

1972

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
(Listed in alphabetical order)

Anna Albrecht  
Durward Allaman  
Mrs. George R. Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Baker  
Gertrude E. Becker  
Mr. & Mrs. Sven Benson  
Scharlott Blevins  
Mr. William J. Blick  
Mrs. Edward Blocklinger  
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Mrs. Walter S. Bristow, Jr.  
Mr. Jon Brodd  
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Mrs. Helen Burgess  
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Mrs. Ralph Clifford  
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Mr. & Mrs. Lee O. Dawson  
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Mrs. Ernest P. Fuhr  
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Mrs. Sally A. Henry  
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Mrs. Paul G. Hinrichs  
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Mrs. Albert Loete  
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Mrs. Earle F. McBride  
Helene J. McMurtry  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Millett  
Mrs. Lois Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Gilman R. Mitton  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn H. Moffit  
Mary Morrissey  
Mrs. F. A. Moseley & Dennis Moseley  
Verna N. Mumma  
Mrs. L. P. Neuerburg  
Mrs. Jim Newman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Normoyle  
Mrs. Wendell Paxton  
Janet K. Pease  
Mrs. John Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Pierce  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry L. Pittman  
Mrs. Barbara Resser  
Mr. & Mrs. Orin R. Rockhold  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Raud  
Mrs. James R. Sampson  
Rachelle Schopp  
Mrs. Sidney Sisson  
Marjorie Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis O. Spaeth  
Mrs. Frederick N. Steiner  
Mrs. Kenneth Stimpson  
Gladys L. Treadway  
Gerald & Linda Walker  
Mrs. John T. Walsh  
Mrs. Richard A. Welch  
Mrs. Cecil Whiteside  
Mrs. Mildred M. Wiggers  
Dorothy M. Williams  
Mrs. Dale Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wood  
Sylvia B. Young  
Mrs. Lewis S. Young  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert Ziegler & son

## Genealogy Unit Surveys Sources

Members of the <sup>10-26-12</sup> recently formed Black Hawk Genealogical Society held a meeting at Black Hawk College Tuesday night.

As part of their meeting they visited the Learning Resources Center (LRC) to survey the various sources available for genealogical study.

Mary Morrissey, special services librarian at the college, met with the group and showed the members of the society 70 volumes of "The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies" from the U.S. War Department; "The Official Atlas of the Civil War" which contains the roll of honor of deceased servicemen of Illinois, and a 10-volume set of the Illinois Adjutant General's Report which covers the Black Hawk Wars, Mexican, and Spanish-American War as well as the Civil War.

President of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society is Mrs. Joseph A. Normoyle, Rock Island. Mrs. Ken Buell, Moline is secretary.

## Genealogical Dispatch Society Formed <sup>9-28-12</sup>

The Black Hawk Genealogical Society was formed Tuesday evening at a meeting in Moline Public Library and named Mrs. Joseph Normoyle of Rock Island as its first president.

The society is open to the public, the next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the student union at Black Hawk College, Moline.

Other officers named include Gerald Woods, Rock Island, first vice president; Mrs. Ralph Clifford, Colona, second vice president; Mrs. Kenneth A. Buell, Moline, recording secretary; Mrs. William Coopman, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Francis Moseley, Milan, treasurer.

1973



Mrs. Darlene Paxton with her family tree.

March 18, 1973  
TIMES-DEMOCRAT  
Davenport - Bettendorf, Iowa

*Charter Member  
and  
First Genealogy Instructor  
in Quad-Cities Area.*

*'I have always been intensely interested in history and that's what you work with when you're involved in this type of research.'*

# Interest Branches In Genealogy

By Jim Arpy

A "time machine" available to anyone is utilized as a fascinating peephole into the past by Mrs. Darlene Paxton, Bettendorf, Iowa's only certified genealogist.

Poring over old court, birth, death, marriage and probate records, wills and deeds, newspapers, census reports and city directories, Mrs. Paxton moves backward through the years to resurrect other lives and times.

"I try to build a history of a family rather than just gather names, places and dates. There are so many sources that can tell a great deal not only about the persons I am tracing, but also interesting details of their lives and experiences," she says.

There are few certified genealogists in the entire United States, 96 in all, and no more than five in Illinois. A board of certification in Washington, D.C. must pass on an applicant's qualifications.

"I prefer to call it 'family history' rather than genealogy. I've been interested in the subject since I learned about the birds and bees as a child. I started with myself, tracing my ancestors back to 1620. Some of them were on the Mayflower and others fought in the Revolutionary War.

"I HAVEN'T BEEN into British records,

though the family supposedly goes back to William the Conqueror. But I don't accept anything I haven't proven conclusively by the records. I have to prove everything every step of the way or it doesn't mean anything. But some intriguing information turns up in the old records," Mrs. Paxton says.

"When I began climbing my family tree almost 20 years ago there were few guideposts to follow and a genealogist was considered a potential for the psychiatrist. Today it is one of the most popular hobbies and there are books and magazines and societies to give direction."

She currently is conducting a genealogy course for about 40 persons at Davenport Public Museum. She has also taught the subject in Cedar Rapids, where she lived until moving to Bettendorf about five years ago.

"IT USED TO be that it was unusual to have a person under 50 in the class, but now I have many, many young people. I don't quite know why, either, but there is great interest in genealogy. It is such an exciting hobby and I feel like a detective when I am researching a family. I've also traced the family of my husband, Wendell.

During the main part of the year I do research for other people, but my husband and I take off during the summer and travel, seeking new clues to our own families."

Mrs. Paxton became interested in the family of Col. George Davenport shortly after her arrival in the Quad-Cities area and began checking old records to determine all she could about it.

"I HAVE ALWAYS been intensely interested in history and that's what you work with when you're involved in this type of research. It's such a thrill when you come across something that provides the link and information you've been looking for," Mrs. Paxton explains.

"A genealogist can never take anything for granted. The first thing anyone has to prove is that he was born. That's easy, now, but when I first started there were men still trying to prove their births and it was often very difficult. We have to be detectives and lawyers and a little bit of everything."

Mrs. Paxton says people often ask of her research into her own family. "Aren't you afraid you'll find a horse thief?"

"That's exactly what we are looking for," she says. "That's what makes family

history exciting."

Mrs. Paxton says much material can be found on Microfilm in various institutions. War records are available to a time before the Revolutionary War. Such records also give a physical description of the person.

"WE ALSO STUDY mass migrations of people and from these are able to tell much about the persons who took part in them. Most pioneers migrated in groups. We also learn about the country from which they emigrated, the particular locale and period.

"The federal census reports, which go back to the 1850s, are a valuable source. Marriage records in Scott County go back to the 1840s, and death records to about 1880. We are making a list of all cemeteries in the county since they provide information, too. Wills and deeds and land sales have a story to tell, and all this is public information anyone can use.

"Few people today know anything about their relatives, and a lot of them don't care. But for those who do, going back into the past and learning about them is a rewarding and fascinating experience," Mrs. Paxton says.

# BLACK HAWK Genealogical Society Workshop

SATURDAY  
MAY 19, 1973

REGISTRATION: 9:30  
WORKSHOP: 10:00 to 3:00

TICKETS: \$2.00 each -- Covers entire workshop period

## SPEAKERS:

MR. LOWELL VOLKEL, a senior Archivist at the Illinois State Archives.

MRS. BARBARA DALBY, President of the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society and instructs an adult education class in basic genealogy at Thornton Junior College.

WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD IN BUILDING 90

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL  
(Map Attached)

PLEASE BRING SACK LUNCH, as the Arsenal Cafeteria will be closed

COFFEE AND COOKIES WILL BE FURNISHED

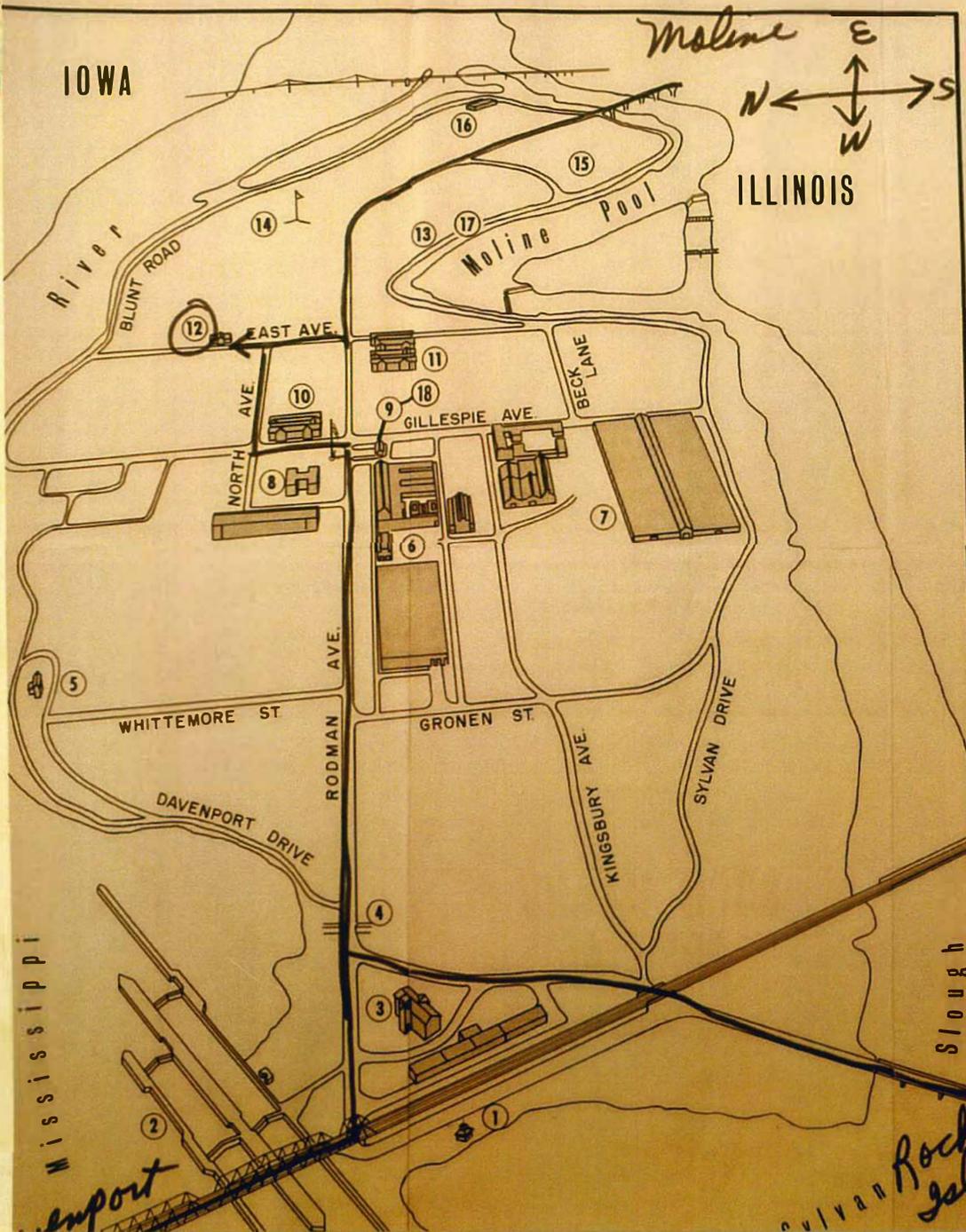
THERE IS AMPLE PARKING!!

For more information or tickets call:

Virginia Hinricks (Mrs. Paul) 1-309-755-2580

Mary Clifford (Mrs. Ralph) 1-309-949-2162

# ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

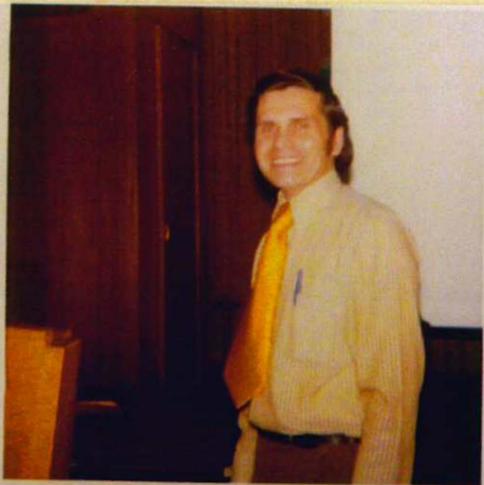


## LEGEND

- 1 Fort Armstrong
- 2 Lock and Dam 15
- 3 Headquarters, Rock Island District Corps of Engineers
- 4 Main entrance
- 5 Colonel Davenport House
- 6 Major shop area
- 7 Building 299 - Receiving and Shipping
- 8 Headquarters Building US Army Weapons Command and Rock Island Arsenal
- 9 Police and Fire Station
- 10 Building 60  
Post Cafeteria NCO Club  
Officers Open Mess  
John M. Browning Museum  
Court of Patriots
- 11 Building 108-110, Research and Engineering Directorate
- 12 Building 90  
Army Management Engineering Training Agency (AMETA)
- 13 Confederate Cemetery
- 14 Golf Course
- 15 U.S. National Cemetery
- 16 Keith L. Ware Simulation and Experimental Firing Center
- 17 Ramsey Test Track



Mrs. Philip Dalby (Barbara)  
President, South Suburban Genealogical  
Society and teacher -



Lowell Volkel, Senior Archivist  
Illinois State Archives  
Springfield, Ill.

# THE TARGET

Published in the interest of personnel at Rock Island Arsenal  
VOL. 11, NO. 9 ROCK ISLAND, ILL. FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1973

## Genealogical Group To Meet Here May 19

The recently organized Blackhawk Genealogical Society, whose members are drawn from Rock Island and surrounding counties, as well as Scott County, is sponsoring a Genealogical Workshop on Saturday, May 19th, starting at 9:30 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m. — to be held in the Auditorium of Building 90 at Rock Island

Arsenal.

The speakers will be Lowell Volkel, the Senior Archivist of the Illinois State Archives at Springfield, and Mrs. Barbara Dalby, a teacher from the Chicago area.

Tickets are \$2.00 per person. The Society will serve coffee and cookies but you are urged to bring a sack lunch as the cafeteria will not be open. The public is invited.

Phone one of the following for tickets to be held for you at the registration desk or, tickets may be bought the day of the Workshop in Bldg. 90: Mrs. Paul Hinrichs, 755-2580 or Kitty Pierce, 787-1069

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Speakers will be Lowell Volkel, senior archivist of the state archives in Springfield, and Mrs. Barbara Dalby, a teacher from the Chicago area who will talk on sources and techniques for genealogical research.

Coffee and cookies will be served by the society but it is suggested persons bring a sack lunch.

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WEEKEND Tuesday, May 15, 1973  
Daveport-Bettendorf, Iowa

Are you here?  
May 19, 1973



Auditorium - Bldg. 90.  
Rock Island Arsenal





Mrs. Philip Dalby (Barbara)  
President, South Suburban Genealogical  
Society and teacher -

## *Our Speakers*



Lowell Volkel, Senior Archivist  
Illinois State Archives  
Springfield, Ill.

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TIMES-DEMOCRAT Tuesday, May 15, 1973  
Davenport Bettendorf, Iowa

Are you here?  
May 19, 1973



Auditorium - Bldg. 90.  
Rock Island Arsenal



## Genealogical Group Will Hear Speaker

Ronald A. Bremer, author of genealogical publications and former research specialist for the genealogical society of Salt Lake City, will be the speaker at a meeting Tuesday night.

The talk will be given at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room of Black Hawk College and sponsored by the Black Hawk Genealogical Society.

His topic will be "American Genealogical Sources".



**PROJECT PROGRESSES** — Members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society are shown above at work in the Rock Island Public Library on their current project. This project is writing an every-name index for a reprint of a 474-page history of Rock Island County published by H. F. Kett, entitled "Past and Present of Rock Island County 1877." They are, left to right, Mrs. Harold L. Pierce, publicity chairman; Mrs. Joseph Normoyle, president of the society; Mrs. Paul Hinrichs, chairman of proofreading for this project; Mrs. Francis Moseley, project chairman; and Mrs. Robert Millet. (Argus Photo)



**BUSY HANDS** — Members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society have undertaken to cross-index over 10,000 names in an 1877 history of Rock Island County. The society will sponsor the reprinting of the history to help preserve it as a genealogical resource. Members have estimated they have put in more than 500 hours working on this project, sorting, checking, and alphabetizing the names of early Rock Island County families. (Argus Photo)

## 'EVERY NAME INDEX' —

# New genealogical society plans reprint of early county history

By DEAN COLLINS  
(Argus Staff Writer)

What's in a name. . . ?  
Interesting stories, good friends, fun and fellowship, and a hobby that can fill as many hours as one wishes to devote at any age of his life — that's the kind of an answer members of a "new" area group, The Blackhawk Genealogical Society, give.  
The society, with a membership of 71 persons living in five states, will observe its first birthday next month. However, members won't have time to light the one candle on their cake because they are deeply involved in another major project.

This project, which is sort of a pre-national bicentennial project, is writing an every-name index for a reprint of a 474-page history of Rock Island County published by H. F. Kett, entitled "Past and Present of Rock Island County 1877." "This book has become rare," according to Mrs. Joseph Normoyle, Rock Island, president and founder of the genealogical society.

A December delivery date for the reprint of this rare Rock Island County history, complete with its new every-name index, has been promised if one places a pre-publication order.

Pre-publication date orders may be given to Mrs. Francis Moseley, Milan, general chairman of the committee to reprint the history. The pre-publication price for the reprinted volume is \$11.

Book orders also may be placed with Mrs. Harold L.

Pierce, Route 1, Milan, publicity chairman for the society. Mrs. Pierce also will answer any questions about the society and membership in it.

Over 10,000 names will be cross-indexed for the every-name index members of the genealogical society are compiling for the reprint of the history. Members have worked for a year on this project. They estimate they have put in more than 500 hours of work.

One of the important reasons for reprinting this history is to preserve it as a genealogical source. It will be an even more important reference work with its new index.

"This book is very rare in its original form," Mrs. Moseley stated. "And in most cases, the few original books in existence are in poor condition, with pages missing. We want to preserve this book and make it available to more residents at a very low price."

Society members point out that a goal for their organization is to preserve and perpetuate the records of ancestors. This history of Rock Island County is certainly a record of early families in the county.

"We want to encourage the study of family history, to preserve and safeguard genealogical and historical materials in this county and in surrounding counties," Mrs. Moseley added.

But in the pursuit of their special projects, like the every-name index, society members encounter many other interesting stories and times.

Like the story Mrs. Pierce told. A common activity for a genealogical enthusiast is "reading a cemetery." Now this means one goes to a cemetery and finds out everyone who is buried in that cemetery by reading the information on the tombstones. Mrs. Pierce told about the man who found this interesting inscription on a tombstone when he was reading a cemetery: "I told them I was sick," someone wryly chose to have engraved on his tombstone.

"You meet such interesting people in this kind of work," Mrs. Normoyle explained. "After a while, you find you start noticing the names that other people are looking for. You really being watching out for

others, copying information for people you know."

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society is affiliated with the Illinois State Genealogical Society.

Where does one start to look when he wants to find out what's in his name?

A person can visit old relatives and listen to them talk about their parents, grandparents, and any other relatives they remember. They should be encouraged to talk about anything they can remember from their past.

"Accurate records should be kept about what the senior members of our families do remember," Mrs. Pierce explained.

Another source for information are old pictures and books.

"A helpful hint to everyone," Mrs. Pierce suggested, "Always write the names of persons on the backs of photos. It's surprising how quickly families forget who the persons pictured are."

Other sources of information for genealogists are family Bibles; old letters, personal journals; old tax bills; census materials; vital statistics, like births, marriages and deaths; histories of countries; biographies; plat maps; deeds; and wills.

"I found a lot of information about a family in a package of old love letters, of all things," one member commented.

Mrs. Pierce told about an interesting item she read in an old will. A man wrote in his will, "I dispose of my wife's clothing to our good neighbor.

"You soon discover that in the 1800's and early 1900's, no one wasted any thing," Mrs. Pierce said. "They were careful to make use of everything."

Genealogists just "love" to exchange information, society members agreed.

"You can have letters going all over the world," Mrs. Pierce said.

Sometimes interesting answers come back. For example, the local society received a letter from a Jacksonville woman, who wrote, "I would like to do some research in this area because Black Hawk, the Indian chief from your area,

descended from the same chief of the Mohawks in New York as I did."

The woman then explained that the Mohawk chief was her ninth great-grandfather.

Another project undertaken by members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society was to assist the Rock Island Arsenal in locating relatives of Gen. Thomas J. Rodman, a past commander of the arsenal, when the government installation dedicated a laboratory in his memory. Gen. Rodman lived 1816-71.

Mrs. Pierce explained, "Arsenal personnel offered us a copy of the Confederate Cemetery roster. In appreciation, our society volunteered to assist them with their Rodman history through courthouse records. This assistance gave the Arsenal personnel the original clue about how to continue their investigation."

Thanks to this project, the Rodman family now has a more complete family tree, Mrs. Pierce explained.

The local society also puts out a quarterly publication "Smoke Signals." The group includes research conducted by its members and information about area families. This publication is sent to all members and to other genealogical societies in the state and nation.

"Did you know that genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in this country?" Mrs. Pierce asked.

The Blackhawk group also has sponsored two workshops.

"Genealogical workshops and classes are quite common in this country now," Mrs. Pierce said.

"You can still be a charter member of your group if you join before the last day of this year," Mrs. Moseley explained.

"Don't forget about our reprint of 'Past and Present of Rock Island County 1877,'" Mrs. Moseley added. "It's a more of a biographical directory because most of the residents of the county at that time are listed, plus maps, pictures, and Civil War units. It's a very valuable genealogical source, plus a very good history of early Rock Island County."

Anyone can see there's a lot in the name Blackhawk Genealogical Society.



# BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Chartered under the Illinois State Genealogical Society

ANNOUNCES THE REPRINTING OF

**"PAST AND PRESENT OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY 1877"**

Originally Published by H. F. Kett and Co., of Chicago, Illinois

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society proudly announces it's sponsorship of a reproduction of this very rare book.

This history contains --

- \* Organization of Rock Island County
- \* Biographical directory of residents and businesses
- \* Civil War soldiers and units
- \* Pictures and maps
- \* Early history of the area and Black Hawk War
- \* Much additional information of interest to history buffs, genealogical researchers, schools, libraries, and descendants of those who took part in the making of this history.

This history is a reproduction of the original 474 pages, plus a new "every name" index containing over 10,000 names.

Many pioneers stopped in this area on their migration westward.

The History is being reproduced for us by Unigraphic, Inc., of Evansville, Indiana. Unigraphic, Inc. is known for its quality craftsmanship. Bindings will be of handsome, long-lasting buckram.

Reserve your copy at a SPECIAL pre-publication price of \$11.00 until November 1, 1973. After that date the price will be \$13.00. Illinois residents must add 5% sales tax. Delivery is scheduled for early December, 1973.

Please mail your order today, and tell your friends and relatives of this opportunity to obtain the History. It will make a gift you will be proud to give -- for birthday, Christmas -- any reason.

-----

## ORDER BLANK

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment for  
reprint copies of the "Past and Present of Rock Island County  
1877" The ~~cancelled~~ check will be my receipt.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sales tax on pre-publication order is 55¢ for Illinois residents.  
Sales tax on post-publication order is 65¢ for Illinois residents.

Make checks payable to: Blackhawk Genealogical Society and mail to:  
Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 West 10th Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264



Jim Arpy

## Telling Very Old Secrets

How would you like everyone in the county to know not only your political and religious affiliations, but how much you were worth?

Incredibly, the almost 12,000 persons listed in the Rock Island County History of 1877 supplied that information for a book that was purely a private, money-making enterprise.

The recently formed Blackhawk Genealogical Society has undertaken as its first major project the reproduction of that county history. The project will tie in with the Society's Bi-Centennial activities.

"The more prominent citizens probably paid for their biographical insertions, and we find that these are of greater length," Mrs. Harold Pierce, Milan, the Society's publicity chairman, says.

Reproductions of the 740-page book, with a 12,000-name index the original lacked, can be purchased for \$11 (plus 55 cents tax for Illinois residents) until Nov. 1. After that date, the books may be purchased for \$13 (plus 65 cents in Illinois). Checks or money orders may be sent to Mrs. H.L. Pierce, R.R. No. 1, Box 386, Milan, Ill. 61264.

"**THE INFORMATION** in this book is invaluable for anyone doing genealogical research on their families, or just seeking to learn more about early settlers. We find many persons with the same names still living in the county," Mrs. Pierce said.

The River Bend Library in Coal Valley had an original copy of the 1877 publication on its shelves and agreed to let publishers use it for reproduction. Each page was carefully removed for filming, and then replaced and rebound, leaving the book in as good condition as before. The library originally paid \$60 for the book.

"The books will be published and delivered in time to be used as Christmas gifts," Mrs. Pierce said.

The name, post office address, township and section, political and religious affiliation and financial worth of each family is listed. One man, who listed his worth at \$20,000, noted that his occupation was "capitalist."

**MRS. PIERCE'S PARTICULAR** assignment in assembling the book was to index the 1877 inhabitants of Coal Valley. She noted that there were 121 heads of families in Coal Valley Township that year who had been born in England, a substantial number in Wales, and a lesser number from Ireland and Scotland. Many worked the area's many coal mines.

"Genealogy is a kissing cousin to history. One can't do serious family history ~~without~~ without becoming very much aware of the dramatic events in which one's ancestors participated, either actively or as an observer," Mrs. Pierce notes.

She became so intrigued with her research that she visited a "Centennial Farm" occupied by the Scott McWhinney family near Coal Valley. A Centennial farm is one owned and occupied by the same family for at least 100 years. The state of Illinois recognizes such a farm by the presentation of a plaque mounted on a standard and attesting to the fact.

"**THE McWHINNEY FARM** is near where the towns of Warner and Sunnyhill were once located," Mrs. Pierce says. "No vestige of these old towns remains today, except for what is known as 'Warner's Castle' in Warner. Sunnyhill is gone, with no trace left of the Crampton Station railroad depot, the general store, the old school house, and the post office.

"Nearby, the town of Warner was once a thriving little town catering to the many coal miners in the area. Just recently the old building which was once used as a headquarters where miners reported to pick up their pay (usually in silver dollars) was demolished by a cyclone. The ancient foundation stones are still visible. This town, too, once had a few little business houses and residences, but all one can see now are some mobile homes and Warner's Castle, an ornate stone residence with silvery towers surrounded by woodland.

Generations of the McWhinney family have grown up on the old farm, Mrs. Pierce notes: "The little cottage (the original dwelling) built sometime around 1864, still stands, now used for storage, but the roof is still intact, undamaged by a tornado that wrought havoc with the big farmhouse in which the Scott McWhinneys live. The floors of the cottage still bear up under the weight of many pounds of stored items.

"One can step into the crowded parlor of the ancient home and still detect that it once must have had a great deal of charm, with a fireplace and plenty of windows.

"Mr. McWhinney has found a great many Indian arrowheads, but at only one spot on his property, a high ridge. He recalls that he once kept breaking the blades of his plow, always in the same area. When he investigated, digging down with shovels, he discovered a protecting layer of flat rocks covering a partial skeleton. He took the remains to a neighboring doctor who confirmed they were human. Mr. McWhinney is convinced it was the skeleton of an Indian," Mrs. Pierce reports.

1 AN ACT to amend Section 24 of the "Vital Records Act",  
2 approved August 8, 1961, as amended.

3 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
4 represented in the General Assembly:

5 Section 1. Section 24 of the "Vital Records Act",  
6 approved August 8, 1961, as amended, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

(Ch. 111 1/2, par. 73-24)

8 Sec. 24. (1) To protect the integrity of vital records,  
9 to insure their proper use, and to insure the efficient and  
10 proper administration of the vital records system, access to  
11 vital records, and indexes thereof, including vital records  
12 in the custody of local registrars and county clerks  
13 originating prior to January 1, 1916, is limited to the  
14 custodian and his employees, and then only for administrative  
15 purposes, except the indexes of those records in the custody  
16 of local registrars and county clerks, except the county clerks  
17 of counties having a populations of 1,000,000 or more, origi-  
18 nating prior to January 1, 1916, shall be made available to mem-  
19 bers of Illinois genealogical societies. It is unlawful for any  
20 custodian to permit inspection of, or to disclose information  
21 contained in, vital records, or to copy or permit to be  
22 copied, all or part of any such record except as authorized  
23 by this Act or regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

24 (2) The State Registrar of Vital Records, or his agent,  
25 and any municipal, county, multi-county, public health  
26 district, or regional health officer recognized by the  
27 Department may examine vital records for the purpose only of  
28 carrying out the public health programs and responsibilities  
29 under his jurisdiction.

30 (3) The State Registrar of Vital Records, may disclose,  
31 or authorize the disclosure of, data contained in the vital  
32 records when deemed essential for bona fide research purposes  
33 which are not for private gain.

# \$25.5 million parochiaid bill allowed to pass

SPRINGFIELD (UPI) — Gov. Daniel Walker has whittled from 1,114 to 290 the number of spring session bills still requiring his signature or veto. Walker has announced signing

of 121 bills, veto of two others and said he is allowing yet another measure to become law without his signature. His office said that left only 290 bills for action—in-cluding such potential bomb-

ombs as a prohibition against busing for racial balance, a reduction in the sales tax and a re-imposition of the death penalty. The measure which Walker filled without his signature is an

appropriation of \$25.5 million to finance the state's "parochiaid" plan for aid to nonpublic schools. He said in an accompanying message that he was sidestepping the issue because the parochiaid plan is caught up in a court test.

local governments acquire open lands was changed through an amendatory veto and sent back to the legislature for approval of the alterations. Walker's office did not, however, explain what changes had been made in the bill.

turned by a Will County judge. —Force aspiring political candidates to file ethics statements before their candidacy can become official.

—Allow tavern keepers to refuse to sell alcoholic beverages to persons who fail to provide written evidence of their age and identity and to allow courts to take notice of any falsified identification presented to bartenders.

—Establish a department of bilingual education in the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

The state Constitution allows the governor 60 days to consider any bill, starting from the date it is delivered to him in official form. If he does not either sign or veto it within that time period, the bill automatically becomes law without his signature.

Many of the remaining measures will reach their 60-day deadline before the end of next week.

### Let courts decide

"In view of the clear legislative declaration of public policy (for parochiaid), I believe it is appropriate that House Bill 1746 become law without my signature and that the courts determine the extent to which the state program is constitutional," Walker said.

He vetoed outright a bill which would have reduced the state's charge to local governments for collecting the local share of sales taxes. Walker earlier had announced he planned to veto the bill, which called for a reduction in the rate from 4 per cent to 2 per cent.

A measure which would have provided state grants to help

### Bills he signed

Among the 121 bills Walker announced he had signed were measures to:

—regulate and require permits for sport parachuting in Illinois.

—Establish the first Monday in March as a commemorative holiday honoring Casimir Pulaski.

—Make it legal to use the words "bar" and "saloon" in advertisements.

—Require that county and local records dated 1916 and earlier be opened to inspection by Illinois genealogical societies.

—Add a penalty clause to the Illinois governmental ethics law, which Monday was over-

*" Good News "*

1974

# People's pulpit

## Not participating

Editor, The Argus: On page 6 of the Oct. 4 edition of The Argus was a story reporting plans of the Rock Island Historical Association for the bicentennial. It stated that the Blackhawk Genealogical Society will join with the RIHA and the Rock Island Jaycees in asking the Rock Island City Council and the County Board to provide matching funds from their 1974-75 budgets for a federal grant to commemorate the 1976 bicentennial.

The article went on to state that Morris Colehour, acting chairman of the Historical As-

sociation, has conferred with the genealogical group (among others) for assistance in having a one-story building erected in the center of the proposed downtown shopping area east of 20th St.

It is imparative the record be set straight.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society has never been contacted through any officer for support of the proposed building. No officer of our society would commit the group to such cooperation without full concurrence of it membership at an open meeting. The first that any officer knew about the matter was on reading The Argus article. It is questionable whether our society would take any active, official role in seeking funds for such a building, isasmuch as our membership is drawn from a 100-mile radius. It is unlikely members would wish to pinpoint their efforts to a specific city.

It is not to be construed that the society is opposed to bicentennial activities. As an organization we are having reproduced the 1877 Rock Island County history, a rare and valuable book for history buffs, genealogists and all who have roots in the county. This is written in my capacity as public relations chairman on instruction from the society's president, Mrs. Joseph Normoyle.

**MRS. HAROLD L. PIERCE**  
Route 1, Box 386  
Milan

## PIXies® by Wohl

POOR NORMAN  
DOESN'T KNOW  
WHICH END  
IS UP  
ANYMORE.

nnu

10-10  
1974

10-10  
1974  
The Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. All rights reserved.  
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Voice of the People

On page 6 of Thursday's edition of the Argus is an article captioned "Funds sought to aid area's observance of Bicentennial". The article reports the plans of the Rock Island Historical Assoc. for the Bicentennial. It states that the Blackhawk Genealogical Society will join with the R.I. Historical Assoc. and the R.I. Jaycees in asking "The R.I. City Council and the R.I. Co. Board to provide matching funds from their 1974-1975 budgets for a Federal grant from the U.S. Bicentennial to commemorate the 1976 Bicentennial in R.I." The article goes on to say that Mr. Morris Colehour, Actg. Chairman of the Historical Assoc. has conferred with the genealogical group (among others) for assistance in having a one story building erected in the center of the proposed downtown shopping area, east of 20th St.

It is imperative that the record be set straight.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Soc. has NEVER been contacted thru any officer for support of the proposed building project. No officer of our Society would ~~assist~~ the group to such cooperation without the full concurrence of its membership at an open meeting. The fact that any officer of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society knew about the whole matter was on reading the Argus article.

It is questionable whether our Society would take any active, official role in seeking lands for such a building, inasmuch as our membership is drawn from a 100 mile radius, including Scott Co., Iowa. It is unlikely that the members would wish to pinpoint their efforts to one specific City.

It is not to be construed from this letter that the Blackhawk Gen. Soc. is opposed to Bicentennial observance activities. As an organization we are having reproduced the 1877 R.I. Co. History, a rare and valuable book for history buffs, genealogists and all who have long roots in the County. Members of our Society are expending all ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> time and energies in compiling a 10,000 name index for the book, and on sales activities.

The above is written in my capacity as Public Relations Chairman, on instructions from the Society's President, Mrs. Joseph Monroye.

Mrs. Harold L. Pierce,  
RR 1, Box 386, Milan, Ill. 61264  
Tel. 787-1069

# Long-lost 'Lincoln' marker found

By DARR HENRY  
Dispatch Writer

A long-lost marker, noting the early history of Abraham Lincoln during the Black Hawk War, has been found, restored and returned to its former location.

The dark blue aluminum shield is mounted on Andalusia Road shortly beyond the intersection of U.S. 87 and

Illinois 92. It is on the north side of the road, facing the Cinesmas theaters.

It was in this area that Lincoln reportedly was made a captain while serving with the Illinois Militia.

Because of the Indian uprising in 1831-32, volunteers were asked to serve in the state militia. Lincoln organized a company in Springfield,

marched the men here and camped in the area of the marker.

A portion of the land adjoining the intersection was to have been given to the DAR chapter because of members' extensive historical research.

Enthusiastically, members of the chapter obtained 50 walnut trees from Gettysburg, Pa., which were planted in the

triangle of the intersection. Because of a lien, the land was sold before it could be legally deeded to the DAR, and the new owner cut down the trees.

After more research and pressure from the DAR, the Illinois State Historical Society erected the marker in 1956.

When the intersection was changed, the marker was taken down and "lost" for a while. Clarence Skinner, Rock

Island, president of the Rock Island County Historical Society, began wondering what happened to the marker. Last spring, Skinner wrote letters and placed phone calls until the marker was found in a state highway office in Dixon.

Today on Lincoln's birthday, the marker is a reminder of the Lincoln heritage of this area.

# THE DAILY DISPATCH

96th YEAR — No. 167

30 PAGES

Two  
Editions

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1974

MOLINE, ILLINOIS

★

10¢



Mrs. Joseph A. Narmoyle, Rock Island, regent of the Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, admires the marker that commemorates the area where Abraham Lincoln camped near Milan in 1832. (Dispatch Photo)

*First President  
of  
Blackhawk Genealogical  
Society  
October 1972*

Three (3) Charter Members  
of Blackhawk Genealogy  
Society.

Friday, September 6, 1974

THE DAILY DISPATCH, Moline, Illinois

### Workshop on genealogy is scheduled

Four area persons will serve as instructors for a workshop on genealogy which will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, in the Illinois Room of the Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City.

They are Virginia Hinrichs, East Moline; Jean Houston, Davenport, and Darlene Paxton and Jean Britner, both of Bettendorf.

The workshop is being presented by the Iowa City Genealogical Society and is open to any interested persons.

A registration fee of \$2 does not include lunch.

"There will be things of interest for both beginners and veteran students," says Lee Barion, president of the society.

Topics will include charting and filing, local records, federal records, and construction of a genealogy.

While not necessary, reservations may be made to the Iowa City Genealogical Society, Box 4112, Coralville, Iowa, 52241.



DARLENE PAXTON



JEAN HOUSTON



JOAN BITTNER



VIRGINIA HINRICHS

## EASTERN IOWA GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Illinois Room, Iowa Memorial Union

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Saturday, September 14, 1974 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### PROGRAM

- 9:00 to 9:30 Registration - Coffee Hour
- 9:30 to 10:40 Charting and Filing - Jean Houston
- 10:50 to 12:00 Local Records - Joan Bittner
- 12:00 to 1:00 Noon Break
- 1:00 to 2:10 Constructing a Genealogy - Darlene Paxton
- 2:20 to 3:30 Federal Records - Virginia Hinrichs

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Display space for exhibits of your club's activities, publications, etc., will be provided if you request it.

You may have lunch at the Iowa Memorial Union Cafeteria, or at a restaurant of your choice.

You may park your car free in a University lot adjacent to the Iowa Memorial Union.

Registration fee: \$2.00  
This does not include lunch

Visit the Exhibits

### TO REACH THE IOWA MEMORIAL UNION

From Interstate 80:  
Take Exit 60, North Dubuque St.  
Go south on Dubuque St. to Market St. Turn right, go three blocks to Madison St., turn right to parking lot.

From Highways 218 and 6:  
Turn off Riverside Drive at Iowa Ave., cross bridge, turn left on Madison St. to parking lot.

### REGISTRATION BLANK

I will attend the Eastern Iowa Genealogical Conference on September 14.

Check or money order for \$2.00 enclosed  
(This does not include lunch.)

Mail to:  
Iowa City Genealogical Society  
Postoffice Box 6112  
Coralville, Iowa 52241

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Biography on Reverse side*



## Participants in the Conference

### **DARLENE PAXTON, Bettendorf, Iowa**

Certified genealogist and teacher (12 years). Summers are spent researching in the Eastern states. Research areas are Iowa, Penn., New Jersey, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, Michigan and Massachusetts.

#### Member of:

National Genealogical Society  
Iowa Genealogical Soc. (charter member)  
Mayflower Society (Dep. Gov. of Iowa)  
Daughters of American Revolution (registrar)  
Illinois Genealogical Society  
Black Hawk Genealogical Soc. (charter)  
Scott County Genealogical Soc. (charter)  
Iowa-Illinois Workshop (charter)  
Scott County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

#### Other Activities:

Director of Workshop for Iowa State Genealogical Society (Fall, 1973).  
State Chairman of Church Records for American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.  
Registrar for Iowa Colony of Colonial Dames.

### **JEAN HOUSTON, Davenport, Iowa**

Attended classes in Beginning and Advanced Genealogy (40 hours), and assists in conducting workshops. Business Background Systems Analyst.

#### Member of:

Detroit Genealogical Society  
Iowa Genealogical Society  
Scott County Genealogical Soc. (charter)  
Black Hawk Genealogical Soc. (charter)  
Iowa-Illinois Workshop (charter)  
Scott County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

### **JOAN BITTNER, Bettendorf, Iowa**

A genealogical researcher who has attended classes in Beginning and Advanced Genealogy (40 hours). Was chairman of the Scott County Census Indexing.

#### Member of:

Iowa Genealogical Society  
Tennessee Genealogical Society  
Southwestern Genealogical Society  
Iowa-Illinois Workshop (charter member)

#### Has researched in:

North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Nebraska, California and Colorado.

### **VIRGINIA HINRICHS, East Moline, Ill.**

Genealogy started for Mrs. Hinrichs five years ago with an obituary of her great-grandmother. She enrolled in a genealogy course, and has since researched in Pennsylvania, Iowa, Indiana and Illinois. In 1973 she spent a week at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, and this year she has done research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These visits sparked her interest in the Palatine Immigration, on which she has developed an enlightening list of resources.

#### Member of:

Black Hawk Genealogical Society (Chairman of 1973 workshop)  
Iowa Genealogical Society  
Illinois Genealogical Society  
Indiana Genealogical Society  
Ohio Genealogical Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Armstrong chapter (Board member)

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Monday, November 25, 1974

## State park listing as historical area sought

Papers nominating Black Hawk State Park, and some adjacent areas in Rock Island and Milan, for listing as a National Historical District will be filed this week.

Nomination papers are being drawn up for mailing to William G. Farrar, Carbonate, Ill., liaison officer for the National Register of Historical Places, according to Ferrel Anderson, Davenport, president of the Quad-City Area Archaeological Society.

Listing of the sites in the national register would give the areas some protection from destruction under the Historical Preservation Act of 1966. Under the act, local groups and individuals may nominate historically or archaeologically important buildings or sites for listing.

Once an area is registered, any development project involving federal funds must include provision for the preservation or salvage of historic or archaeological sites that would be disturbed or destroyed by the project.

The proposal for listing includes Black Hawk State Park, an area immediately west of the park believed to have been an Indian village, Vandruff's Island, portions of Big Island, north shore area of Milan and an area east of the park where Indian burial mounds are located.

Submitting nominating forms besides Anderson are Mrs. Gilman Milton, Moline, a member of the Save Black Hawk State Park Foundation, and David Newquist, Moline, a member of the archaeological society.

Area residents first became concerned about registering the sites when a proposal to

widen Black Hawk Road to four lanes was drawn up.

## Genealogists elect officers

Mrs. Paul Hinrichs, East Moline, was elected president of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society when the group met last week in the Rock Island YWCA.

Henry Lyon, East Moline, was elected first vice president; Mrs. James Neuman, Milan, second vice president; Mrs. William Coopman, Moline, secretary; Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius, Moline, treasurer; Mrs. Harold Pierce, Milan, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Richard Henry, East Moline, historian, and Mrs. Albert Loete, Moline, registrar.

Gerald Wood, Rock Island, is outgoing president.

Mrs. Jean Houston of Davenport spoke on charting and filing.

The group's next meeting will be Jan. 28 in the Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island. New members and requests for genealogical tracing are welcome.

# Descendants of county pioneer families sought

Descendants of pioneer families in Rock Island County dating back more than 100 years are being sought by the county Bicentennial Commission as one of its projects to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the nation.

Mrs. Harold Pierce of Milan is chairing a search committee and certifying the authenticity of those family descendants of early settlers who arrived in the area before 1876.

"We have made the format as simple as possible because we realize that most inquiring will be from amateurs and not skilled genealogists," she said.

Sources of information to determine pioneer families are birth certificates, family bibles, tombstone inscriptions, church records, marriage records, estate files, court records, land records, census data, city or county directories

and military records.

Application forms are available from county reference librarians in the River Bend Library System.

"This project is important because there can't help but develop a sense of pride in people as they realize the part their ancestors played in shaping this county and the hardships they endured to survive," Mrs. Pierce said.

SERVED 23 YEARS

## Harriet S. Jeanes Retires As RNA Appointive Officer



Mrs. Harriet S. Jeanes

MRS Harriet S. Jeanes, Editor, Fraternal Advisor, and Publicity Director, retired Friday, Nov. 22 last, after having served Royal Neighbors of America as an appointive officer for nearly 24 years.

First appointed Editor of The Royal Neighbor, on March 12, 1951, Mrs. Jeanes was afforded the additional title of Fraternal Advisor on Sept. 21, 1957, and on Oct. 9, 1967, her responsibilities again were widened in scope to include the task of serving the Society as its Publicity Director. In the latter capacity, she succeeded her husband, Richard E. Jeanes, who retired from the post on Oct. 6, 1967, and whose death occurred on Nov. 14, 1968.

Among her major accomplishments in projecting the fraternal image of RNA have been the conception and implementation of the Society's nationwide Help-To-Hear project, which was initiated in 1959, and the Royal Neighbors of America Fraternal Scholarship Program, inaugurated in September 1961.

Mrs. Jeanes is held in highest regard by her peers in the fields of journalism and public relations through her distinctive and comprehensive presentations of the Society's annual reports—both in the Royal Neighbor magazine and in booklet form; preparation and publication of numerous pamphlets and booklets pertaining to the fraternal benefits of RNA membership, and various revisions, from time to time, in the format and style of The Royal Neighbor, with the latest major revision occurring in November 1973. In the revision of 1973, The Royal Neighbor was given a complete "facelift," with restyled headlines and department headings to complement a new type face providing better readability.

Additions to the magazine, initiated with the approval of the Board of Supreme Directors, during Mrs. Jeanes' tenure as Editor were the adoption of the Camp Fire, Youth Activities, and Young Hobby sections as monthly features, and the intermittent publication of such features as Neighbors in the News, Young Royal Neighbors, In The Camera's Eye, and On and Off Campus.

DECEMBER 1974

Mrs. Jeanes also was responsible for the program designed to honor, in the magazine, fraternally active camps with the Camp-of-the-Month citation, Second Camp-of-the-Month Gavel and Block award, and the Good Neighbor plaque award, as well as members worthy of the Good Neighbor recognition.

Long acknowledged as an active fraternalist, Mrs. Jeanes has served as President of the Illinois Fraternal Congress (in 1967-1968), and is a Past President of the Fraternal, Press and Public Relations, and former Youth Counselors' Sections of the National Fraternal Congress of America. She also has served the NFCA as a member of its Public Relations committee.

Prior to her appointment as RNA Editor by the Society's Board of Supreme Directors, Mrs. Jeanes was employed by the Rock Island Argus as a member of its editorial staff for approximately 20 years. First serving as a news reporter, she subsequently became the newspaper's society editor and the theater and woman's page editor.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Jeanes has maintained an active interest in other fraternal, as well as civic, activities. A member and former vice oracle of Camp 1038, Rock Island, which she joined on Aug. 2, 1935, she also is affiliated with the Tri-City Garden Club, the Life Insurance Advertisers Association, the Iowa-Illinois Public Relations Council, of which she is a Past President, and the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce, which she currently is serving as a member of its Community Promotion committee.

In addition, Mrs. Jeanes, as a member of the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, Rock Island, has the honor of being the first woman in the Quincy and Springfield diocese to be named to the post of senior warden. She was appointed to the post for the 1974-1975 term by the Rev. Richard Bowman, rector of the church.

A native of Rock Island, where she was born on Nov. 18, 1909, the former Harriet Stafford, daughter of Elmore H. and Frederika S. Stafford, was graduated from St. Katharine's School, Davenport, Iowa, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., where she was affiliated with Delta Delta Delta social sorority. She was married to Mr. Jeanes on March 30, 1935, and is the mother of a son, Richard Elmore Jeanes.

Mrs. Jeanes and her son, who also is a member of Camp 1038, now reside at 1322 Twenty-sixth Avenue, Rock Island.

the  
*Royal Neighbor*

Volume 75

December 1974

No. 12

# A scoundrel lurks in the family tree!

By MARGIE THIRTYACRE  
Dispatch Writer

"Everyone has it," says Mrs. Wendell Paxton.

"No one can smugly sit back and say 'Oh, isn't that horrible. I'm glad it didn't happen in my family, because it did, there's no question about it.'"

The "it" of Mrs. Paxton's statement is the proverbial "black sheep" which, she believes, each family has stashed away either in great-grandma's memory or in scrawls tucked discreetly between yellowed pages of the old family Bible.

Mrs. Paxton should know.

One of some 95 certified genealogists in the United States, this Bettendorf woman makes living in the past her business. And during the "six or seven" years she and her husband have lived in this area, she has helped make the past the business of students who attend her genealogy classes.

"It's so wonderful because it changes so," she said of these classes which she teaches at the Putnam Museum in Davenport.

"At first, it was mostly grey-haired women who enrolled for the class, but every year I have had younger people," she continued.

"Why? I don't know, maybe because we are such a transient people."

Mrs. Paxton, who for 30 years has been interested in the study of family histories, first started teaching a course in genealogy while living in Cedar Rapids.

At the Putnam Museum, Darlene Paxton's 20-hour course is divided into eight sessions, each two-and-one-half hours each. Students may begin with Genealogy I, then advance to Genealogy II.

The course, which the instructor says is "mainly a course of sources," focuses on what information is available to trace the student's early ancestors, and where such material can be found. Then, there also are instructions on how to chart the information correctly into a family tree.

"They may expect to find illegitimate children, they may expect to find divorces. They will find everything that makes up a family," said Mrs. Paxton of students delving into past pages of forgotten family histories.

Sometimes students dig up a bit more than they bargained for. "Lots of times people find things they don't want to find, things they are sorry they found," said Mrs. Paxton. She reeled off several nameless stories of just such cases.

For instance, there was the woman who discovered her great-grandfather was also her grandfather.

"We talk about incest now, but," said Mrs. Paxton, "you see these things have gone on forever!"

"You'll find as many scoundrels as you'll find famous people," she added.

And then, after a few seconds, "Probably more!"

"I'm sure most people, if they don't know anything about genealogy, think that all we do is go to cemeteries, look at tombstones, and talk to elderly relatives," she said.

But, she explained, the serious genealogist has no time for sentimental strolls through oak lawns. The excavation for family tree roots more often will lead to damp and dusty corners of library or court house.

Once settled in one of those corners, a stu-

## WOMEN'S VIEWS

dent may search census records, tax records, records of birth, death, marriage. And if these fail to give a trace of the family name sought, there're always records of deeds, and old church records.

That is if the records haven't been chewed between the teeth of modern technology. Mrs. Paxton described nearly seven tons of old tax records of Scott County, dating from 1850. To make way for new computers, the records at the Scott County courthouse had been doomed to the shredder.

"People could care less, they don't know one thing from another or its value," she stated.

But the Putnam Museum, the state library in Iowa City and Mrs. Paxton did know the value of these records, and managed to save them.

"As we were taking the records," she said, "one man said, 'Are you taking all this?' I wanted one to display, they go all the way back to 1883."

"1883? They went back to 1852," said their redeemer.

Mrs. Paxton explained that genealogy has been a "self-educative" thing for her. When she first began her hobby, there were no teachers. She earned her certification through Washington, D.C., was director of the Workshop for Iowa State Genealogical Society in 1973, and has been asked to teach a course at Western Illinois University-Macomb. Next spring she will instruct such a course at the Rock Island YWCA.

"It sounds great — and it really isn't all that great because if you really work to do it you can — but I'm one of 95 certified genealogists in the United States," said this woman who also is a member of half a dozen genealogical societies.

Besides collecting genealogical memberships, Mrs. Paxton has collected a good deal of the area's history right in her own home.

"I have Rock Island County in the other room," she said as she nodded toward a stack of old records. A dusty box of aged mortuary records was pulled from the closet. The date on some documents was 1860.

"You can find anything here," she said, dusting off one large roll of yellowed paper.

"Houses of ill repute, records of the bodies of illegitimate children, everything."

"We will probably be arrested someday for invading somebody's privacy," she said with a laugh.

"But there are people who are just hungry to find out who they are."

That quest to find out might have good results.

Like the young woman who was able to trace, and talk to, a grandfather who had long ago fallen from the limb of the family tree.

That quest might have bad results.

Like the adopted young woman who traced her real parents, went up to their door, introduced herself, and heard her mother say, "I don't know you, and I don't want to talk to you."

But, whether the conversation with the past be bad or good, at least the genealogist believes the value of his studies is that there has been any conversation at all.

And in a modern age of anonymity, even that brief encounter with one's past can make a big difference in his struggle to discover who he is today.



Digging for details keeps the genealogist on her toes. But usually she's stretching into dusty corners of an attic or courthouse rather than up to the new volumes for which Mrs. Wendell Paxton is reaching. This Bettendorf woman, who has been interested in genealogy for more than 30 years, now teaches her hobby in classes held in the Putnam Museum, Davenport. (Dispatch Photo)



**RONALD A. BREMER**  
President

He was born and raised in the Southern California area. He studied genealogy at the Brigham Young University and attended the Eleventh Annual Institute on Genealogical Research in Washington, D. C. A former research specialist for the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, and presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Utah Genealogical Association. Lecturer at the recent Genealogical Symposium sponsored by the National Archives, The Society of American Archivists, and the New York Public Library. Editor of the forthcoming *Compendium of American Historical Sources*. He is an accredited genealogist and is in constant demand as a motivational speaker throughout the country.



**KENDALL H. WILLIAMS**  
Vice-President

He was born in Utah and raised in Northern California. He served on a Norwegian Mission for the Mormon church and majored in genealogy at the Brigham Young University. He is currently a member of the Utah Genealogical Association. Co-compiler of *The World's Greatest Epitaphs* and the forthcoming *Compendium of American Historical Sources*. He has traveled and lectured extensively throughout the United States and Europe.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
SEMINAR**

Ronald Bremer  
Friday, May 31, 1974 7:30 pm  
Black Hawk College Student Center

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets Courtesy of  
Larson Funeral Homes  
Rock Island and Milan

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
SEMINAR**

Ronald Bremer  
Friday, May 31, 1974 7:30 pm  
Black Hawk College Student Center

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets Courtesy of  
Larson Funeral Homes  
Rock Island and Milan

1975

QUAD-CITY TIMES Thursday, Jan. 30, 1975  
Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa



## *Delving Into History*

Members of the Scott County Historical Society examine old city records at Davenport City Hall after beginning work Wednesday on the task of sorting the documents to find those of historical value. From left are Mrs. Scharlott Blevins, Darlene Paxton, Lorraine Duncan and Joan E. Walker. The large book in foreground is a record of early 1900s burial permits and the historians said that and earlier permit records are a very valuable discovery for local research. (Staff Photo)

The following pages are highlights  
of Society Activities in 1975.

Submitted by Mrs. Delores Ann Kennedy Hauger  
Historian Year 1976

We Start  
The  
Year  
of  
1975

Tuesday January 28 the Blackhawk Genealogical Society  
met at Haulberg Civic Center at 7:00 P.M. The pro-  
gram was given by Joan Mittner, Bettendorf, Iowa.  
Searching County Records was her topic. she has research-  
ed in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas,  
Nebraska, California and Colorado.

February 25th Mrs. Madeline Isaacson showed slides of  
several early residents of this area. when we meet for  
our monthly meeting at Haulberg Civic Center.

March 1975

Tuesday March 25th at 7:00 P.M. we brought our problems to the Blackhawk Genealogical Society meeting for a panel discussion - panel members were Darlene Paxton, Scharlott Blevins, and Virginia Hindricks.

April 22 the Blackhawk Genealogical Society meet at Haulberg Civic Center in Rock Island to hear a librarian from the River Bend Library System tell us how they could help us, what they had available and how the interlibrary loan system works.



May 1975

Mrs. Betty Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk Rock Island County Clerks Office was our guest speaker, informing us as to what was available and how to go about getting the information from them when the Blackhawk Genealogical Society held its May 27th meeting at Haulberg Civic Center, Rock Island.

A special  
Treat for  
a June Afternoon

On June 22 The Blackhawk Genealogy Society took a tour of Chippianock Cemetery in Rock Island.

Rock Island County Pioneer Certificate - Application Blank

Generation 1. My Rock Island Co. pioneer ancestor was \_\_\_\_\_  
 He/She was born \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Generation 2. Their child \_\_\_\_\_ was my \_\_\_\_\_  
 He/She was born \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Generation 3. Their child \_\_\_\_\_ was my \_\_\_\_\_  
 He/She was born \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Generation 4. Their child \_\_\_\_\_ was my \_\_\_\_\_  
 He/She was born \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Generation 5. Their child \_\_\_\_\_ was my \_\_\_\_\_  
 He/She was born \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Sample

(Please use maiden name of female spouses, if known)

Please list source of data below:

For Generation 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Generation 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Generation 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Generation 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Generation 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
 This application is submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

The committee found  
 this form was not  
 the best and would  
 advise others to  
 make changes in it  
 before enacting  
 on a similar project!

June 1975

Early Milan was the program for the June 24th meeting of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society when we met at Haulberg Civic Center.

July 1975

PROBLEMS!! PROBLEMS!! PROBLEMS!! was on the agenda when the Blackhawk Genealogical Society met July 22 at 7:00 P.M. in their meeting room at Haulberg Civic Center. A workshop was held so we could have our problems answered by someone who had had success solving the same problem before.

August 1975

Tuesday August 26 at 7:00 P.M. in the Haulberg Civic Center meeting room the Blackhawk Genealogy Society conducted a small workshop to help the members that were having problems in certain areas.

September 23rd -- Special Meeting --

"Art of Genealogy Research" by Will Brown a research Consultant for Gencor of Salt Lake City, Utah. This meeting was held in Lecture Rooms 1&2 Bld. 4 at Blackhawk College.

September 1975

On September 29th we were all asked to write to our congressmen and ask them to oppose House Bill HR 2556. This bill would close all census records to everyone if it would pass!!

October 1975

Tuesday October 28 the Blackhawk Genealogical Society met at Haulberg Civic Center to hear two librarians at the Moline Public Library tell us what they had to offer to us in our search for old records.

November 1975

The November dinner meeting of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society was held at Bishops in Duck Creek Plaza. It was dutch treat meal with meeting following. The new officers for 1976 were installed. They are as follows:

President	J. Kenneth Baker
1st Vice President	Ivan Rice
2nd Vice President	Mrs. James Sampson
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Barbara Scott
Corres. Secretary	Mrs. James Lannoo
Treasurer	Mrs. William Coopman
Registrar	Mrs. Ronald Schroeder
Historian	Mrs. Lowell Hauger

1976

We start a new year

==

2A QUAD-CITIES Sunday, Jan. 25, 1976  
Davenport-Rock Island, Iowa

### Genealogists

A meeting of the Blackhawk Genealogy Society will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island.

Ivan Rice, first vice president of the society, will speak on "Why are Mormons Interested in Genealogy - What Do They Have to Offer?"

January 27<sup>th</sup>  
1976

### Genealogical group to meet at Hauberg

"Why are Mormons interested in Genealogy and what do they have to offer" will be the subject of Ivan Rice of Moline at 7 p.m. Tuesday when the Blackhawk Genealogical Society meets at Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island.

Rice is the newly-installed first vice president and program chairman for the society. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Others elected to serve as officers are president, Kenneth Baker, Rock Island; second vice president, Mrs. Lucille Sampson, Rock Island; recording secretary, Mrs. Barbara Scott, Milan; treasurer, Mrs. Phyllis Coopman, Moline; and registrar, Mrs. Sally Schroeder, Rock Island.

Hurry you still have time!

THE DAILY DISPATCH, Moline, Illinois

Wed., Jan. 21, 1976

9

## R. I. descendant search extended

The deadline for Rock Island County pioneer family descendant recognition has been extended two months because of interest generated in the search.

Mrs. Harold L. Pierce, chairman of the search committee, some 150 descendants have already made application and the original deadline has been extended to March 1.

Descendants of county pioneers verified by the search committee will be honored during ceremonies July 3.

Mrs. Pierce said the group is searching for information linking the applicants with pioneers who settled in the county before 1876.

"From the information sent so far I am utterly amazed by the number of people who have information on their ancestors," she said. "We have receive a mountain of material. The family histories are a vital part of the building of this area."

The information received is being cross-indexed for local

libraries and the documents will be placed in the Rock Island Historical Society.

Mrs. Pierce said the group hopes to introduce each of the descendants at the July 3 ceremony with a short biography of their pioneer ancestors and present a cer-

tificate based on their arrival date.

Instruction sheets and application forms are available at the Moline and Rock Island Public Libraries or can be requested, accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope, to Mrs. Pierce, 10212 Knoxville

Road, Milan, Ill., 61264. Applicants do not have to live in the county.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Tuesday, January 27, 1976



**BICENTENNIAL GIFTS TO LIBRARY** — The Rock Island Public Library this morning was presented Bicentennial gifts in the form of histories of Rock Island County and family genealogies. Left to right, above, are: Leonard Meinhold, library director; Mrs. Walter T. Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, who presented a family histories of the Fuhr family of Buffalo Prairie Township from 1799 to 1974, and the John Powell family of Drury Township

from a period beginning in 1721 to 1970; and John H. Newton, Coal Valley, who presented a Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock Island County of 1885, and the Prairie Farmer Reliable Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Mercer and Rock Island Counties in 1918. Friends of the Library would welcome additional gifts of county histories, city directories, atlas booklets, old diaries and ledgers. (Argus Photo.)

Mrs Walter Fuhr one of our very active members

a bit of humor

32

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Wednesday, January 28, 1976

LAFF - A - DAY



"We charge \$200 to trace your family tree, and another \$200 to forget what we found out."

5-9-76

8 THE DAILY DISPATCH, Moline, Illinois

## Mary Morrissey receives award from Belgian king

Miss Mary Morrissey, Moline, has been appointed "Knight in the Order of the Crown" by King Baudouin of Belgium. She is the first person in this area, not of Belgian origin, to receive this honor.

Miss Morrissey, who is a retired associate professor from Black Hawk College, was given the award for her efforts on behalf of the Belgian people in this community, and for the care and development of the Belgian collection at Black Hawk College, where she was an archivist. The Belgian collection at Black Hawk is one of the most complete in the United States.

Miss Morrissey will be

presented the award in March by Jacques Melsens, consul general of Belgium.

*Another very busy member of our Society  
Congratulations Mary!*

*February 24th*

### Genealogical society

"Wills and Estate Records" will be presented by Dr. Newell Dailey of Port Byron when Blackhawk Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island. It is open to the public. Dr. Dailey, who has been a teacher, is the society's cemetery chairman, succeeding Mrs. Walter T. Fuhr of Edgington.

## RI County

# They search for pioneers

By BEVERLEY LINDBURG  
Dispatch Correspondent

History is being unearthed rapidly as the search for Rock Island County pioneer families continues.

Descendants of pioneers are providing information previously held in family records, according to Mrs. Harold Pierce, chairman of the Rock Island County Pioneer Ancestor Program. Certificates will be presented to descendants at July 3 ceremonies — gold certificates for families migrating to the county before 1851; silver for 1851-1860 immigrants and bronze for 1861-1876.

Mrs. Pierce said many people have become totally involved in tracing their ancestors once they've been shown how step by step. Some have been so enthused, she said, they include in their application family history before Rock Island County days.

**DEADLINE FOR** submitting applications was extended to March 1 because of increased interest in the program. Applications are available at the Rock Island and Moline libraries and should be returned to Mrs. Pierce at RRI, Box 386, Milan, 61264.

Those wishing to apply may be helped by family documents such as deeds, letters, Bible records, birth certificates, naturalization papers, marriage certificates and diaries, Mrs. Pierce said. Other sources of information would be city directories, obituaries, the county recorder's office, the county probate office and the Moline Public Library, which has federal and state census records dating from 1840.

One of the unexpected pluses of the program has been the reacquaintance with relatives while seeking information to complete the applications," said Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius, a member of the committee cataloguing the applications. Applications have been

received from at least 12 states, the farthest being California, Utah and Mexico. Several of the out-of-staters have said they'll be on hand for the July 3 ceremonies.

**TWO APPLICANTS** claiming a common ancestor did not know of the other's existence before filing applications. One lives here, the other in New York, Mrs. Pierce said.

Multiple applications in one package from a single descendant make it hard for Mrs. Pierce to estimate how many people have applied for the certificates.

Mrs. Pierce was reluctant to highlight any particular pioneer, saying she didn't want

to discourage people who do not have prominent ancestors from applying. "We had little biographical information on hardworking pioneers and their wives. They are just as important as those who did make a mark," Mrs. Cornelius added.

One of the more colorful pioneers was William T. Brasher, who arrived in Rock Island County in 1829 and operated a ferry across the Mississippi River. When Brasher decided to marry Jane Case, daughter of Lowden Case, there was no one qualified to perform the ceremony. So Brasher traveled 100 miles to Galena, had himself sworn in as a Justice of the Peace, returned home and swore in a friend,

Joel Wells, who then married Brasher and Miss Case.

**CATALOGUING** of the pioneer information is being done in the basement of the Rock Island County Historical Society Building, the former Peek Mansion at 822 11th Ave., Moline. All the information gathered in the search will be stored in the society's extensive county history and index cards will be placed in public libraries.

The building is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months.

Rock Island County Bicentennial Commission is sponsoring the search for pioneer families.



Mrs. Harold Pierce, left, and Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius review applications from persons who feel their family tree has historical value.

Moline  
Dispatch

Thurs., March 18, 1976



**Mary Morrissey receives Belgian citation**

Miss Mary Morrissey, Moline, center, was presented the Knight of the Order of the Crown by Jacques Melsens, consul general of Belgium, Wednesday at a luncheon in Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. Dr. Dolores Bultink, Moline, consul of Belgium, congratulates Miss Morrissey on the distinguished citation. Miss

Morrissey, a retired associate professor at Black Hawk College, is the first person in this area, not of Belgian descent to receive the award, which she was given in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the Belgian people in this community. (Dispatch Photo)

Mary is a very active member of Blackhawk Genealogy Society

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Sunday, March 31, 1976

March meeting ->

**Meets Tuesday**

"A Unique System of Record Keeping" is the subject of Dianna McDannell at 7 Tuesday evening as the Blackhawk Genealogical Society meets at Hauberg Civic Center.

# 'Historical detectives' eye area genealogy

By PHYL ANDERSON  
(Argus correspondent)

REYNOLDS — Remember all those times your grandfather held you on his knee and told of the "days when he was young"? Now that he is gone, how you wish you'd paid more attention and written down some of those interesting adventures.

With our country only 200 years old and villages like Reynolds in Rock Island County getting ready to celebrate its centennial, how the people came here provides many interesting stories. hobbies at present is being a historical detective — sifting through diaries, county histories, probated wills, and census figures. Four years ago, 36 persons gathered

because of this interest and today the Blackhawk Genealogical Society has grown 300 per cent in membership. Its purpose is to preserve, collect and publish historical material, ancestral records, and assist in general research.

The first six months found the society indexing and reprinting "Past and Present Rock Island County, Ill., History, 1897" by H. F. Kett. At \$18, a few copies are available through the publications sales chairman, Mrs. Francis Moseley, Milan.

As its Bicentennial project the reprinting of the "Atlas of Rock Island County, 1905" will be done after it is indexed. The original book was presented to the society by Phyllis Elaine Wright of Milan. It will be kept in the society's archives. These have

grown from a few items to 150 and are housed at Moline Public Library.

The old atlas has maps of the cities, plats of the townships and villages identifying landowners and has photographs of early settlers.

The keepsake memento reprinting is expected to be ready in October.

The third annual genealogical conference will be all day tomorrow at the Rock Island Masonic Temple. James Walker of the National Archives will cover the resources available to the writer interested in researching local history, family history and genealogical study within ethnic groups. The \$5 registration fee includes a luncheon but registrations must be to Miss Joyce

Carlson, 1314 29th St., Moline. Late registrations may be made tomorrow but will not include the luncheon.

A chartered organization by the state, Blackhawk Genealogical Society is eligible to receive income tax deductible gifts. It also appreciates the loan of diaries and other historical materials for research.

Membership is open to anyone interested in preserving historical material. In its publication, which comes out quarterly, valuable information researched by members is printed. Subscribers to this quarterly include the New York Public Library, Wisconsin Historical Society Library, and the Indiana State Historical Society Library. An exchange basis is made with over 20 genealogical societies coast to coast. One may advertise queries for progenitors for whom you are searching.

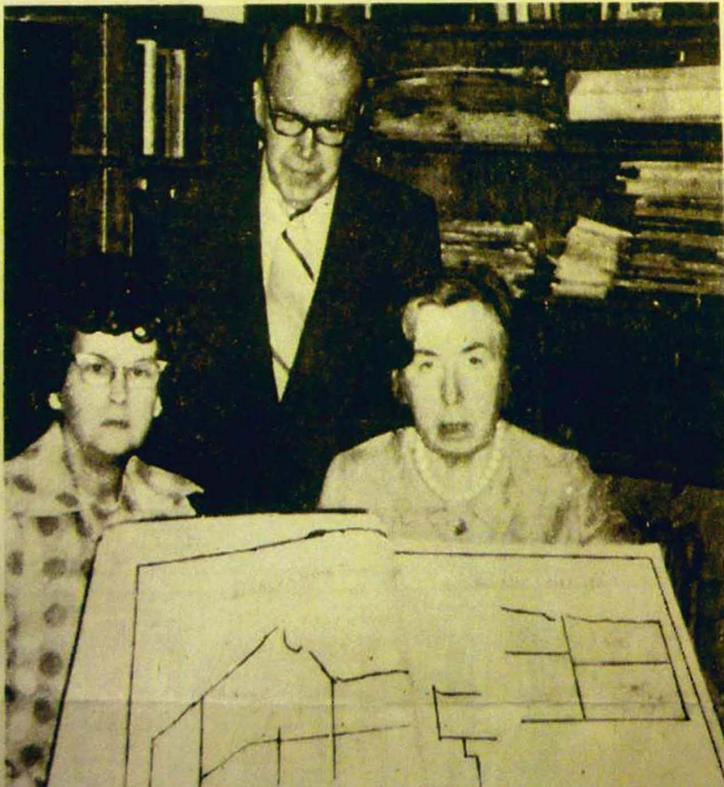
Some of the research has been bound as special booklets. An example is the 36 pages of genealogical abstracts Miss Janet Pease, Denver, indexed from 1851-1855 from the Rock Island Republican newspaper. This is available and sells for \$3.

Mrs. Walter T. Fuhr, Edgington, long-identified as a researcher for the Daughters of the American Revolution, was the society's cemetery chairman when the burials in old cemeteries were started to be recorded.

The Blackhawk society has five cemetery volumes done and when all the townships are completed under the new chairman, Dr. Newell Dailey of Port Byron, it is proposed they be published.

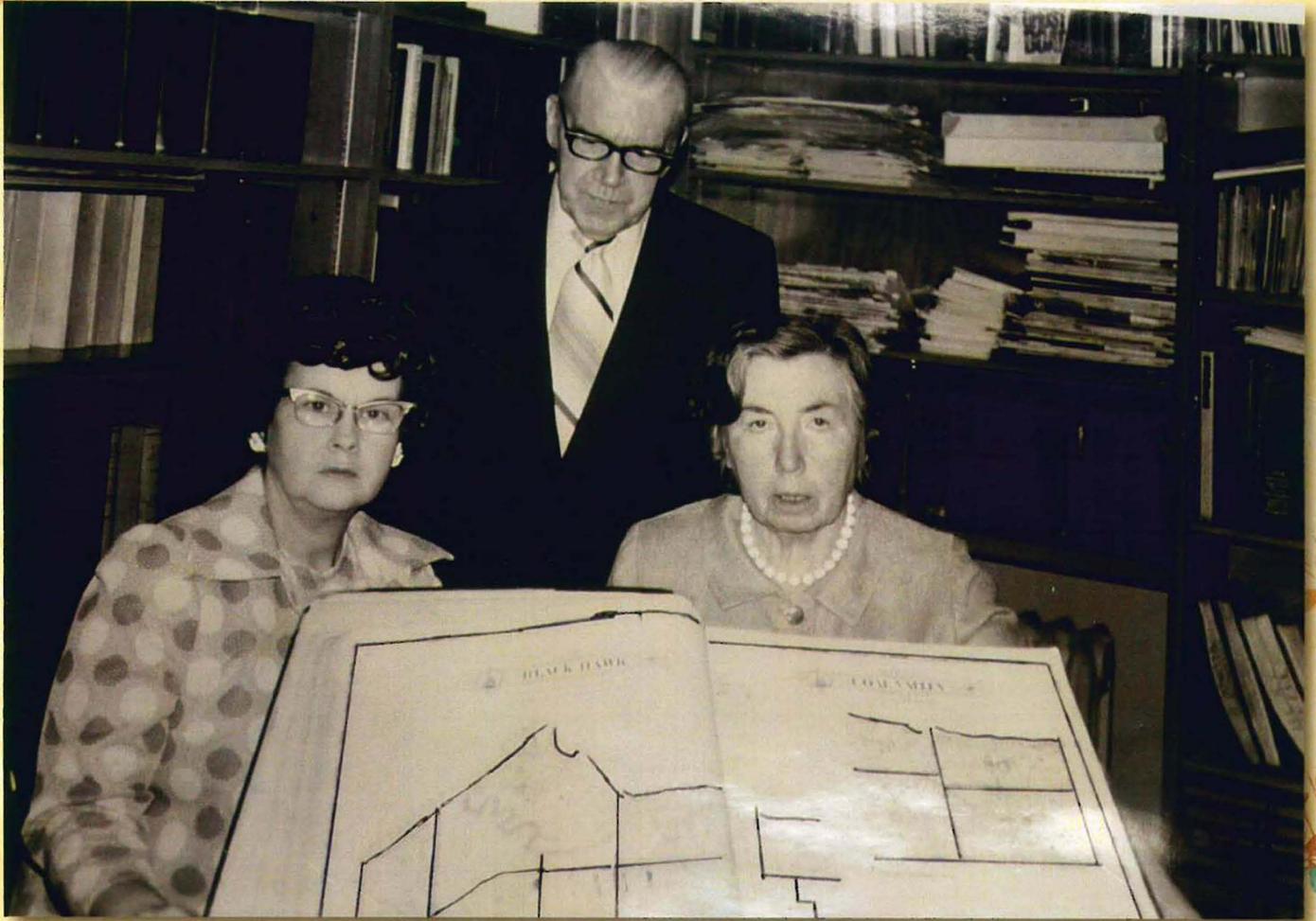
A charter and life member is Mrs. Verna Munina of Port Byron. Mrs. Wendell Paxton, Bettendorf, is a registered genealogist and teaches "how to trace your family tree." Mrs. Robert E. Millett is publications chairman and inquiries with self-addressed stamped envelope may be directed to the society at Post Office Box 912, Rock Island.

The regular monthly meeting, which is at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday, will be at the Union Federal Savings & Loan, Milan. This is a change of meeting place because of a workshop. Members are to bring their problems and ideas to share.



REPRINT OF ATLAS BICENTENNIAL PROJECT — A gift of an 1905 Atlas of Rock Island County showing plats of cities and townships, pictures of early settlers and other historical data was made to the Blackhawk Genealogical Society by Phyllis Elaine Wright of Milan. For the group's Bicentennial project it will index the book and have it reprinted for sale. Shown with the book are from the left, Mrs. Francis Moseley, Milan,

an elected director of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and publications chairman for the Rock Island County area group; J. Kenneth Baker, Rock Island, current president, and Miss Mary Morrissey, Moline, recently retired as special conditions librarian at Black Hawk College. The project is expected to be finished and available in October. (Argus Photo)



# 'Historical detectives' eye area genealogy

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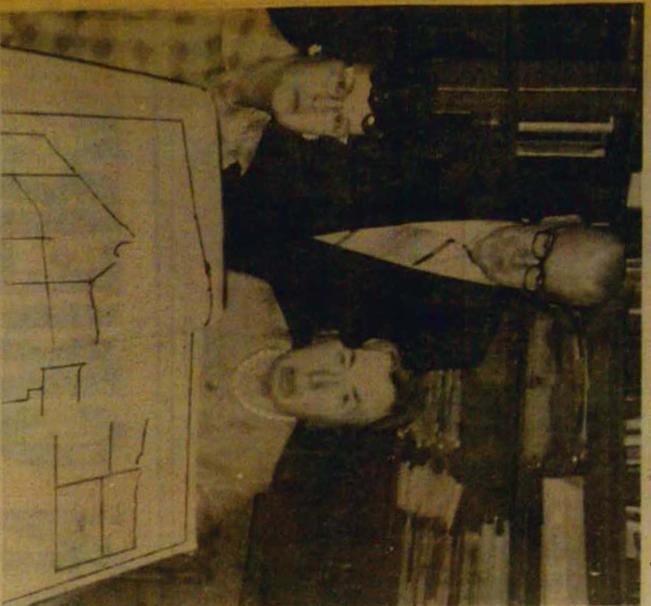
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THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Friday, April 16, 1976

### **Genealogical conference speaker named**

James Walker, archivist and research specialist at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. will lecture at the third annual genealogical conference at the Masonic Temple, Rock Island, on April 24.

Walker's conferences will cover the resources of the National Archives available to the writer interested in researching local history, family history and genealogical study within ethnic groups.

The registration fee of \$5 includes a luncheon and must be mailed before April 20 to Miss Joyce Carlson, 1314 29th St., Moline. Late registrations may be made the day of the conference but will not include luncheon.

The conference will open at 9 a.m. for registration; first conference at 10 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. For further information dial 324-9957, 764-6171 or 762-2491.

Scott County Genealogical Society, Davenport and Black Hawk Genealogical Society, Rock Island are co-sponsors of the event.



JAMES WALKER

*The turn out for this conference was very good. Mr Walker was an outstanding speaker and much was learned from him.*

SECOND ANNUAL  
GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Sponsored by

Blackhawk  
Genealogical Society of  
Rock Island, Ill.

Scott County  
Genealogical Society of  
Davenport, Iowa

at

MASONIC TEMPLE      420 - 18th Street      Rock Island, Illinois

on

SATURDAY - - - - - 24 APRIL 1976

Registration - - - - - \$5.00  
(Includes Casserole, Salad & Dessert Lunch)

NATIONALLY KNOWN ARCHIVIST & RESEARCH SPECIALIST

JAMES WALKER of WASHINGTON D.C.

The National Archives can assist the genealogist, the student of local or National history or the person doing genealogical research within an ethnic group.

Registration - - - - - 9:00 A.M.  
First Conference - - - - - 10:00 A.M.  
Lunch - - - - - 11:30 A.M.  
Second Conference - - - - - 1:00 P.M.  
Stretch & Visit - - - - - 2:00 P.M.  
Third Conference - - - - - 2:30 P.M.

Tables with displays of books, charts etc. will be open for browsing from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., during the breaks and after the conference.

Please complete and return the registration form below with the required fee. Additional names may be listed on the back and total fees may be included on one check. Registrations must be received by 20 APRIL 1976. LATE REGISTRATION \$4.00 which covers CONFERENCE ONLY.

---

Second Annual Genealogical Conference - 24 April 1976

Mail this Registration Form to JOYCE CARLSON  
1314 - 29th St.  
Moline, Illinois 61265.

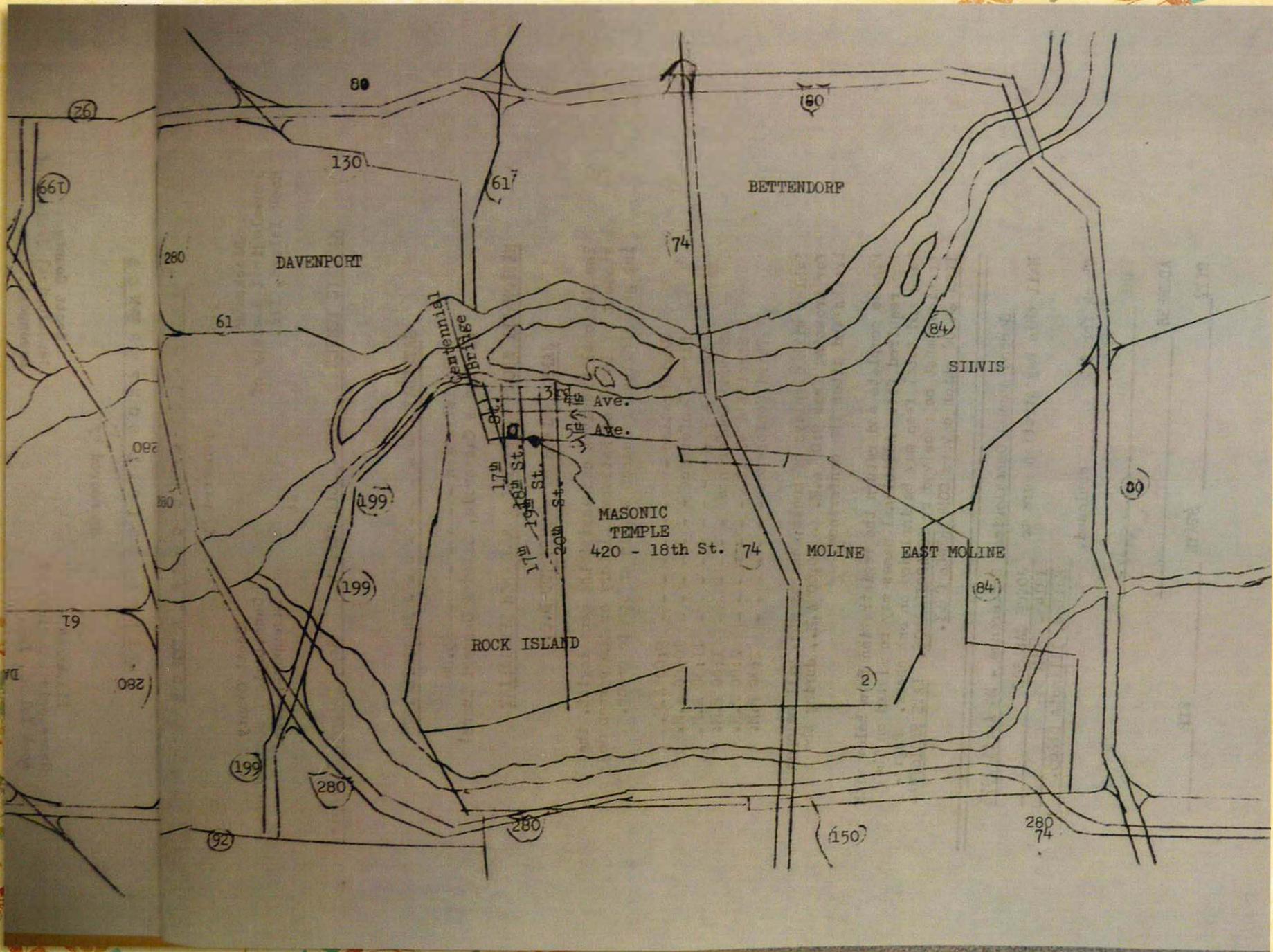
Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Sample



14227  
April 26, 1976 • 50¢

# People

weekly

**Why Barbara  
Walters may  
jump to ABC**

**Bob Marley:  
reggae  
rebel**

**Warhol by  
Wyeth, Wyeth  
by Warhol**

## BARBARA SAND

*What a Coincidence!  
Mr. James Walker in  
"People" magazine some  
week as he spoke at our  
2nd Annual Genealogical Conference*



0

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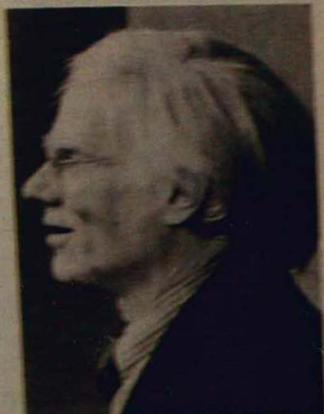
# People weekly



A new Namath? page 28



The Hamill bob, page 88



The Warhol stars, page 22

Cover photograph by Ken Regan/Cameras 5

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# A TOP GENEALOGIST SAYS SLEUTHING FOR ANCESTORS IS A POPULAR BICENTENNIAL SPORT

IN HIS OWN  
**WORDS**

During the past decade genealogy, the study of a person's ancestral history, has grown to be the nation's third largest hobby behind stamp and coin collecting. In 1966 there were about 200 genealogical organizations concerned with tracing family bloodlines. Today there are more than 800. One of the nation's leading experts in genealogy is James D. Walker of the National Archives in Washington. Walker began his career in genealogy 22 years ago re-researching military records at the Archives. In this Bicentennial summer, he is bracing for a flood of ancestry-minded visitors to his office. Walker, 47, married and the father of four, talked about exploring one's family tree with Barney Collier for PEOPLE.

**W**hy do people get the urge to trace their genealogy?

It is the biggest puzzle you can encounter in life. Where exactly, and with proof, did you come from? Each piece of the puzzle must fit. It's a fascinating kind of detective work.

Are there times when the genealogical urge is stronger than at other times?

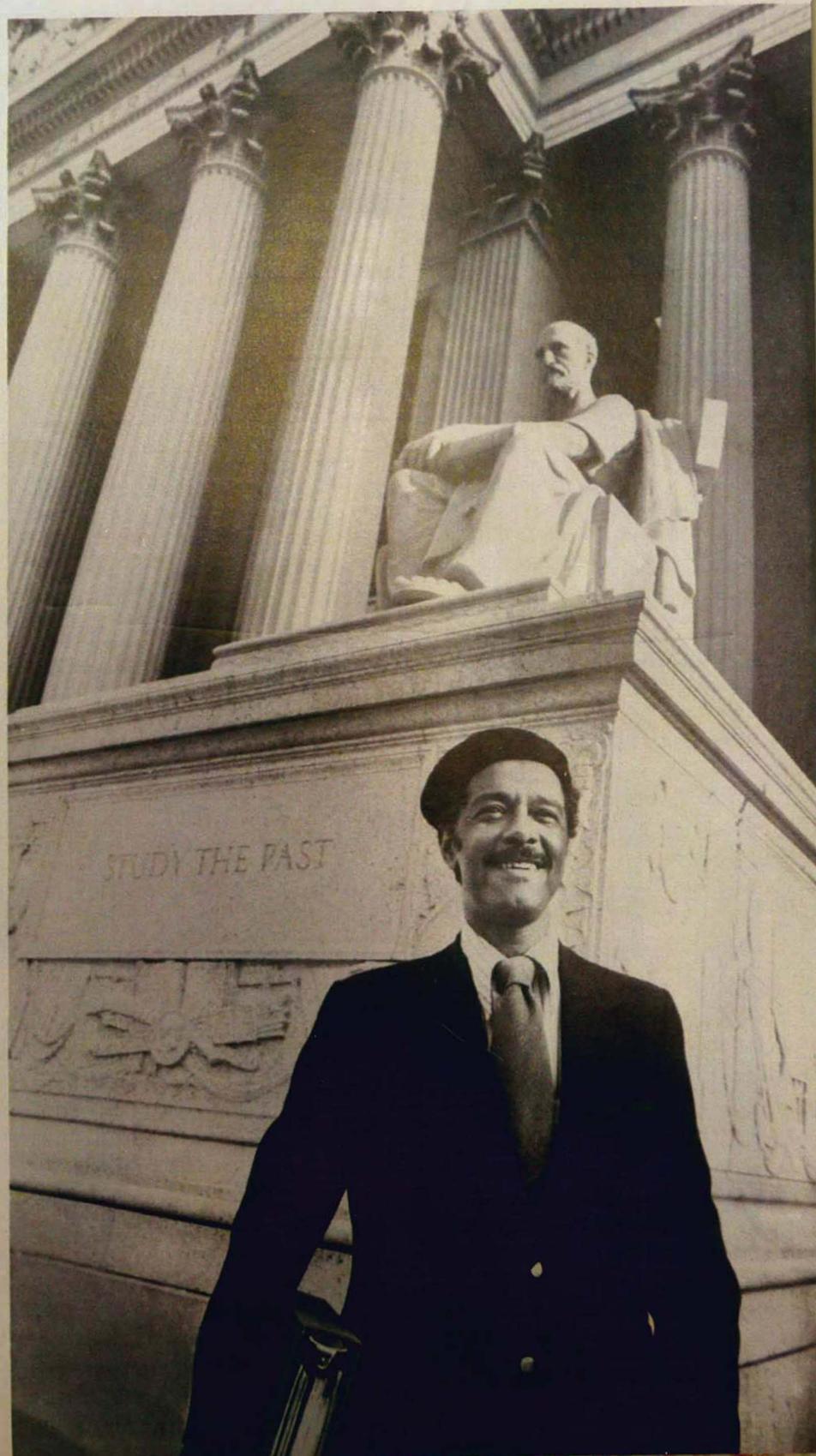
Yes. According to one study, there is an upsurge in the desire to look back some 20 to 30 years after a major catastrophe in one's lifetime, such as a war. There has been a confluence of events which makes 1976 especially heavy in genealogical interest. It is 31 years since World War II, and there is a once-in-a-lifetime historical event, the Bicentennial.

Why do people start looking back at such times?

They have satisfied all other post-war desires for travel and recreation. They anticipate death. Finally, they want to leave a historical legacy to their children.

**James D. Walker, a descendant of Cherokees and Georgia slaves, is the genealogical expert for the National Archives.**

**Photographs by Maggi Castelleo**



*Are young people now more interested?*

They are. Many take genealogical courses in college. Young Mormons, for example, learn their genealogy as an important part of their religion.

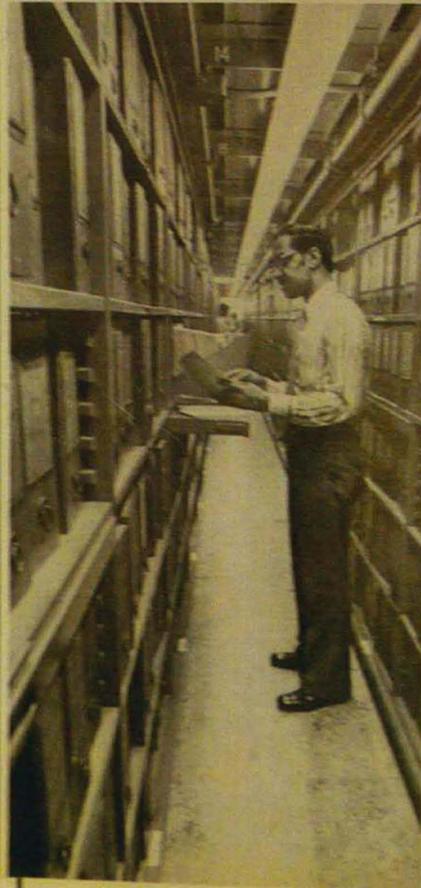
*Is the search time-consuming?*

To do a really first-rate, five-generation family history requires no less than all your free time, including weekends, for two or three years. It means careful searching of records, interviews with older people who can provide oral history, and travel to courthouses in all the corners of the country from which your ancestors came.

*Are people generally pleased with what they find?*

If they can prove a family legend or discover one, they seem most proud. Some have to swallow disappointment. If someone turns up seven morons in his background, he usually won't pursue it any further. If he turns up a

**Walker searches for clues through the National Archives' stacks of military pension records dating from 1818.**



doctor, a lawyer, a clergyman, a schoolteacher or even a notorious criminal, he is often pleased.

*Are there sometimes great hopes?*

Yes. We had a woman who came into the office every summer to prove she owned the Loop in Chicago. Since there are still several large unsettled estates in various parts of the United States, the search for genealogical links to those properties is still on. In some cases the government is looking for heirs to long-term leases it bought 100 or more years ago, and which it wants to renew or give back to the descendants. Today a very serious search by American Indians is going on to establish their lineage in order to claim government awards. Millions of dollars are involved.

*What is considered proof?*

Evidence that will stand up in court. For an actual inheritance, the proof must be meticulously documented.

*Is legitimacy important?*

To get into one of the patriotic societies, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Mayflower societies—descendants of the *Mayflower's* three voyages—you must prove legitimate descent.

*What kind of circumstantial evidence will prove family relationship?*

Sometimes letters from relatives referring to your ancestor as a member of the family are enough. Wills often list everyone a man considered part of his family. Sometimes testimony in court cases back then contains mention of the relationship. Land records might, too.

*Are there often gaps in the records?*

Yes, and some gaps seem unbridgeable. Most people cannot go back beyond the 16th century, because before that people had no surnames, except royalty. Many records have been burned. You'd be surprised how many courthouse fires there have been. All but 1 percent of the federal census of 1890 was destroyed by fire.

*What can you do without documents?*

The oral tradition is then important, especially for Indians and Africans. Where written records were not kept,

1776

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY

1976

**BICENTENNIAL**

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATE

Dear

It is our pleasure to inform you, your application for a PIONEER ANCESTOR CERTIFICATE has been accepted. You are invited to attend the Presentation Ceremony on July 3, 1976 at 2:00 P.M. in the air-conditioned Black Hawk College Gymnasium, Bldg. 3, 6600 34th Avenue, Moline, Illinois to receive your Certificate. Those desiring to come dressed as their ancestor might have, are encouraged to do so, but this is not mandatory. You are welcome to bring other members of your family and guests with you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the excellent materials included in your application. You have helped us gather valuable data on the early pioneers of Rock Island County. All materials will be placed in the Rock Island County Historical Society Library at 822 11th Avenue, Moline, Illinois and will be available to researchers. If you should care to add additional materials about your ancestors at a later date, the Historical Society would be pleased to accept it.

We look forward to awarding you a PIONEER ANCESTOR CERTIFICATE and ask you please to fill in and return the bottom part of this letter so we can make the arrangements.

Rock Island County Bicentennial  
Pioneer Ancestor Committee

Please tear off, fill in, and return to: Mrs. L. L. Cornelius  
1420 23rd Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265  
by May 15, 1976

1. The following named applicant(s) plan to attend the July 3, 1976 Presentation Ceremony to receive a Pioneer Ancestor Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) will bring the following number of guests: \_\_\_\_\_

2. I will be unable to attend the ceremony and:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ has consented to pick up my Certificate.  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ please mail my Certificate.

signed: Sample

address: \_\_\_\_\_

ancestor surnames: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mrs. Robert Millett seated as Woman's Club president

By CHRISTIE WALLACE  
(Argus Women's Writer)

Baritone Paul Rupright of Hazel Crest ignored the rainy weather on Saturday and delighted his audience with a performance that featured the number "On A Wonderful Day Like Today" at the annual May luncheon of the Woman's Club of Rock Island at First Baptist Church, Rock Island.

Mr. Rupright's wife, Shirley, accompanied him on the piano in a repertoire that featured humns — "But For the Grace of God;" opera — "The Raging Flames;" shoe tunes — "I Got Plenty of Nothing," and popular tunes — "You and Me Against the World."

Following a luncheon served by the Church Women of First Baptist, officers for the coming two years were installed by Mrs. Clyde Meier, past president of 14th District



MRS. ROBERT MILLETT

Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs. They are: Mrs. Robert E. Millet, president; Mrs. Fred Tamme, second vice president; Mrs. W. Lee Marriott, corresponding secretary; Miss Florence Lee, treasurer, and Mesdames Richard Guthrie, Rosine Daligee, Rosine Harper and John Doglio, directors.

Guests of honor from other Woman's Clubs included: Mrs. Ethel Witte, Davenport; Mrs. Benjamin Freiband, Milan; Mrs. Tom Stone, Moline; Mrs. William Taylor, Rock Island, and Mesdames Cyrus Galley, Steve Griffin and Vincent Cuce, Junior Woman's Club of Rock Island.

Before handing her gavel over to Mrs. Millett, Mrs. Richard ~~Freiband~~ outgoing president, conducted a business session that included the announcement of certificates awarded to the club by the 14th District. Cultural heritage and citizenship—public affairs, family living and spiritual values—home life and conservation are the areas for which recognition was given.

With the Junior Woman's Club of Rock Island, the Woman's Club was awarded Edy's Angles by Mrs. Edy Greenway for cooperation in projects throughout the year. A second place award was presented to the two clubs by the IFWC for work in public education and student aid.

Contributions of \$100 to the Green Circle Program and \$70 to a speech scholarship fund were approved by the club.

Upcoming events are a meeting of the garden department Wednesday at Hauberg Civic Center, Rock Island, and a potluck luncheon from 1 to 3 p.m. May 25 at the Activity Recreation Program Center, Moline. For more information, Mrs. Robert Ruud may be contacted at 755-5530 or Mrs. Francies Behr at 788-6072.

A memorial service for members who have passed away during the last year was conducted by Mesdames Ursal Ogden, Ethel Rainck and pianist Mrs. Henry Hubbell.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Fern Davis, and the club collect by Mrs. Daglio. Colors were presented by Junior Girl Scout Troop No. 124, Audubon School, led by Mrs. James Maxfield.

Mrs. Ernest Bertelson read two of her published poems.

Pots and individual favors of gingham cloth flowers in pink, blue, purple and yellow decorated the tables. The luncheon committee consisted of Mesdames Charles Kimball, Lillian Evans, Madalen Niebur, Lawrence ~~Hilman~~, Yvonne Krogh and Miss Helen Ringstrom.

*The Editor of  
Our Quarterly*

### Genealogy unit to meet Tuesday

MILAN — Mrs. Wendell Paxton, Bettendorf, a registered genealogist, will be speaker at the Blackhawk Genealogy Society meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Union Federal Savings and Loan building, Andalusia Rd., Milan.

A genealogy teacher, Darlene Paxton will tell of the latest research acquisitions at the Iowa State Historical Library, Iowa City. The speaker is a member of Scott County and Blackhawk Genealogical Societies and has taught "researching family trees" the past 14 years. Kenneth Baker, president of the society, invites all interested persons to the meeting.

DISPATCH  
**Genealogical society to meet**

The Black Hawk Genealogical Society is holding its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building in Milan.

Mrs. Darlene Paxton of Bettendorf will speak on the topic "Research in Iowa City Genealogical Library."

Mrs. Paxton is a certified genealogist, has taught Family History for 14 years, has done much research in Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Michigan and Massachusetts, and is a member of several genealogical societies including Black Hawk Genealogical Society.

Society President Kenny Baker invites all interested persons to attend this meeting.

5-24-76

*May Meeting*

### Genealogical unit

Sources of genealogical information in Rock Island County, Illinois and Indiana will be the subject of the workshop meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society at the Union Federal Savings and

Loan building, Milan. Anyone with problems or helps in these areas are to bring them to the meeting. Members will be divided into groups to solve problems. Interested persons are welcome.

*In June we had a Workshop*

QUAD-CITY TIMES Wednesday, May 26, 1976  
Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa

### Davenport

Mrs. Wilson

Mrs. F. Dale Wilson, 58, of 3611 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, died today at St.



Mrs. Wilson

32

Luke's Hospital after a six-month illness.

Services will be 1 p.m. Friday at Edwards United Church of Christ, Davenport. Private burial will be in National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal.

Visitation is 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Runge



Flora Doreen  
Wilson

## Recipients

More than 400 descendants of Rock Island pioneer families who settled Rock Island to be honored. Page 8

## Good Morning

### Sunday

June 27, 1976

## Residents

Some 45 homes constructed by early city residents were built to last; still being used. Page 15

ect  
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an has  
t and love  
children. Page 10.

# THE ARGUS

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 1976

ONE HUNDRED-EIGHTEEN PAGES

TEN SECTIONS

*A big Bicentennial  
blast for many of  
our members &  
on pages 8 and 15  
of the Argus.*

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The largest group, about 30 persons, are direct descendants of Peter Henry Simmon and his wife, Eva Catherine Gravin Von Medard, who settled in Milan.

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"ALL APPLICATIONS had to be checked for continuity and accuracy," said Mrs. Pierce. In some cases, committee members helped with the actual research or gave advice to fledgling genealogists.

Invitations have been sent to the qualifying applicants to attend the award ceremony at 2 p.m. in the Black Hawk College gymnasium. Almost 600 descendants have accepted the invitations and will bring over 800 additional guests. Persons will be attending from at least half of the 90 states.

Working with the committee is Otto W. Schweinberger, dean of community affairs at the college and director of the Rock Island County Bicentennial Commission, and Mrs. Willard G. Isaacson of Rock Island, chairman of the historic homes committee. Those working on the various bicentennial projects are serving voluntarily.

SCHWEINBERGER said the following:

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Mrs. Pierce said there also was no reimbursement for the countless hours spent by trained genealogists with their clip, reward the fact that we feel our project has stimulated an interest in both local and family history and a pride in the pioneers of our county who exhibited courage, stamina and endurance, facing unbelievable hardships.

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MRS. PIERCE SAID the last few months have really been hectic. "The biggest thing was answering the telephone to give information on where to find ancestors," said Mrs. Pierce. Some families sent articles to Mrs. Pierce. A 70-year-old retired bank president, a descendant of an 1829 family, sent a surveyor's chain used by an early pioneer family member. Mrs. Pierce said the chain has been given to the Browning Museum at Rock Island Arsenal.

Clarence K. Brasler of New Mexico sent two hand-written diaries kept by a relative of the Braubler-Sanderson family. These will be given to the Rock Island County Historical Society, said Mrs. Pierce.



PLAN JULY 3 EVENT—Members of the pioneer family committee meet at Black Hawk College to plan the July 3 event where certificates will be awarded to descendants of pioneer families. Looking over an old diary submitted by a New Mexico man are, standing, Eva Fuhr, left, and Virginia Hirscher. Seated, from left, are Joyce Corneilus, Kitty Pierce, chairman, and Madeline Isaacson, chairman of the historic homes committee. (Argus Photo by Chris Stevens)

## Countless hours spent in documenting county pioneers

By SUZANNE KRIDER  
(Argus staff writer)

Mrs. Sally Schroeder of Rock Island was in the basement of the Rock Island County Courthouse when the lights went out.

"There were just me and the spoons," said Mrs. Schroeder who was looking up probable records to document her husband's pioneer ancestors.

As a result of her work, her husband, brother-in-law Richard Schroeder of Rock Island, and mother-in-law Georgia Miller Schroeder of Moline will receive pioneer family certificates at a July 3 ceremony.

Sharing an early ancestor with the Schroeders is Edward Stacy Baker, Broken Arrow, Okla. who also submitted an application. Their ancestor is Dr. Thomas Baker of Cordova.

MRS. SCHROEDER started on genealogy about 1 1/2 years ago when Baker sent her a letter asking for information on Dr. Baker and she was delegated to answer the letter.

Baker also sent a book on family trees which she thought I would sit down and fill in one night. She found it wasn't that easy and has now only started to pencil in each ancestor.

She's working on several families at once — the Bakers, Yapples, Rathbuns and Schroeder on her husband's side and the Churchills and Thompsons on her side.

The more you find out, the more you want to know," said Mrs. Schroeder. She keeps several large notebooks with information on the various families. "When I get stuck on one branch, I go off on another family," she said.

HER MOTHER, Lucille Churchill Reuther of Buffalo Prairie, is a descendant of the Thompson family from Scotland who settled in Aless and Sheppard.

Mrs. Schroeder has traced the Churchill family back to 1840 in Connecticut, where they settled from England. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Churchill, reside in Rock Island.

She said her father's parents, the Reuthers, came from Germany and she has written to relatives there for information. She has received background from the early 1700s on the Reuthers.

Anyone who enjoys reading mysteries or doing crossword puzzles, would enjoy genealogy, said Mrs. Schroeder. "Right now the schoolers have me stumped. I haven't gone back very far with that branch."

Mrs. Schroeder took a course at the YMCA taught by Dickson Paxton of Bettendorf. "That course really sent me on all kinds of tangents," she said.

TO DOCUMENT the pioneer family applications, she made numerous trips to the county clerk's office where death and birth records are kept back to 1814. Then she spent many hours in probate looking up wills and estates.

Most of her work the past few months has centered on Dr. Baker and his wife, Catherine Yapple Baker, their son, H. J. H. Baker, her son, Leander Baker, and Leander's daughter, Harriett May Baker.

"Dr. Baker came from New York but I can't find any records in Beth, New York," said Mrs. Schroeder. "But I haven't given up. So far, I've just written for information."

She sent census records from 1850, 1860 and 1870 to trace the Baker family. Military records also are helpful, and Mrs. Schroeder, who has documents from family members to the War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War.

In doing research she visited the Rock Island Moline and Lutsungott public libraries and used each reference book as searching for Year Names and Handbook for Genealogy.

WHEN CERTIFICATES are awarded July 3 to descendants of pioneer families from Rock Island County, some will receive more than one certificate.

J. Kenneth Baker and his wife, Lorraine Simmon Baker, of Rock Island, are descendants of an pioneer families — the Bakers and O. Macra on his side and the Callahan, Simmon, Wilcox and Robley on her side.

Mrs. Baker said the Bakers on her husband's side so far haven't been listed in Dr. Thomas Baker of Cordova. But she is a descendant of Peter Henry Simmon and his wife, Eva Catherine Gravin Von Medard Simmon, who settled in Milan.

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Clarence K. Brasler of New Mexico sent two hand-written diaries kept by a relative of the Braubler-Sanderson family. These will be given to the Rock Island County Historical Society, said Mrs. Pierce.

application for the pioneer family ceremony but plans to continue searching into both her family and her husband's. On her mother's side, she is a descendant of Henry Jacob Simmon, another son of Peter Henry Simmon.

"The women on the committee told me how to start," said Mrs. Price, who then went to the courthouses where the wills of Henry Jacob Simmon and his wife are probated. "I also spent a lot of time in the library reading reference books."

She was helped by her children, Barbara, 10, and Brad, 12. "The kids got just as much thrill as I did when we found what we were looking for," said Mrs. Price. They also read old Rock Island Argus and Milan Independent newspapers.

Sometimes Mrs. Price got sidetracked reading other items in the papers. "They had just as much crime, sex violence and freaky things in those days," she said.

On her husband's side of the family, Mrs. Price obtained enough information to send an application for a pioneer family certificate for him. He is a descendant of Christian Koerber who settled in Coal Valley. Koerber served as a second lieutenant in the Civil War and appeared in Rock Island County's 1860 census.

"I PLAN to continue because there are a lot of things I don't know. It's really a wonderful hobby, especially in this winter."

Another family which has several pioneer ancestors is that of Mrs. Dave Lannoo of East Moline. She sent applications for her husband and her two sons for ancestors Oren and George of Port Byron.

She became interested in genealogy when she received a book club selection, "Know Your Ancestors." Her grandmother had boxes of old newspaper clippings and photographs about the family.

Eventually, she joined the Black Hawk Genealogy Society.

Descendants of David Benson are now coming from several states to receive the 11 certificates to be presented to Sears family members.

SEARS WAS on a trip up the Mississippi River in 1838 when he saw the possibility of building a dam from the mainland to an island to make use of the water falling from the Rock Island rapids to operate mill machinery.

Sears and three other men built a dam, saw mill and flour mill and called it Rock Island Mill. The name was later changed to Moline. The island was sold to the government after the Civil War.

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PIONEER ATTIRE — The James O. Lannoo family of East Moline pose in the costumes they will wear in the July 3 pioneer family event. Lannoo, a Belgian by descent, is dressed as an English gentleman of the colonies. His wife, who will receive a certificate for her ancestors, is dressed as a colonial woman. Seated, left, is a Civil War soldier and carries a musket, while Corey, 6, is a pioneer child. (Argus Photo by Sam Hjortman)



SWORD PORTRAITS — At left Miss Harriett Darling of Moline shows portraits of her ancestors, Peter Henry and Eva Catherine Simmon. Her sister, Miss Cornelia Darling, holds a sword carried by Simmon in Napoleon's army. She is wearing a black skirt worn by their mother, Maria Simmon, at her wedding to William Darling in 1809. (Argus Photo by Jerry Ross)

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Some families sent artifacts to Mrs. Pierce. A 79-year-old retired bank president, a descendant of an 1829 family, sent a surveyor's chain used by an early pioneer family member. Mrs. Pierce said the chain has been given to the Browning Museum at Rock Island Arsenal.

Clarence K. Brashar of New Mexico sent two hand-written diaries kept by a relative of the Brashar-Sanderson family. These will be given to the Rock Island County Historical Society, said Mrs. Pierce.



PLAN JULY 3 EVENT — Members of the pioneer family committee meet at Black Hawk College to plan the July 3 event where certificates will be awarded to descendants of pioneer families. Looking over an old diary submitted by a New Mexico man are, standing, Eva Fuhr, left, and Virginia Hinrichs. Seated, from left, are Joyce Cornelius, Kitty Pierce, chairman, and Madeline Isaacson, chairman of the historic homes committee. (Argus Photo by Chris Stevens)

## Countless hours spent in documenting county pioneers

By SUZANNE KRIDNER  
(Argus staff writer)

Mrs. Sally Schroeder of Rock Island was in the basement of the Rock Island County Courthouse when the lights went out.

"There were just me and he spoons," said Mrs. Schroeder who was looking in a notebook to see what

happened on Dr. Baker and she was delegated to answer the letter.

Baker also sent a book on family trees which "I had thought I would sit down and fill in one night." She found it wasn't that easy and has now only started to pencil in early ancestors.

She's working on several families at present.

1640 in Connecticut, where they settled from England. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Churchill, reside in Rock Island.

She said her father's parents, the Reuthers, came from Germany and she has written to relatives there for information. She has received

information from a relative in

mon, the largest number submitted by one pioneer family. Simon descendants, in addition to Mrs. Baker, include Mrs. Mary L. Price of Milan, who plunged into genealogy with the pioneer family application, and Miss Harriett and Miss Cornelia Darling of Moline, who have spent many years gathering

application for the pioneer family ceremony but plans to continue searching into both her family and her husband's. On her mother's side, she is a descendant of Henry Jacob Simmon, another son of Peter Henry Simmon.

"The women on the committee told me how to start,"



Broken Arrow, Okla. who also submitted an application. Their ancestor is Dr. Thomas Baker of Cordova.

**MRS. SCHROEDER** started on genealogy about 2 1/2 years ago when Baker sent a letter asking for information.

**HER MOTHER, Lucille Churchill Reuther of Buffalo Prairie, is a descendant of the Thompson family from Scotland who settled in Alexis and Sherrard.**

Mrs. Schroeder has traced the Churchill family back to

dorf. "That course really sent me on all kinds of tangents," she said.

**TO DOCUMENT** the pioneer family applications, she made numerous trips to the county clerk's office where death and birth records are kept back to 1916. Then she spent many hours in probate looking up wills and estates.

Most of her work the past few months has centered on Dr. Baker and his wife, Catharine Yapple Baker, their son, R. J. R. Baker, his son, Leander Baker, and Leander's daughter, Harriett May Baker.

"Dr. Baker came from New York but I can't find any records in Beth, New York," said Mrs. Schroeder. "But I haven't given up. So far, I've just written for information."

She used census records from 1840, 1850 and 1860 to trace the Baker family. Military records also are helpful, said Mrs. Schroeder, who has documents tracing family members to the War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War.

In doing research, she visited the Rock Island, Moline and Davenport public libraries and used such reference books as "Searching for Your Ancestors" and "Handbook for Genealogists."

**WHEN CERTIFICATES** are awarded July 3 to descendants of pioneer families from Rock Island County, some will receive more than one certificate.

J. Kenneth Baker and his wife, Lorraine Simmon Baker, of Rock Island, are descendants of six pioneer families — the Bakers and O'Maras on his side and the Colburns, Simmons, Wilsons and Robleys on her side.

Mrs. Baker said the Bakers on her husband's side so far haven't been linked to Dr. Thomas Baker of Cordova. But she is a descendant of Peter Henry Simmon and his wife, Eva Catherine Gravius Von Medard Simmon, who settled in Milan.

Nearly 50 applications have been submitted by descendants of Peter Henry Sim-

mon and his wife and also a portrait of their nine children, taken in 1896 when the children's ages ranged from 59 to 78.

Miss Darling said Peter Henry Simmon was born and raised in Meisenheim, Germany. His wife, Eva Catherine Gravius Von Medard was born in 1796 in a secret room in a German castle that was under siege. The older men, women and children were hidden in the room.

They were married in 1812. Simmon served in Napoleon Bonaparte's army and was a commissary sergeant. A sword that he used in the army is still owned by the Darling sisters.

**THE FAMILY** arrived in Rock Island in 1844 and later settled in Rural Township where they built a home on Mill Creek. That property is now the site of Mill Creek Country Club.

Miss Darling helped with research for applications of her brother, Phillip Hiram Darling of Indianapolis, a sister, Mrs. Stella Ehnman of Rock Island, a sister, Miss Cornelia Darling, and a cousin, Julius Linde of Yates Center, Kan. They are all grandchildren of Phillip Simmon, oldest son of Peter Henry Simmon.

"Most of the family history I know I learned from my mother," said Miss Harriet Darling. She said her mother and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Jacob Simmon, decided in 1925 to have the first family reunion at the Simmon home farm.

This year's reunion will be held Aug. 8 at the home of Robert and Helen Swisher of Port Byron.

**AMONG THOSE** planning to attend this year are Mary L. Price of Milan and her family. Mrs. Price started into genealogy to research an

ancestry which has several pioneer ancestors is that of Mrs. Dave Lannoo of East Moline. She sent applications for herself and her two sons for ancestors Orsamus Beardlee of Coe Township.

Another family which has several pioneer ancestors is that of Mrs. Dave Lannoo of East Moline. She sent applications for herself and her two sons for ancestors Orsamus Beardlee of Coe Township.

She became interested in genealogy when she received a book club selection, "Know Your Ancestors." Her grandmother had boxes of old newspaper clippings and photographs about the family. Eventually, she joined the Black Hawk Genealogy Society.

Descendants of David Benton Sears are coming from several states to receive the 11 certificates to be presented to Sears family members.

**SEARS WAS** on a trip up the Mississippi River in 1836 when he saw the possibility of building a dam from the mainland to arsenal island to make use of the water falling from the Rock Island rapids to operate mill machinery. Sears and three other men built a dam, saw mill and flour mill and called it Rock Island Mill. The name was later changed to Moline. The island was sold to the government after the Civil War.

Sears also built a mill at Seartown, on the edge of Rock Island and part of that is still standing.

On her husband's side of the family, Mrs. Price obtained enough information to send an application for a pioneer family certificate for him. He is a descendant of Christian Koerber who settled in Coal Valley. Koerber served as a second lieutenant in the Civil War and appeared in Rock Island County's 1860 census.

Sometimes, Mrs. Price got sidetracked reading other items in the papers. "They had just as much crime and violence and freaky things in those days," she said.

"I PLAN to continue because there are a lot of things I don't know. It's really a wonderful hobby, especially in the winter."



**PIONEER ATTIRE** — The James O. Lannoo family of East Moline pose in the costumes they will wear to the July 3 pioneer family event. Lannoo, a Belgian by descent, is attired as an English gentleman of the colonies. His wife, who will receive a cer-

tificate for her ancestors, is dressed as a colonial woman. Sean, 10, at left, is a Civil War soldier and carries a musket, while Corey, 6, is a pioneer child. (Argus Photo by Sam Bjorkman)



**SWORD, PORTRAITS** — At left Miss Harriett Darling of Moline shows portraits of her ancestors, Peter Henry and Eva Catherine Simmon. Her sister, Miss Cornelia Darling, holds a sword carried by Simmon in Napoleon's army. She is wearing a black skirt worn by their mother, Maria Simmon, at her wedding to William Darling in 1895. (Argus Photo by Jerry Ross)

**DRESSED FOR CEREMONY** — Mrs. Sally Schroeder of Rock Island wears pioneer dress and dust cap she made for the July 3 pioneer family ceremony. She started in genealogy several years ago and is delving into several families at the same time. (Argus Photo by Chris Stevens)

Page 15 of the Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>  
Argus - Pioneer Homes →  
This project was headed by one  
of our members and many  
members were honored at the  
awards presentation.



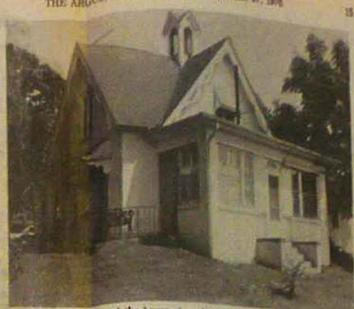
The house at 705 20th St., an excellent example of American Gothic Revival style, was built in 1873 by Dr. Samuel C. Plummer, physician and surgeon, but later was sold to Jess Spencer and was known for many

years as the Spencer home. The vertical boards cover brick walls and the decorative woodwork is cut in medieval motifs. The present owner is David J. Message.



O. J. Dimick, a horseman and stock breeder who owned a race track on 9th St., built this house at 1250 21st Ave. in 1869. The house was later sold to the Gaeffer family and at one time housed

Bethany Home. It was restored by Mrs. Earl Ashrey, who added the pillars, and now is owned by Judge and Mrs. Fred Patton.



The center section of the house at 2001 12th St. was the home of Ebenezer Lathrop, built before 1855, when his 22-acre farm was purchased by the Chippisnook Cemetery

Association. The family of Joseph Vogles, cemetery superintendent now residing in the home. The Vogles have located the well that was filled as funerals approached the cemetery.

## Pioneer homes are tangible link with history

By LOIS SCHMAGE  
(Argus Women's Editor)

It's been said that "a man's house is his castle," and some early residents of Rock Island built homes sturdy enough to stand for a century or more. Those that have endured to the present day—in varying states of repair, preservation or neglect—represent an important facet of the history of this area.

Such early homes have long been an interest of Mrs. Willard G. Isaacson, Rock Island, who, as a member of Fort Armstrong Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, compiled a "Mini-Tour of Pioneer Homes and Historical Markers" back in 1964. The pictorial history of the city and the Rock Island Arsenal was developed for a DAR project to encourage programs on historical sites in members' own states.

Madeline Isaacson did the research and wrote the script, and Mrs. Robert Messer took some of the photos. Over the years the program has been revised as additional information on landmarks became available.

The "mini-tour" of more than 50 slides has been presented for countless area groups interested in history and, as the Bicentennial year approached, Madeline's schedule became busier as other organizations sought an appropriate way to mark the

nation's 200th birthday. For those who have time and show interest, she has an additional series of photos of impressive homes of yesteryear which are no longer standing. It's entitled "Remember When" and taken from a book called Picturesque Tri-Cities—1800.

When the Rock Island County Bicentennial Committee decided to recognize pioneer homes in the county, Mrs. Isaacson was a natural choice to head the group in charge of this project. Forty-five homes were certified as being eligible for the designation in three categories—Early (1818-1850), Middle (1850-1900) or Late (1900-1947)—and will be honored at a ceremony next Saturday at Black Hawk College.

Probably twice that number of applications were picked up by area residents, Madeline explains, but many encountered problems in finding documents or locating concrete evidence of the year their houses were built and gave up the search. This was particularly true of homes which have had several owners during their history. Reference personnel at area libraries and employees in county offices were helpful in providing old city directories, census lists and land records.

Only three Rock Island structures—Old Main and the House on the Hill (S. S. Davis home) at Augustana College and Hinberg Civic Center are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, indicating that they are of historical significance, have been restored

or are in good condition. These buildings and 22 others in the city are listed in the interim report of the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey. Even such designations are no guarantee that they won't eventually be torn down. Rock Island County also has 21 Centennial farms, which have been in the same family for at least 100 years.

Mrs. Isaacson herself was born in an historic home, located at 840 20th St., and built in 1874 by her grandfather, Charles Hansen. He came to Rock Island in 1853, worked as a conductor on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway until 1870 when he entered the grocery business at 221 20th St. The house has double brick walls 14 inches thick and a foundation 3 to 4 feet wide with support timbers a foot square.

Madeline's father, William F. Hansen, also was born in the house and her mother came there to live as a bride in 1899. She lived in the home until 1960 when failing eyesight necessitated her moving to the King's Daughters Home.

While she enjoys delving into history and learning about events of the past, Mrs. Isaacson is equally interested in the future. She and her husband, who reside at 2440 12th St., are parents of David E. Isaacson and Mrs. Harry G. (Gay Ann) Hoyt Jr., both of Davenport, and Tom, at home. They have eight grandchildren.



Mrs. Willard G. Isaacson is shown with a memento of her family home at 840 20th St., which she had painted by Billy MacMillan in 1936 as a gift for her mother, the late Mrs. William F. Hansen. The silver water cooler at

left was given to her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hansen, on their silver wedding anniversary in 1883 and was inscribed "C. Hansen and Frau."

Argus photos by

Chris Stevens and  
Jerry Ross



Architect George P. Staudaher built the house at 1608 21st St. in 1868 on ground purchased from Frank and Agnes Kelly the previous year. The land had originally been deeded by the U.S. government to Bailey Davenport, whose family sold it to

Atty. Kelly. The home has been in the Staudaher family until last year, when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis of Davenport.

## Sunday Argus Contemporary Living



Judge E. Wilson Drury built this home at 2302 1/4 Ave. in 1853 and sold it to Gen. Thomas J. Rodman, Rock Island Arsenal commandant, who lived in the house from 1865 to 1871. Col. Ebanam Searle purchased

it from his widow in 1887 and members of the family have continued to own the property. The sketch is by Tracy Kelly, a great-grandson of Col. Searle.



The house built by Atty. William J. Sweeney at 814 20th St. in 1874 now is owned by Catholic Social Service of Rock Island County. The Sweeneys' son, William J. Jr., and his wife, the former Benise Cleveland, who died

earlier this year at the age of 96, also lived in this home. Their son, Edward, now deceased, married Catherine Hauberg, daughter of John and Susanne (Denkman) Hansen.



Built in 1867 by Mr. Hinzpacher, the house at 1029 3rd Ave. was bought by the Dodge family, who lived there for many years before selling it to At-

ty Harry M. Schriver in 1908. He served as mayor of Rock Island from 1911-13 and again from 1919-23 and resided in this home until his death in 1959.



Balthasar Sporkius came to Rock Island County in 1853 and had built this house at 807 6th Ave. by 1868. He and his wife Agnes were the parents of Capt. John Sporkius, founder of the Streckerhaus Sausages which now own

the Admiral and other vacation boats. The house, which has changed hands a number of times over the years, was once the Brown Funeral Home.



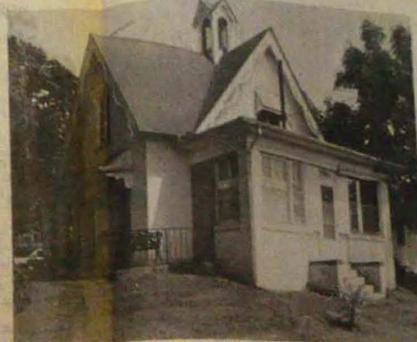
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Mrs. Willard G. Isaacson is shown with a watercolor of her family home at 848 20th St., which she had painted by Sally MacMillan in 1956 as a gift for her mother, the late Mrs. William F. Hansgen. The silver water cooler at

left was given to her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hansgen, on their silver wedding anniversary in 1883 and was inscribed "C. Hansgen and Frau."

Argus photos by

Chris Stevens and  
Jerry Ross



Sunday Argus Contemporary Living



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Sunday Argus *Contemporary Living*



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ty. Harry M. Schriver in 1905. He served as mayor of Rock Island from 1911-15 and again from 1919-23 and resided in this home until his death in 1959.



Balthazar Streckfus came to Rock Island County in 1852 and had built this house at 68 1/2 Ave. by 1868. He and his wife Ann were the parents of Capt. John Streckfus, founder of the Streckfus Steamers, which now owns

the Admiral and other excursion boats. The house, which has changed hands a number of times over the years, was once the Brown Funeral Home.



Harriet, left, and Cornelia Darling, are great-granddaughters of the pioneer Rock Island County couple pictured in front of them, Eva and Peter Simmon. Harriet holds a picture taken in 1896 of the Simmon's nine children. Seven were born in

Germany before they emigrated and two were born in the U.S. Cornelia holds a sword her great-grandfather brought with him to this country in 1833 as a souvenir of his years with Napoleon's army. (Dispatch Photo)

*Members of our Society*

## Pioneer descendants honored

Peter Henry and Eva Catharine Simmon packed their bags and seven children and left their war-torn homeland for a new life in America.

As a commissary sergeant in the Napoleonic Army he had seen five brothers killed and the bloodshed, they told each other, was something they didn't want their children to face.

So on April 4, 1833, they left Meisenheim, Germany, and joined the great immigration to America.

Saturday, in a Bicentennial salute, the couple's direct descendants will be given special certificates from the Rock Island County Bicentennial Commission as members of a county pioneer family.

Twenty-four of the 50 descendants submitting applications as descendants of Peter and Eva Simmon are expected to be at the ceremonies being held at Black Hawk College.

THEY WILL be among 400 descendants from throughout the United States who have responded to the pioneer family search and plan to attend.

Harriet Darling, great-granddaughter of the Simmon's, who lives with her sister, Cornelia, in Moline, serves as the family historian.

Harriet, 79, said when the couple finally left Germany they had already been married for 20 years. He was 40 and she 38.

"They had a rough time at it right from the start," she said.

Based on daily accounts kept by her grandfather, Phillip Simmon, who was 20 when his parents took the family to America, nearly everyone on the ship they boarded became ill from the start, including the ship captain who soon died.

Without direction from the captain the ill-fated ship meandered a course up to Norway, where a new helmsman was found.

Before finally settling in Rock Island County in 1850, the Simmonses first took their family to Bedford County, Pa. and

farmed nine years and then moved to Ohio.

ACCORDING to family records Phillip Simmon came to Rock Island County in 1846 and in 1850, finally convinced his parents to move for a third time. They set up their new farm on property that is now Mill Creek Country Club near Milan.

Family records also show that both Peter and Eva Simmon fled from an interesting, although wartorn homeland.

Harriet Darling says Germany then was divided by war and Peter Simmon was enlisted into the Napoleon Army.

As a souvenir he took to America with him a sword he carried and the family — although they nearly lost it — still has it in their possession.

"While he was alive he always kept the sword bright and shiny but after his death it was lost," Harriet says. "About 30 years ago my mother wondered what happened to it and we began searching."

It was finally found, she says, hidden inside an old milk house on a farm run by her cousin.

AND FROM just as interesting a background, family accounts indicate that Eva Catharine was born of nobility in 1795 in a castle along the Rhine which was being besieged at the time.

"The castles apparently had secret rooms where the old men, women and children were sent during the fighting, and it was during one of these battles that she was born," Harriett says.

In the intervening years, descendants of the couple have attempted to keep together. Harriet says they have held a family reunion every year since 1929 on the second Sunday in August.

She says, however, the interest of the latest generation seems to be waning and the numbers at the reunion are steadily declining.

"The younger people just don't seem to be interested," she said. "Although we do have some teenagers. As they get a little older, we hope they start coming back."

July 1, 1976



4B

QUAD-CITY TIMES Sunday, July 4, 1976  
Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa

## 400 Cited As Pioneer Relatives

More than 400 persons, having documented that their ancestors lived in Rock Island County before 1876, were awarded certificates Saturday at ceremonies at Black Hawk College, Moline.

Sen. Donald Wooten, D-Rock Island, and Rep. Clarence Darrow, D-Rock Island, delivered short addresses to the recipients, said Joyce Cornelius, one of the chairmen of the Rock Island County Pioneers committee that researched applications for the awards.

Relatives of Henry McNeil, who settled in the county in 1828, apparently have the oldest known connection to a pioneer family, Mrs. Cornelius said.

Several of the relatives attended the ceremonies to accept certificates, she said.

Records show that McNeil, born in Canada in 1811, furnished wood for Mississippi steamboats, she said.

He also is credited for building the first frame barn in the county.

He died in 1878 in Watertown, a former section of East Moline, according to Mrs. Cornelius.

Several other persons, related to families that settled in the county in 1829, were also on hand to receive certificates, she said.

A similar ceremony and awards presentation for persons related to early Scott County pioneers will be held this fall.

**PIONEER FASHIONS** — A dress similar to those worn by colonial children, a Yankee soldier's uniform and a coonskin cap were among costumes worn at yesterday's Rock Island County Historical Society Bicentennial Celebration at Black Hawk College. At right is Mrs. Florence Thuline of Moline, dressed in a costume patterned after those worn by her mother in her native Sweden. She also brought along an Italian accordion she has owned for more than 40 years. (Argus Photos)



# THE ARGUS

4

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1976

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

—Founded in the year 1851

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

Official Paper City of Rock Island

The J. W. POTTER Co., Publisher

## People's pulpit

### ISLAND COUNTY ENNIAL CELEBRATION



1976

### Pioneer es Identification

the total attendance numbered over 1,000.

Thanks to the Rock Island and Moline Public libraries, the Rock Island County Historical Society, the River Bend Library System, Chippiannock Cemetery, Joseph Vogel, Otto Schweinberger, Rock Island County Bicentennial Commissioner, Black Hawk College, Rock Island County officials, local newspapers, television and radio stations and all hosts and hostesses at the ceremonies.

We could have written a separate letter of appreciation to all the organizations, but wanted the public to know, in these days when we are prone to be critical of public servants, that these agencies and their personnel gave service far beyond what we might have properly expected.

I must also thank the applicants themselves, who submitted with their applications great quantities of copies of documents pertaining to both their family and local history. What they contributed will be a valuable collection to the Rock Island County Historical Society, to be used by future researchers and historians.

And I salute my committee — Joyce Cornelius of Moline, Virginia Hinrichs of East Moline and Eva Fuhr of Edginton — they worked long and hard for a full year, giving of their enthusiasm and talents without stint!

ANNE PIERCE  
10212 Knoxville Rd.  
Milan

#### anks

Editor, The Argus: As chairman of the Rock Island County Bicentennial Pioneer Family Descendant Committee, I wish to take this means to thank those who made it all a great success, culminating in our July 3rd ceremonies at Black Hawk College, at which over four hundred applicants received appropriate certificates and

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**



1976

**Pioneer  
Homes Identification**

**Pioneer  
Family Descendants**

**July 3, 1976  
2:00 p.m.  
Black Hawk College  
Moline, Illinois**

PROGRAM

INVOCATION ----- REV. DONALD R. GIBSON  
BROADWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRESENTATION OF COLORS --- UNITED STATES MARINES

PLEDGE TO FLAG ----- IN UNISON

MASTER OF CEREMONIES ---- ANNE 'KITTY' PIERCE

OPENING REMARKS ----- MARCEL 'BOB' DEJAEGHER  
OTTO W. SCHWEINBERGER

GREETINGS -----

U.S. CONGRESSMAN, THOMAS RAILSBACK  
STATE SENATOR, DONALD J. WOOTEN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, BEN POLK  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, CLARENCE A. DARROW

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

PIONEER ANCESTOR CERTIFICATES - JOYCE CORNELIUS  
ANNE 'KITTY' PIERCE

PIONEER HOME CERTIFICATES - MADELINE ISAACSON

PIONEER ANCESTOR CERTIFICATES - EVA FUHR  
VIRGINIA HINRICHS

CLOSING REMARKS -

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL ----- IN UNISON

COMMITTEES

MARCEL 'BOB' DEJAEGHER, CHAIRMAN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OTTO W. SCHWEINBERGER, CHAIRMAN ROCK ISLAND COUNTY  
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

PIONEER FAMILY DESCENDANT COMMITTEE

ANNE 'KITTY' PIERCE, CHAIRMAN  
JOYCE CORNELIUS  
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MILAN QUEEN CONTESTANTS

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More —

About our historical  
past. Many of our  
friends are working on  
this project!

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But the idea caught on, and  
soon black and white was de-  
creed the only proper way for  
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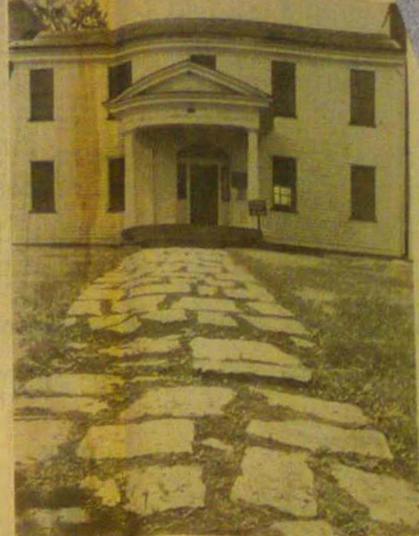
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STP-16;



ROPE BED — Mrs. John McCormack shows a rope bed from the 1830s that she has loaned to the Col. Davenport home.



FIRST WHITE SETTLER — Col. George Davenport was the first white settler of Rock Island in 1808. It is thought he was murdered 131 years ago.



OPEN FOR TOURS — Large stones from the walk leading to Col. George Davenport's home on Arsenal Island. The original walkway was recently uncovered by two members of The Quarters, a group working on restoration of the home. (Argus Photo)

## BLOOD ALL GONE— Old Col. Davenport house on Arsenal being restored

By SUZANNE KRIDNER  
(Argus staff writer)

Remains mark the stairs once spotted by Col. George Davenport's blood.

It was 131 years ago on July 4 that four hand-drawn Davenport's home on Arsenal Island yielded \$20,000 in gold that was supposedly hidden there.

When the hand-drawn could only find \$500 or \$700, they began to believe Col. Davenport. The Colonel was alone in the home with his wife and two sons, Dudley and George Jr., were at a community celebration in Rock Island.

TODAY, the stories of Col. Davenport and his family are told each Sunday afternoon at meetings of the Quad-City Quarters lead tours through the home they are in the process of restoring.

One key secret bearing the home recently wanted to return July 4, when legend has it the Colonel's remains, like those of his daughter, were thrown into the river.

The home has gone through at least two complete restorations — once in 1906, when it was leased to the Pioneer and Old Settler's Association of Rock Island County and again in the late 1930s and early 1960s by the Quad-City Association of Home Builders and Scott County Home Builders Association.

Mrs. Phil Gooden of Bettendorf, president of Quad-City Chapter of the Quarters, said seven chapters of the group are working on the project. The antique study group primarily studies antiques and does restoration and preservation.

THE DAVENPORT home is their most extensive project and they are attempting to acquire furniture of the period when it was occupied by the Davenport family.

Mrs. Gooden said Col. Davenport came to the Quad-City area in 1808 with the person that built Fort Armstrong. He first lived in a log cabin, probably with his wife, Margaret, a widow who was 14 years older than the colonel, and her daughter, Susan Lewis.

Stories told about the Davenports say the colonel fathered his two sons by Susan, and he also had a German mistress who was a servant in the home.

His name was not originally Davenport, said Mrs. Gooden. His real name was George King but the colonel felt he would never be a success in America with a name like

King so he changed it to Davenport. This fact was discovered when historians tried to trace the Davenport family.

THERE ARE MANY stories about Davenport associated with the home on Arsenal Island. In the living room chestnuts were held to plan the cities of Davenport and Rock Island, La. Chair, and Port Byron. Plans also were made for the Rock Island railroad and bridge, said Mrs. Gooden.

A week before the Colonel was strangled, he met with seven prominent men from the area to lay out the railroad because of his military death, said Mrs. Gooden, plans

### 5,000 at hanging

Less than four months after Col. Davenport was murdered on July 4, 1843, Rock Island hanged three of the murderers, including the leader of the "band of the prairie," outlaw who terrorized settlers in six states were known.

The hanging attracted a crowd of 5,000, many of them women, although the population of Rock Island then was only 1,868.

It was generally believed that the hand-drawn would rescue their leader, John Long, and when one of the condemned men shouted "Here they come," the crowd stampeded.

John Long's brother, Aaron, had to be hanged twice because his rope broke the first time.

were delayed for five years due to lack of leadership.

The interior and exterior of the home have been painted and cleaned by arsenal employees. Plans for landscaping the home have been prepared by the Quarters and are being sent to landscape experts at Iowa State University at Ames for their recommendations.

AN IMPRESSIVE stone walk leads to the front door of the home. Two days of back-breaking work by Mrs. Gooden and Mrs. John McCormack of Rock Island, treasurer for the Quarters, uncovered the large stones, which were almost completely hidden by grass.

Mrs. Gooden said photographs of the home in various stages of restoration have been kept in an album that is now missing from the home. The photographs were owned by the arsenal and Rock Island Historical Society. The album also contained photographs of furniture from the 1830s and 40s being sought by the Quarters.

A fund to purchase furniture now totals \$1,200 in revenue from seminar luncheons held the past two years, said Mrs. Gooden. She said some residents in the area feel they have pieces of furniture from Col. Davenport's home that had

been purchased at sales.

"We have a chance to buy a chair from the 1835 period," she said. They'd like to purchase more furniture but "everything we do is expensive."

RIGHT NOW, the group is concerned with keeping the home open for tours. It is staffed from 1 to 3 p.m. each Sunday through October. As many as 300 persons have gone through the home on Sundays since it opened in May. Tourists have come from New Mexico, Florida, South Dakota, California, Kentucky and Columbia, South America.

The Quarters are doing a lot of research on the type of furniture that would go in the home, said Mrs. Robert Byrnes of Bettendorf, past president of the group.

In one room, the window wells, chair rail along the walls and hearth are from the 1806 restoration, the last major structural work. Mrs. Gooden said the original floors were white pine cut from timber on the island. "There were absolutely no floors in the house in 1806," she said, and they had to be replaced.

THE HOME doesn't need much structural work, she said. The home now consists of two large rooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. Lines can be seen on the walls where the kitchen and servants' quarters were located. That wing was torn off in 1906. There were three other wings, two on the east side and one on the west side of the home which can be seen in very early photographs.

One wing was used by the Colonel for his office and had large carriage roses on the wallpaper, said Mrs. Gooden. The other two were guest wings. None of the wings entered directly into the main structure. They had separate entrances.

THE DOORS in the home are all different sizes, said Mrs. Byrnes. The people were short in those days so they had no need for big doors.

There also is a fireplace in every room to provide heat. Records show that some of the fireplaces are original and some are not.

On the tour, the hostesses show a key that fits into a lock owned by Paines Museum. Historians believe the key and lock fit into a wooden door leading to the former kitchen wing.

A piano in one downstairs room is an 1836 Steingway. "I doubt if the Colonel ever owned such a fine piece," said Mrs. Gooden. The piano had been given to the home builder group and was left in the house, along with several other pieces. Two Empire chests with mahogany veneer are in the upstairs bedrooms. One has an Opere mirror over it from the 1840s, according to Quarters member Mrs. Robert Swartz of Moline.

IN ONE BEDROOM is a maple and butternut egg bedstead loaned by Mrs. McCormack. She purchased the bed at a sale in Andover. A feather mattress was the actual bed. It is covered with a red, white and blue quilt that was loaned to the Quarters.



RIVER VIEW — Col. George Davenport had a view of the Mississippi River from his island home but instead of urban development, he most likely saw log cabins and Indian settlements. (Argus Photo)



GRAND PIANO — Mrs. Robert Byrnes of Bettendorf poses at an 1836 Steingway piano, one of the few pieces left in the Davenport home when it was taken over by the Quarters. (Argus Photo)



AUTHENTIC COSTUME — Mrs. Phil Gooden of Bettendorf, president of the Quad-City Chapter of The Quarters, wears an authentic dress from the 1830s and 40s when Col. Davenport's family resided in his frame home. The banister and stairway are from the original home. (Argus Photo)

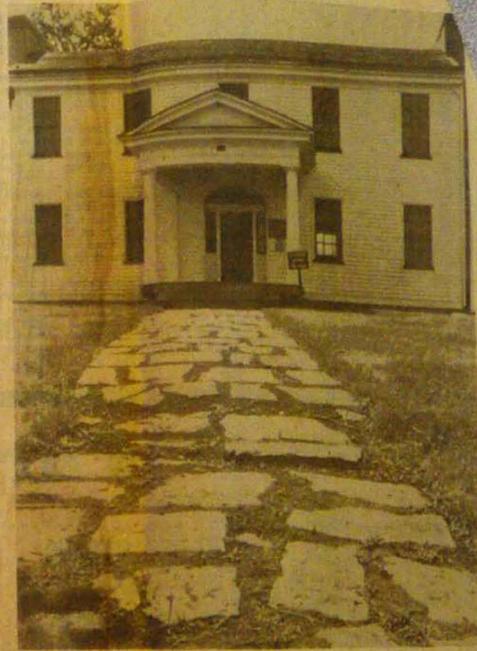
Argus Photos  
by Chris Stevens



**ROPE BED** — Mrs. John McCormack of Rock Island shows a rope bed from the 1800s that she has loaned to the Col. Davenport home. She purchased the maple and butternut bedstead at a sale in An-dover. (Argus Photo)



**FIRST WHITE SETTLER** — Col. George Davenport was the proud owner of a frame "villa" he built on Arsenal Island in 1833. It was there he was murdered 131 years ago.



**OPEN FOR TOURS** — Large stones form the walk leading to Col. George Davenport's home on Arsenal Island. The original walkway was recently uncovered by two members of The Quarters, a group working on restoration of the home. (Argus Photo)

## BLOOD ALL GONE— Old Col. Davenport house on Arsenal being restored

By SUZANNE KRIDNER  
(Argus staff writer)

Bleach stains mark the stairs once spotted by Col. George Davenport's blood.  
It was 131 years ago on July 4 that four bandits entered Davenport's home on Arsenal Island seeking \$20,000 in gold that was supposedly hidden there.  
When the bandits could only find \$600 or \$700, they began to torture Col. Davenport. The colonel was alone in the home while his wife and two sons, Bailey and George Jr., were at a community celebration in Rock Island.

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King so he changed it to Davenport. This fact was discovered when historians tried to trace the Davenport family.

**THERE ARE MANY** stories about Davenport associated with the home on Arsenal Island. In the living room, meetings were held to plan the cities of Davenport and Rock Island, La Claire and Port Byron. Plans also were made for the Rock Island railroad and bridge, said Mrs. Goedken.

A week before the Colonel was murdered, he met with seven prominent men from the area to lay out the railroad. Because of his untimely death, said Mrs. Goedken, plans

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"We have a chance to buy a chair from the 1825 period," she said. They'd like to purchase more furniture but "everything we do is expensive."

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The Quarters are doing a lot of research on the type of furniture that would go in the home, said Mrs. Robert Byrum of Beltsendorf, past president of the group.  
In one room, the window wells, chair rail along the walls and hearth are from the 1906 restoration, the last major structural work. Mrs. Goedken said the original floors were

The restoration will take thousands of dollars, said Mrs. Goedken. Furniture could go back as far as 1816. "Since Margaret Davenport was a widow, she could have brought a lot of furniture with her."

It's not clear how long the family lived in the home after the colonel died. His wife died two years later.

A sign at the original grave site of Col. Davenport, located on Arsenal Island behind the home, tells the story of the Colonel's death. His body was later removed to Clippan-rock Cemetery in Rock Island in 1864. It says the Colonel was the first white settler in the area.

A SIGN AT the front door of the home says the structure was the first frame dwelling built in the area. It claims his family remained in the home until 1863 when the home was taken over by the commander of the Rock Island

5,000 at hanging

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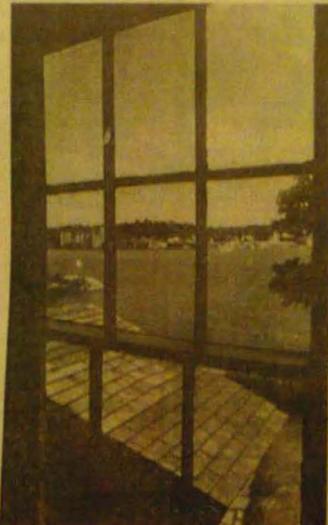
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**A SIGN** AT the front door of the home says the structure was the first frame dwelling built in the area. It claims his family remained in the home until 1863, when the home was taken over by the commander of the Rock Island Confederate Prison Barracks.

Later it was used by the first commander of Rock Island Arsenal as his headquarters.

Argus Photos by Chris Stevens



**RIVER VIEW** — Col. George Davenport had a view of the Mississippi River from his island home but instead of urban development, he most likely saw log cabins and Indian settlements. (Argus Photo)



**GRAND PIANO** — Mrs. Robert Byram of Bettendorf poses at an 1836 Steinway piano, one of the few pieces left in the Davenport home when it was taken over by The Quarters. (Argus Photo)



**AUTHENTIC COSTUME** — Mrs. Phil Goedken of Bettendorf, president of the Quad-City Chapter of The Quarters, wears an authentic dress from the 1830s and 40s when Col. Davenport's family resided in his frame home. The banister and stairway are from the original home. (Argus Photo)

July

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Friday, July 23, 1976

15

**Genealogical Society**

Genealogy sources in Pennsylvania and Maryland will be the workshop when Blackhawk Genealogical Society convenes at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, in the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building, Milan. All interested persons are invited to attend. The program leadership will be by Mesdames Paul G. Hinrichs and Laura Millett. Other geographical areas will be featured according to the interests or problems of the members.

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Saturday, August 21, 1976

August

*The right night  
but - the wrong  
man - some how  
there was a  
mistake made.*

**Genealogists to meet**

The Blackhawk Genealogy Society will be guided by Owen Wright. The topic is research and resources at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Union Federal Savings & Loan Building, Andalusia Road, Milan.

## Blackhawk genealogical society now 4-years old

It is "Cake and Candle" time for the Blackhawk Genealogical Society. Four years ago this month some family history buffs gathered together to form the Society which has grown tremendously since that first meeting, out growing several meeting rooms, now covering surrounding counties and several other states as well. The society includes people from all walks of life and all age groups melting together with its main purpose of preservation of historical materials.

The group of dedicated people have done much to preserve the many historical facts this area abounds with. They have indexed and reprinted "Past and Present Rock Island County, History 1877" by N. F. Kett; most of the cemeterys in the county have been read and tabulated, when the rest are finished it is proposed they be published; newspaper abstracts have been published; a Quarterly is published, this helps not only members here locally but other societies and Librarys that they have an exchange program with; these along with several other smaller items are for sale by the society.

The Society has chosen the indexing and reprinting of the "Atlas of Rock Island County

1905" as its Bicentennial project. This rare volume is now for sale at the pre-publication price of \$16 plus \$1.50 for mailing and handling on mail orders, Illinois residents also add sales tax. After October the price will increase to \$18. As a bonus to society members the Atlas will sell for \$15 on each order placed at the September meeting, this is for one night only. Purchases can be arranged by contacting Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 W. 10 Avenue, Milan, 61264. These books make excellent gifts for family and friends, especially the person you know who is a family history nut!

The many holdings of the Society are housed at the Moline Public Library. A person may loan historical materials to the society for research by others and being a chartered organization by the state, Blackhawk Genealogical Society is eligible to receive income tax deductible gifts.

Membership in the society is open to anyone interested in the preservation of historical data. President Kenneth Baker invites all interested people to attend the regular monthly meeting next Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Union Federal Savings and Loan Bldg., Milan. The program will be a panel discussion on Foreign Research, refreshments will be served to celebrate the 4th birthday anniversary of the society.

*In September we celebrate  
our Growth and Progress*

## Black Hawk Genealogists

# History buffs look to the past

### KNOW YOUR CLUBS

It is "cake and candle" time for the Black Hawk Genealogical Society

Four years ago this month some family history buffs gathered together to form the Genealogical Society. Membership has increased tremendously since that first meeting, the group has outgrown several meeting rooms, and now includes men and women from surrounding counties and several other states as well.

The society, with a membership of 142, includes people from all walks of life and all age groups, and its main purpose is to preserve historical materials.

This group of people already has done much to preserve the history of this area.

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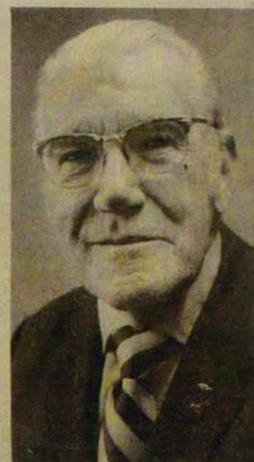
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**MEMBERSHIP** in the society is open to anyone interested in the preservation of historical data. J. Kenneth Baker, Rock Island, president, invites all interested people to attend the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building, Milan.

The program will be a panel discussion on "Foreign Research." Refreshments



J. KENNETH BAKER

will be served to celebrate the fourth birthday anniversary of the society.

Other officers of the society are Ivan Rice, Moline, first vice president, Barbara Sample Scott, Milan, recording secretary, and Mrs. William M. Coopman, Moline, treasurer.

September 25th Dispatch

### Genealogical society to reprint atlas

A reprint of the 1905 Historical Atlas of Rock Island County, is being sponsored by the Blackhawk Genealogical Society, as a Bicentennial project. A pre-publication sale will be held until Oct. 31.

This reprint by The Bookmark, Knightstown, Ind., national atlas and book reprint specialists, will contain 156 pages, including 16 township maps showing landowners, 7 pages of Rock Island County history, 32 city, town and village maps and 84 pages of illustrations and prints. The atlas also contains United States and World Maps. The atlas will also contain a new name index, compiled by the sponsors.

Leading Rock Island and Moline business houses are listed in a directory as well as a Rock Island County Farmers Directory.

This atlas will be 14 x 17 in black ink on high quality India book paper with an attractive embossed cardstock cover, but library binding is also available.

The pre-publication price is \$16 until Oct. 31. Add \$1.50 for mailing. After Oct. 31, the price is \$18 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Illinois residents please add 5 per cent sales tax. Add \$9 extra for library-binding and allow at least six weeks for delivery. Orders may be sent to Mrs. Francis Moseley, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, 230 W. 10th Ave., Milan, 61264.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society is a chartered, not-for-profit society.

MERCER & ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

*The Farm Bureau  
Put this advertisement in  
their news publication  
for us.*

### Genealogical Society Publishes 1905 Atlas

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society announces it is sponsoring the reproduction of the Atlas of Rock Island County as published in 1905. The large 14" x 17" soft cover book contains 16 township maps showing land owners, 25 city maps, farmers and business directories, a section on Rock Island County History, and many pages of portraits and early photographs. The Atlas is a reproduction of the original 151 pages plus a complete new index.

According to Caroline Neumann of the Society, many residents of the area have ancestors who appear or are mentioned in the 1905 publication. "It is interesting," says Mrs. Neumann "How the property ownership, property lines, and roadways have changed over the past 70 years."

Copies of the Atlas are available at a pre-publication price of \$16.00 if ordered before October 31, 1976. After that date, copies will cost \$18.00. Delivery is scheduled for early December 1976. Copies may be reserved from the Blackhawk Genealogical Society by contacting Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 W. 10th Ave., Milan, Ill.



## BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society announces it's sponsorship of a reproduction of a very rare Atlas.

### ATLAS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Pub. 1905

The Atlas Contains: 151 pages, plus new index.

- 16 Township maps showing land owners
- 25 City maps
- Farmers directory
- Business directory
- Rock Island County History
- 32 Pages of personal Portraits
- Many early photographs of buildings

Large size 14 x 17  
Soft cover

Price until October 31, 1976 will be \$16.00.  
Price after that date will be \$18.00.

Order for gifts  
Delivery is scheduled for early December 1976.

#### ORDER BLANK

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment for \_\_\_\_\_ reprint copies of the ATLAS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1905. The cancelled check will be my receipt. Illinois residents please add 5 percent sales tax. I will pick up the ATLAS from Mrs. Francis Moseley. Mail the ATLAS. I enclose \$1.50 addition for postage.

Total check

Name

Address

City and State Zip

Make checks payable to: Blackhawk Genealogical Society and mail to: Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 West 10th Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264.



## BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNOUNCES THE REPRINTING OF  
HISTORICAL LAND-OWNER  
ATLAS OF  
ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS, 1905  
PLUS NEW INDEX OF LANDOWNERS & BIOGRAPHIES

*Originally Published  
by The Iowa Publishing Co., Davenport, Iowa*

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society proudly announces its sponsorship of a reproduction of this very rare book.

This atlas contains —

- \* 151 pages, plus new index of landowners, biographies
- \* 16 township maps showing landowners
- \* 25 city maps
- \* alphabetical listing of Farmers and Business Directories and advertisements - pages 99-139
- \* Rock Island County History
- \* approximately 814 personal portraits
- \* approximately 156 photographs of early buildings
- \* biographical sketches

This atlas will be 14" x 17" in black ink on high quality india book paper with an attractive embossed cardstock cover. Library binding is also available.

The atlas is being reproduced for us by The Bookmark, Knightstown, Ind., national atlas and book reprint specialists.

Reserve your copy at a SPECIAL pre-publication price of \$16.00 until October 31, 1976. After that date the price will be \$18.00. Illinois residents must add 5% sales tax. Add \$1.50 to the above prices for mailing. Library-bound copies are available for \$9.00 extra - allow at least six weeks for delivery. Delivery is scheduled for November, 1976.

Please mail your order today, and tell your friends and relatives of this opportunity to obtain the atlas. It will make a gift you will be proud to give—for birth-day, Christmas — any reason, as well as a Bicentennial keepsake.

### ORDER BLANK

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in payment for \_\_\_\_\_ reprint copies of the ATLAS OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1905. The cancelled check will be my receipt. Illinois residents please add 5% sales tax.

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 Mail the ATLAS. I enclose \$1.50

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Make checks payable to: Blackhawk Genealogical Society and mail to:  
Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 West 10th Avenue, Milan, Illinois 61264.

## Some of our members

12C QUAD-CITY TIMES Sunday, July 6, 1975  
Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa

### Deaths

#### Mrs. Richard Welch; Civic Leader, Author

Mrs. Richard Welch, of 685 20th St., Rock Island, a widely known civic figure and author, died Friday in Denver, Colo., while visiting friends.

The body is being returned to Glendon Funeral Home.

Remains may be made to a favorite church.

Mrs. Welch graduated from the University of Illinois and taught school in Mishawaka, Ind.

She was past director of the Rock Island Historical Society, past secretary of the Rock Island Art Guild, a member of the Rock Island County Council on Alcoholism and past president of Tri-City Garden Club, of which she was named transfer artist and gardener.

Mrs. Welch wrote "A Diamond Sparkles: The Facets of Diamond Lake" in 1970. The book is a history of the Dia-



Mrs. Welch

mond Lake, Mich., area.

She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and was active in the Red Cross during World War II.

Less Webster was born in Mishawaka, where she married Mr. Welch in 1947.

Survivors include her husband; a son, B. Webster Welch, Springfield, Mass., and her mother, Mrs. Hazel Webster, Diamond Lake.

THE ANGEL, Rock Island, Ill., Tuesday, June 3, 1975



MR. AND MRS. WENDELL CLARK

#### Wendell Clarks to observe 50th wedding anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell H. Clark, 208 E. 2nd Ave., Milan, will observe their 50th wedding anniversary with open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday in their home. All relatives and friends are invited. The couple requests that gifts be omitted.

The former Ella Milton and Mr. Clark were married June 12, 1925, in the Methodist parsonage at

Lyons, Iowa, and have resided in Milan since. They have a son, Lt. Col. Gilman Clark of Ft. Sheridan and a daughter, Marilyn, of Bel Air, Md. There are 4 grandchildren.

Mr. Clark retired in 1972 after 41 years as a wholesale sporting good distributor. The Clarks are members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Milan.

4A

QUAD-CITY TIMES Sunday, Oct. 18, 1975  
Davenport-Bettendorf, Iowa

### Deaths

#### Former Milan Clerk

Services for Wendell H. Clark, 82, of 208 E. 2nd Ave., Milan, will be 1:30 p.m. Monday at Trinity United Methodist Church, Milan. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery, Rock Island.

Visitation is after noon today at Larson's Funeral Home, Milan.

Mr. Clark died Friday in his home.

Mr. Clark was a jobber 22 years in sporting good firm, retiring in 1972.

He was born in Jacksonville, Ill. He married Ella E. Milton in 1925 in Lyons,

Iowa. He served as Milan village clerk from 1940-1953. He was a charter member of the Blackhawk Genealogy Society and the Milan Outfitters Baseball Club. He was a strong supporter of Rock Island High School athletics. He played semi-pro baseball in his younger years.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Marilyn Clark, Bel Air, Md.; a son, Lt. Col. Gilman, Ft. Sheridan, Ill.; four grandchildren, and brothers, Raymond and Virgil, both of Milan.

Some more of  
our very active  
members.

6 THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Wednesday, September 1, 1976

## Mrs. Burgess to mark 80th birth date Sunday

Mrs. Helen E. Burgess, 934 19th St., Rock Island, will be honored at open house Sunday on her 80th birthday anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited to call from 2 to 5 p.m. at the parish house of First Lutheran Church, Rock Island.

The former Helen Elizabeth Johnson was born Sept. 5, 1896, in Rock Island and was married here to J. Joseph Burgess of Rock Island on March 28, 1925. He died in December, 1937.

The honoree has four daughters, Miss Emily Burgess and Mrs. Janet Guth, both of Rock Island; Mrs. Joan Walker, Davenport, and Mrs. Anthony J. (Ann) Fralolo, Oak Park, and a son, John Joseph, Rock Island. There are six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Burgess was secretary-treasurer and a director of the Rock Island Register Co., of which her husband was a founder. She was employed there from 1913 to 1967. A charter member of the Rock Island YWCA, Black Hawk Hiking Club, Hampton Township Historical Society and Blackhawk Genealogical Society, Mrs. Burgess is a



MRS. BURGESS

member of the Woman's Club of Rock Island and the Rock Island County Historical Society and is a former YW board member.

Currently historian of First Lutheran Church, she served as secretary of the congregation and is a member of the Lutheran Church Women and Mahle Anderson Hospital Circle. She formerly was on the board of directors of Camp Augustana, Lake Geneva, Wis.

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THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Friday, October 15, 1976



**BLACK HAWK EXHIBIT** — Many of the items on display in Black Hawk College's 30th anniversary exhibit were collected by Miss Mary Morrissey who served as college archivist for many years until her retirement

in 1975. With Miss Morrissey is Alan Chmura, special services librarian, who assembled the exhibit which will be on display in the college library through Oct. 29.

## Exhibit shows 30 years of Black Hawk college history

Black Hawk College librarian Alan Chmura went on a scavenger hunt a few weeks ago and what he found is on display in the college library for everyone to see.

What he found was memorabilia from the days when hair was short, only farmers wore jeans, colleges still elected Snow Queens and a student could take a full load of college credit classes for less than \$90 a semester.

Publications, pictures and other articles collected over the 30 years of the college's existence, first as Moline Community College and then as Black Hawk College, will be on exhibit through Oct. 29 in the Learning Resources Center located in Building One of the Quad-Cities Campus. The exhibit was planned

to coincide with observance of the college's 30th anniversary.

The exhibit, according to Chmura, is meant to "show the history of the college as it happened" from student sking parties in the '60s to student strikes in the '70s. The majority of pieces were collected by Miss Mary Morrissey, who served as college archivist until her retirement in 1975. Others were borrowed from college offices or donated by persons who were associated with the college as either students or staff members.

It's not a "hands off" exhibit. Although some items are in display cases, all publications are out on tables to be read and reminisced over. There's a complete collection of Sauk, the college yearbook, and the literary magazines which have superseded it. Newspapers from the Moline Community College???? - published in October, 1958, sans name - to present-day Chieftains are also exhibited.

There's the trowel used to place the cornerstone for the

Quad-Cities Campus administration building, gavel used by former board chairmen and books and pieces of art either loaned or donated to the college's Belgian Historical Collection.

For the visually-oriented, there are basketball films from the early '60s, a film of the first commencement held on the Quad-Cities Campus and several slide shows of college activities. A 30-minute videotape tracing the design and construction of the Quad-Cities Campus buildings will be shown for interested persons.

Mini-exhibits have also been placed in display cases in each of the college's four buildings. The main exhibit, in the LRC, is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

News Release sent by Publisher to area newspapers

NEWS RELEASE

A reprint of the 1905 Historical Atlas of Rock Island County, Illinois is being sponsored by the Blackhawk Genealogical Society, as a bicentennial project. A pre-publication sale will be held until Oct. 31, 1976.

This reprint by The Bookmark, Knightstown, Ind., national atlas and book reprint specialists, will contain 156 pages, including 16 township maps showing landowners, 7 pages of Rock Island County history, 32 city, town and village maps and 84 pages of illustrations and prints. The atlas also contains United States and World Maps. The atlas will also contain a new name index, compiled by the sponsors.

Leading Rock Island and Moline business houses are listed in a directory as well as a Rock Island County Farmers Directory.

This atlas will be 14 x 17 in black ink on high quality india book paper with an attractive embossed cardstock cover, but library binding is also available.

The pre-publication price is \$16.00 until Oct. 31, 1976. Add \$1.50 for mailing. After Oct. 31, 1976, the price is \$18.00 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Illinois residents please add 5% sales tax. Add \$9.00 extra for library-binding and allow at least six weeks for delivery. Orders may be sent to Mrs. Francis Moseley, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, 230 W. 10th Ave., Milan, Illinois 61264.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society is a chartered, not for profit society.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTE TO EDITORS: When printed, one free copy for editorial review will be available UPON REQUEST from The Bookmark, P. O. Box 74, Knightstown, Ind. 46148.

Local Newspapers: Would it be possible to have the review copy on display in your lobby. Any promotional help would be appreciated.

October meeting

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Thursday, October 23, 1976

11

Genealogical Society

Three charter members will lead the program for the October Blackhawk Genealogical Society meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of Union Federal Savings and Loan at Main. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Normoye will speak on research in Ireland and Joyce Cornelius will speak on the extensive genealogical collection at the Fort Wayne Public

Library, Fort Wayne, Ind. The public is invited to attend and hear these well qualified people address the group.

Offer Atlas Reprint Of Ill. County

A reprint of the 1905 Historical Atlas of Rock Island County, Illinois is being sponsored by the Blackhawk Genealogical Society as a 25th anniversary project. A pre-publication sale will be held some Oct. 21.

The reprint by The Rockport, Knightstown, Ind., will contain 126 pages with 18 township maps showing land owners, seven pages of Rock Island County history, 22 city, town and village maps and 84 pages of illustrations and prints.

The atlas also contains United States and world maps. The atlas will also contain a new gene. index.

Compiled by the late Mrs. Moline, this atlas is being issued as a directory as well as a Rock Island County Farmers Directory.

This atlas will be 11 by 17 inches with an unbound coverstock cover. For library binding it also available.

Pre-publication price is \$26. List \$32.50 for mailing.

After Oct. 23, price \$32.50 plus \$2 for mailing. 15% non-resident phone call fee per cent extra tax. Add \$2.00 extra for library binding and allow architect on order for delivery.

Orders may be sent to Mrs. Francis Mandy, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, 226 W. 10th Ave., Moline, IL 61204.

November 23, 1976

For some reason the papers never published the following article sent to them for the November meeting. This is similar to article sent.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will hold its annual dinner meeting Tower Terrace Apts. meeting room, 2020 24th Street, Rock Island, on Tuesday November 23 at 6:00 P.M. The meal will be a Pot-Luck Style with each bringing a covered dish and table service. Meat, rolls and coffee will be furnished.

The program will be "Publishing Your Family History" by Dwight Young of the "Print Shop" in Dixon, Illinois. The first shipment of the reprint "Atlas of Rock Island County, Illinois, 1905" is here and books unorderd may be picked up at the meeting.

The election and installation of officers for the coming year will be held, the following people are on the slate to be presented: President: Mrs. Joyce Cornelius, 1st Vice President: Mrs. Sally Schroeder, 2nd Vice President: Mrs. Mildred Martin, Secretary: Mrs. Phyllis Normoye, Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Myra Perry, Treasurer; Mrs. Scharlett Blavins, Registrar; and Mrs. Eva Johnson, Historian.

## OES Installation set for Saturday

Mr. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Baker of Rock Island will be installed as worthy patron and matron of Rock Island Chapter No. 269, Order of the Eastern Star, in ceremonies at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Masonic Temple.

Installing officers will be Mrs. Naomi Peppmeyer, Rock Island, installing officer; Mrs. Mary Allen, Moline, chaplain; Mrs. Ann Baker Hunter of Iowa City, Iowa, marshal; Mrs. Janis Wood Gray, Rock Island, organist, and Mrs. Marguerite Nelson, Rock Island, soloist. Their escorts will be William Yates, Milan, Charles Peterson and William E. Shaw, Rock Island, Ralph E. Anderson, Rock Island, will be the installing colorbearer and the Ode to the Flag will be by Sabrina Ann Hunter of Iowa City, granddaughter of the Bakers.

Everett Atkinson, Louis Gernant, Merle Pearson and Charles Lenser, all of Rock Island, will be ushers for the ceremony. Mrs. Carrie Simon and Mrs. Edna M. Anderson, Rock Island, will be guests in the East.

Officers to be installed are: Mrs. Glen Kelley, Rock Island, and George Lawrence, Moline, associate matron and patron; Mrs. Ruth VanDeVoorde, secretary, and Mrs. Carole Pruessing, treasurer, both of Rock Island; Mrs. Ivy Dahlstrom, Rock Island, and Mrs. Erma Livingston, Milan, conductress and associate conductress; Mrs. Muriel Shaw, Rock Island, chaplain; Mrs. Pat Hanson, Moline, marshal, and Mrs. Ellen Lenser, Rock Island, organist.

Also Mrs. Kay Niemann, Rock Island, Adah; Mrs. Shirley Nelson, Milan, Ruth; Mrs. Eli Lawrence, Moline, Esther; Mrs. Nancy Miles, Silvio; Martha, Mrs. Thelma Burris, Rock Island, Electa; Mrs. Kathryn Paulkes, Rock Island, wonder, and Joseph Burris, Rock Island, sentinel.



MR. AND MRS. J. K. BAKER

and Vashti Shrine No. 23, of Jerusalem, will assist Order of the White Shrine with the reception.

*Our President  
and his wife.*

The Rainbow Girls of Rock Island Assembly No. 2 will escort the worthy matron and patron.

Friends, relatives and members are invited. A reception will be held afterward in the banquet hall with all past matrons and patrons of Rock Island Chapter as hostesses and hosts. Members of Amco Cadron No. 1, Rock Island,

November 1976

This was presented to our Publications Sales  
Chairman Mrs Francis (Bernie) Mosley



**STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

APPRECIATION AWARD

The Illinois State Genealogical Society hereby awards

MRS. FRANCIS MUGLEY

this certificate of appreciation for services performed  
for the society. The officers and board of directors  
thank you for helping to make the society's activities  
successful and for promoting genealogy in Illinois.



*Harold G. Feltz*  
Secretary

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Sunday, December 19, 1976

## Genealogical Society holds annual event

A joint meeting of the outgoing officers and the newly elected officers of the Rock Island Genealogical Society was held Wednesday at the Rock Island Library.

President J. Kenneth Baker handed the gavel over to the new president, Mrs. Joyce Cornelius of Moline. Other new officers include Mrs. Dolores Hanger, first vice president; Mrs. Sally Schroeder, second vice president; Mrs. Mildred Martin, secretary; Mrs. Phyllis Normoyle, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Thyra Perry, treasurer; Mrs. Charlott-Blevins, registrar, and Mrs. Eva Johnson, historian.

The annual report to the society was made during the meeting. The group now holds its meetings at the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building, Milan, the change of place being necessitated due to the organization's growth. Their next regular meeting will be held Jan. 25.

The society's Bicentennial project, selling reprints of the 1906 Rock Island County Atlas, was reported to be going well. The books are selling for \$18, plus tax and \$1.50 for postage and handling. Orders for the books may be placed with Mrs. Francis Moseley, 230 W. 10th Ave., Milan, Ill. 61264.

A review of the group's other projects and their progress also was presented, including the reading of the 1860 Federal Census, which is progressing well, as is the cemetery stone reading.

Outgoing President Baker reminded the society members that tax exempt gifts may be made to the society as it is a chartered, not for profit society. He said these gifts of money and rare volumes will help the society to reach its eventual goal of having its own place for meetings and for housing its library.

Annual report made for the Quarterly by Historian —

Dear Society Members:

Our Bicentennial year is over and from the looks of the pages of our scrap book it has been a very fruitful year for us. We started off the year learning why "Germans keep records" and how they can help the rest of us. Wills and Estate records can give many clues for the genealogist. Of course we should all keep good records as we learned in March.

In April we launched our Bicentennial project, the reprinting of the 1905 Rock Island County Atlas, this was big project and it went over very well thanks to the hard work by Bernice Mossley and her committee. Many copies have been sold to date. The month of April was a very busy month, we were the host Society for the Annual Genealogical Conference held the 24th at the Masonic Temple in Rock Island. James Walker of Washington D.C. was an outstanding speaker we all enjoyed.

In May we were lead down the isles of the Iowa City Genealogical Library by Mrs. Darlene Faxton, a certified Genealogist and family history teacher. June found us starting a series of workshops designed to help all of us with our special problem areas. Some of the areas worked in was our own state of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ireland, the Genealogical Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and other areas which helped many of us with our problems.

September was our anniversary month, so we noted our growth and progress in the past four years with a birthday cake. The November Annual Dinner meeting was a successful Pot-luck style held at Tower Terrace Arts. meeting room the home of our president Mr. J. Kenneth Baker. Dwight Young of the "Print Shop" in Dixon was the speaker with "Publishing Your Family History" as his topic. Election of Officers for the coming year was also held.

Through out the year we had many of our members receiving honors in their other activities as well as in their efforts to preserve and perpetuate ancestral records.

Respectfully submitted

Dalores Hauger  
Historian

THE ARGUS, Rock Island, Ill., Sunday, January 2, 1977



MR. AND MRS. HAROLD PIERCE

## Pierces will be feted for 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Pierce, 10212 Knoxville Road, Milan, will be honored for their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception to be given next Saturday at the home of their son, Richard-Alan Pierce, 734 18th Ave. A, Mohne

Friends and relatives are invited to call from 1 to 5 p.m. The couple requests that gifts be omitted.

The former Anne C. (Kilby) Hodgson and Mr. Pierce, both of Chicago, were married there at

Church of Our Saviour on Dec. 31, 1926. In addition to the son, the couple has a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Anne Fleuer, Rock Island. The son and daughter are giving the anniversary party.

There are seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Pierce was employed as a bricklayer at Rock Island Arsenal, retiring in 1969. His wife retired in 1966 from the Arsenal where she was employed in the Supply Branch.

*One of our members  
celebrating a very  
happy event!*



### Family In Granite

This private cemetery plot can't really be a collectible, but from the point of photography it is very much a collector's field-day. Cameraburgs from the four points of the compass have stopped at this cemetery at Mayfield, Ky., to photograph this 'family in granite.' Here is the site where Colonel Henry Woodruff buried his loved ones, each grave adorned with a full-sized statue of the deceased. The group includes the colonel on his horse, four brothers, a sister, three sweethearts, two nieces, two hounds, a deer, and a peacock. The colonel never forgot anyone.

By MARK GAYNON  
Dispatch Writer

Gravestones, sculpted in various forms and all sizes, cannot be found on just any field. Here, but for the members of the Ill. & Haw. Genealogical Society, these items are required reading.

Old members take their lunch to the cemetery. Says Ina Louise Haugst of Moline, who was recently elected 1st vice president of the society, "In warmer weather, they eat there, read the gravestones and compile a list of genealogical information."

Established in 1972, the society includes over 100 members who study common terms, names and other data in search of family and community history.

IN THE PAST year, 100 members

three relative, I never knew existed," says Mrs. Joyce Cornelius, president of the society. "If it wasn't for the society, I would have missed out on meeting them, and they really are wonderful people."

According to Mrs. Cornelius, the society was formed so local researchers could unite in their pursuit of historical accuracy.

"You need to be a historian to find your own family and you often need the aid of other researchers," says Cornelius. "But it isn't just tracing your own family that makes it fun. It's being your own sleuth in community history too."

Since the society was founded, local interest in genealogy has mushroomed.

"WE'RE GROWING," all the

line," says Mrs. Haugst, who attributes the rise of the interest to the Bicentennial celebration. "People have suddenly become very interested in finding out about their families and the traditions of their communities."

To aid that pursuit, the society offers a variety of genealogical guides, including abstracts from a 19th century (Republican newspaper) County Atlas, other society materials available in the Moline Public Library.

In cooperation with the Illinois Genealogical Society, the society is currently reading the last Federal Census (in 1850) and studying the gravestones in local cemeteries. Haugst says that the research should

be completed and available for public perusal sometime next year.

DESPITE THE long, investigative hours that genealogy requires, society members seem tireless in their enthusiasm.

It's an enjoyable disease," says Cornelius. "There's an odd joke around here: The society is a lot of people say that our research involves looking up only dead people. On the contrary, we find a lot of live ones, and believe me, some of them are pretty lively."

Through the sale of various reports, the tax-exempt decisions of interested citizens and members, does the society hope eventually to acquire a room or building in which

(Turn To Page 40)

## Yesterday's news required reading for genealogists

THE SUNDAY DISPATCH Moline, Illinois Jan 2, 1977

(Continued from page 47)  
to find and store their genealogical material.  
Until that time, the sleuths will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Federal Savings and Loan Building in Milan.

BEIDES CORNELIUS and Haugst, the other newly elected officers of the society are 2nd vice president Mrs. Sally Schroeder of Rock Island, secretary Mrs. Mildred Martin of Moline, corresponding secretary, Mrs. Phyllis Normandy of Rock Island, treasurer Mrs. Thera Perry of Moline, registrar, Mrs. Scharlott Blevins of

Bellefontaine, and historian, Mrs. Eva Johnson of Rock Island.

In 1977, says Cornelius, the society plans to sponsor additional research workshops and attract more speakers to the Quad City area.

"Some of our members are pretty advanced by now," says the president. "We're aiming for programs that will meet that level and inform society members even more."

Orders for the 1990 Black Island County Atlas and other Black Hawk Genealogical Society reports may be placed with Mrs. Francis Moseley, 120 W. 10th Ave., Milan.

### Genealogy

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet at the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building in Milan at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 1977. A special genealogist will present the program, something. All interested persons are invited.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ILLINOIS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Some of our 'friends' made national headlines

# Tracing family roots skyrockets

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Mrs. Joseph Van Sickler of Cape Coral, Fla., peering at a screen, found something she had been seeking for 14 years — a trace of her father's mother's parents.

"I found them in Chicago, on the 1900 census," she said. "It showed they'd been living in the United States for 15 years. Once I had that, it was easy to go to ship passenger lists from 1869 until I found where they'd all come over."

Mrs. Van Sickler is an amateur genealogist. She was doing her research on microfilm records at the National Archives, a branch of government work.

Across America, tracing family roots has skyrocketed to a hobby.

AT THE National Archives, where amateur genealogists are called "patrons," the number of research passes issued to visitors has doubled in 10 years, and is no longer the prerogative of those seeking to qualify for membership in some bloodline organization.

A staff of 90 is required to handle the 4,000 letters that arrive every week seeking help. If the writer can fill out a form at a point what he needs, he can obtain photocopied records for \$1 a sheet.

About 75 per cent of the 26,000 passes issued last year went to people who came to the archives to seek out their family histories in the

archives military service and pension records, immigrant ship passenger lists and census records, which are kept secret for 70 years.

These records are kept under the direction of Texas-born Bill Linder, whose wife claims George Washington as an ancestor and who found, in researching his own family, that his great grandfather was a convicted murderer.

LINDER'S interest in his own ancestry caused him to give up a career in aerospace and get into archival work.

He believes national interest is high because of the "extended family" that rarely exists any longer.

"In Kennedy, Tex. I grew up with grandparents and great uncles and third cousins," he says. "We all had Sunday dinner together. My kids don't have that. If they're go-

ing to know anything about their family, they're going to read it."

The Bicentennial also spurred interest, Linder said. "Roots," Alex Haley's account of how his search for ancestors carried him to Africa, has been a recent runaway bestseller.

In Mrs. Van Sickler's case, religion was the motivator. The Van Sicklers are Mormons and practice baptism by proxy of deceased ancestors.

WHEN SHE located her husband's immigrant great grandparents in the Chicago census, she learned much: that they owned a house with a mortgage, that they had 11 children, one of whom died at sea, that one son peddled meats and another was a printer, that all the children

except George, 9, were born in Germany, that an aunt-in-law was married to a married daughter, who was mother-in-law (read that too, and that the mother-in-law had had five children).

"My mother died when I was a child, and when I used to ask my father about his ancestors, he would say, 'Why don't you let the dead rest?'" Mrs. Van Sickler said. "But this brings you closer to your family. Your eyes get tired, but it's worth it."

Mrs. Van Sickler's husband, operator of a dry cleaning shop, has traced his family to the 1600s. He suspects he may be a descendant of Millard Fillmore, 13th U.S. president. His mother's maiden name was Millard.

Also working in the archives' research room was

Joseph Gaultier, a bearded retired Army colonel who traces other peoples' ancestry for a fee. He works by the hour.

OF HIS 22 steady clients, one is a Civil War buff in Alabama, who collects old uniforms and likes to know the war records of the men in blue or gray whose names are attached to the uniforms.

In eight years, Gaultier has traced his own family through eight generations to a French soldier who fought in the French-Indian Wars and was discharged in 1763. At his home, family records fill seven file cabinets drawers.

Archivist Linder says most Americans become interested in their ancestors from colonial or revolutionary war days. Only relative newcomers, or per-

## as hobby

sons whose families married only within their own ethnic groups, are unlikely to have such a link to the nation's past, he says.

"After all," he says, "after 23 generations you have over one million ancestors."

Of course, records rarely go that far back. English parish registers go back to 1538. Before then, if you didn't have money, land or position, you didn't make the records.

He says the news from the past isn't always happy news. "But people aren't so narrow any more," he says. "As legitimate birth in the family background doesn't bother most."

AMATEUR genealogists need not come to Washington to dig out their past. Census record microfilm are stored

in 12 regional centers and in many state archives.

Courthouses are a storehouse of deeds, marriage records, wills and court records — all fertile territory. Church records shed much light. Most localities have historical and genealogical societies.

The Mormon Church, with

the biggest genealogical library in the world and a microfilming program that even reaches behind the Iron Curtain, maintains records in branches in large cities across the country.

The National Archives (Zip 20408) offers a one-page guide, "Genealogical Research — How to Begin."

These pages respectfully submitted  
by Dolores Hanger  
Historian - "1976"