinson

**Date:**      April 5, 1986

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** George K. Schweitzer

- ❖ Revolutionary War Genealogy
- ❖ War of 1812 Genealogy
- ❖ Civil War genealogy

Followed by question-and-answer  
period

# 1987 13<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Eulalia Garrett

**Date:**            May 2, 1987

**Venue:**          Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Elizabeth Pearson White

- ❖ The Early Colonial Years
- ❖ Expanding the Colonial Frontier
- ❖ American Revolution and  
Independence

Ray Gooldy

- ❖ Genealogical Research in the Old  
Northwest Territory

# 1988

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Richard Muller

**Date:**      April 16, 1988

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Jo White Linn

- ❖ Overview of Migration—Causes of Movement and Routes
- ❖ The Scots-Irish Migration – Movement of Specific Families and Sources for Information
- ❖ The German Migration – General Movement of Mennonites, Amish, Moravians,, Lutherans and Reformed, featuring Specific Family Names and Sources for Information
- ❖ The Quaker Migration and Summary

# 1990 16<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Christine Lage

**Date:**            April 21, 1990

**Venue:**          Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Marlene Marino Coleman

- ❖ The Ethnic Experience, Settlement Patterns and Migration Routes in America
- ❖ Finding Your Pot of Gold – Documenting Your Scotch-Irish Ancestors in America
- ❖ Successful Genealogical Research From Your Home: Who, What and Where to Write
- ❖ Tricks of the Trade: Successful Strategies of the Professional Genealogist

# 1991 17<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Everett Geurink

**Date:**      April 20, 1991

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Dr. George K. Schweitzer

- ❖ Researching Your Pennsylvania Ancestry
  - ❖ Researching Your Kentucky Ancestry
  - ❖ Researching In Burned-Out Counties – Finding and Using Alternate Records
- Questions and Answers

# 1992 18<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Don Southwood

**Date:**      April 4, 1992

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck

- ❖ Ohio Research
- ❖ Finding Maiden Names of Women
- ❖ Indian Research
- ❖ Unusual Genealogical Resources

# 1993 19<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Don Southwood

**Date:**      April 17, 1993

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Dr. V. Ben Bloxham

- ❖ The Postman and Your Ancestors – A Case Study
- ❖ Our British Ancestors and Their World
- ❖ Homeward Bound -In Search of an Immigrant Ancestor
- ❖ Bring Me Your Poor

# 1994 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**          Eulalia H. Garrett

**Date:**                  April 16, 1994

**Venue:**                Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Loretto Dennis Szucs

- ❖ What's New in Genealogy From A to Z
- ❖ Research in Cities, Complications and Solutions
- ❖ My Lesser Used Sources
- ❖ After the Research.....

# 1995 21<sup>st</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Eulalia H. Garrett

**Date:**      April 29, 1995

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Ann Smith Lainhart

❖ New England Town Records, Beyond  
the Vital Records

❖ Records of Poor Persons and What  
Makes Them Unique

❖ So You're Coming to New England

Alice Richardson Sloane

❖ New England Research—Can You Get  
There From Here

# 1996

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Everett Geurink

**Date:**      April 20, 1996

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Arlene H. Eakle

- ❖ Are Your Immigrant Ancestors on Microfilm
- ❖ New Immigration Sources
- ❖ Migration Patterns into the Central United States (honoring Iowa's 150<sup>th</sup> Sesqui)
- ❖ British Migration to America Before 1850

# 1997 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Everett Geurink

**Date:**      April 19, 1997

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Joan Kirchman Mitchell

- ❖ An Overview of U.S. Federal Census Schedules: Population, Mortality, Agriculture, Manufacture, Social and Civil War Veterans
- ❖ Putting Flesh on Your Ancestors Using the Agriculture, Manufacture, Mortality and Social Census Schedules
- ❖ The Importance of Knowing Your Family Health History and How to Compile It
- ❖ Umbilical Lines Research: Proving and Extending Your Family Lines Biologically As Well As Historically

# 1998

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Lorraine Hathaway

**Date:**      April 25, 1998

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Henry Z Jones

- ❖ When the Sources are Wrong
- ❖ Tracing the Origins of Early 18<sup>th</sup>  
Century German Palatine Emigrants
- ❖ Saints, Sinners and an Occasional Horse  
Thief, Some Immigrant Stories
- ❖ How Psychic Roots Became an  
Unsolved Mystery

# 1999 25<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Lorraine Hathaway

**Date:**      April 17, 1999

**Venue:**      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Jim and Paula Warren

- ❖ Ancestors Hanging on Your Family Tree: Using Court & Institutional Records
- ❖ The WPA Era: What It Created for Genealogists
- ❖ Untrodden Ground: Sources You May Not Have Encountered
- ❖ The Midlife Crisis of the Family Historian: How Did I Get Into This & Where Do I Go From Here

# 2000 26<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person** Ann Riepe and  
Gaycha Mayhew

**Date:** April 29, 2000

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speakers:** Paul Milner

- ❖ New Resources for the British Isles
- ❖ Scottish Emigration to North America  
Before and After the Rebellion
- ❖ Irish Emigrants to North America:  
Before, During and After the Famine.
- ❖ Organizing Your Search to Any Place  
Methodology



# 2002 28<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co Chairs** Ann Riepe and  
Gaycha Mayhew

**Date:** April 27, 2002

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS

- ❖ Be Your Own Detective: Locate Lost Family & Friends
- ❖ Knowing What To Do Next
- ❖ No Great Depression Here: The Wealth of the 1930 Census
- ❖ After the Civil War Grand Army of the Republic

# 2003 29<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co Chairs** Eileen Nelson and  
Pam Lawson

**Date:** April 26, 2003

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** J. Mark Lowe

- ❖ Finding Your Landless Ancestors
- ❖ Over the Mountain, Across the Plains-  
Using Electronic Records to Trace Our  
Ancestors
- ❖ Here Comes The Bride And There She  
Goes
- ❖ Out On A Limb, Trapped by Bad  
Research

# 2004 30<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co Chairs** Eileen Nelson and  
Pam Lawson

**Date:** April 24 2004

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Michael John Neill

- ❖ Research on a Tight Budget
- ❖ Researching the Entire Family
- ❖ Probate Records
- ❖ Where Did the Farm Go

# 2005 31<sup>st</sup> Annual

**Co Chairs** Dorothy Darland and  
Marilyn Mix

**Date:** April 23, 2005

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** James Warren

- ❖ The WPA Inventories: Road Maps to Record Treasures
- ❖ The Basics of Researching American Indian Ancestors
- ❖ Writing Your Family History In Small Manageable Pieces
- ❖ Simple Steps to Organize and Document Your Research

# 2006 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual

**Co Chairs** Sandra Luse and  
Len Stevens

**Date:** April 22, 2006

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** James L. Hansen

- ❖ Tribunes and Gazettes-Newspaper  
Research
- ❖ Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and  
Wisconsin
- ❖ Genealogy in Alphabetical Order--All  
Types of Indexes
- ❖ Researching Territorial Records

# 2007 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Sandra Luse and  
Len Stevens

**Date:** April 21, 2007

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Paula Stewart Warren

- ❖ A Baker's Dozen of Simple Ways to Write Your Family History
- ❖ Twentieth & Twenty-First Century Research
- ❖ The U.S. National Archives: The Nation's Attic
- ❖ Railroad Records & Railroad History: Methods For Tracking

# 2008 34<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Linda Polich and  
Jill Hoff

**Date:** April 26, 2008

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph. D

- ❖ Overview to Forensic Genealogy
- ❖ You Will Never Look at Your Old Photos  
the Same Way Again
- ❖ The Database Detective
- ❖ Genealogical Revelations Through DNA

# 2009 35<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Linda Polich and  
Claire Schiebel

**Date:** April 18, 2009

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Curt B. Witcher

- ❖ Using Church Records in Your Genealogical Research
- ❖ Using Government Documents for Genealogical Research
- ❖ Hunting in the Hoosier State: Genealogical Research in Indiana
- ❖ Pain in the Access: getting More from the Internet for your Genealogy

# 2010 36<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Sandy Luse and  
Len Stevens

**Date:** April 24, 2010

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Patricia Walls Stamm

- ❖ The Census—Making the Kernels Grow
- ❖ The Timeline: Linking Historical Events  
to our Family History
- ❖ Death Has Many Faces
- ❖ The Many Facets of Google

# 2011 37<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Sandy Luse and  
Len Stevens

**Date:** April 16, 2011

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Debra Mieszala CG

- ❖ Land, Oh!
- ❖ Wonderful Websites: Real Records  
Online
- ❖ Lessons from a Snoop: Collaterals and  
Associates
- ❖ The Curious Case of the Disappearing  
Dude

# 2012 38<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Beth Hoffman and  
Liz Casillas

**Date:** April 21, 2012

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. David McDonald, CG

- ❖ Research in the Old Northwest Territory
- ❖ The Mid-Atlantic States: Records & Research
- ❖ Has it Been 72 Years Already? The 1940 Census
- ❖ Lutherpalians & Presbyationalists: Where Did Grandma's Church Go?

# 2013 39<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Beth Hoffman and  
Liz Casillas

**Date:** April 27, 2013

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Lori Cox-Paul

- ❖ Military Service Records
- ❖ Resources for Ethnic Genealogy  
Research
- ❖ Township, Section, Range: Looking at  
Land Records
- ❖ Building Your Genealogy Toolbox

# 2014 40<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs** Beth Hoffman and  
Liz Casillas

**Date:** April 26, 2014

**Venue:** Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:** Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG

- ❖ Internet Techniques for Locating Lost Relatives
- ❖ The Journey to America: Passenger Ship Records
- ❖ Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted
- ❖ Pushing Up Daisies: Cemetery Research

# 2015 41<sup>st</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Len Stevens

**Date:**            April 25, 2015

**Venue:**          Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:**      David E. Rencher

- ❖ From Ulster to Virginia and the Carolinas
- ❖ Mining the Destination Data
- ❖ Introduction to Irish Internet Sites
- ❖ Effective Use of the Family History Library Catalog

# 2016 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual

**Co-Chairs**                      Len Stevens and  
Chris Iossi

**Date:**                      April 30, 2016

**Venue:**                      Viking Club, Moline, IL

**Speaker:**                  Harold Henderson, CG

- ❖ Why We Don't Write and How We Can
- ❖ Probate Will Not Be the Death of You
- ❖ Indirect Evidence: When Perry Mason Isn't on Your Side
- ❖ And Ten Commandments to be a Good Genealogy Client

# 2017 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Len Stevens

**Date:**            April 29, 2017

**Venue:**          Holiday Inn & Suites, Rock Island, IL

**Speaker:**      Lisa Louise Cooke

- ❖ Google Tools & Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries
- ❖ 5 Ways to Enhance Your Genealogy Research with Old Maps
- ❖ Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye: 9 Strategies for Finding Living Relatives
- ❖ Future Technology and Genealogy—5 Strategies You Need

# 2018 44<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Len Stevens

**Date:**            April 28, 2018

**Venue:**          Holiday Inn & Suites, Rock Island, IL

**Speaker:**      Thomas MacEntee

- ❖ Facebook: A Tool for Genealogy Research
- ❖ How Do I Know What I Don't Know? Fast Tracking Your Genealogy Education
- ❖ Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching
- ❖ You Use WHAT for Genealogy? Wonderful Uses for Unusual Tools

# 2019 45<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Chair Person**      Len Stevens

**Date:**            April 27, 2019

**Venue:**          Stoney Creek Hotel, Moline, IL

**Speaker:**      Beth Foulk

- ❖ Solving Genealogy Problems with Timelines
- ❖ Sourcing in the Digital World
- ❖ Up Close and Personal: Civil War Women & Their Organizations
- ❖ Introduction to Public (Federal) Lands

# 2020

**The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was scheduled for April 25, 2020.**

**Michael D. Lacopo was chosen as the speaker with the following topics:**

- ❖ Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Reevaluating the Evidence When information passed on from researcher to researcher doesn't "add up"**
- ❖ German Genealogy on the Internet: Beyond the Basics**
- ❖ Top Ten Things I Have Learned in Over Three Decades of Genealogical Research**
- ❖ I am Poor, Obscure, Plain and Little. Researching the Invisible Ancestors**

**Brochures were sent and nearly 200 members registered to attend.**

**Unfortunately, when the Covid 19 Pandemic was declared, and people were told to "shelter in place" the conference was canceled and registration fees refunded.**

**\*\*In 2024 Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society (RICIGS) invited Michael Lacopo to present a program at their monthly meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was held via Zoom at 6:30 pm. His topic was "Incorporating Social History into Your Research"**

# 2021

**Conferences are planned one to two years in advance and Judy Russell had already been chosen for 2021; her presentation was also canceled because no one knew if it would be safe to meet in person by then.**

**Many committee members were growing weary and some retired, then long-time leader Len Stevens died in 2022 and no future all day in person conferences were planned.**

**\*\*On April 23, 2022, RICIGS and SCIGS held a mini conference via Zoom with Judy Russell as the guest speaker. The webinar was held on Saturday from 9AM until 12 PM with a short break between sessions. Judy spoke on two topics.**

- ❖ Putting Those Records to Work**
- ❖ Where There Is.... or Isn't a Will**

**Members of the sponsoring societies paid \$15 to attend and non-members paid \$20. There was a short break between sessions and Door Prizes were given throughout the morning. 60 people attended.**