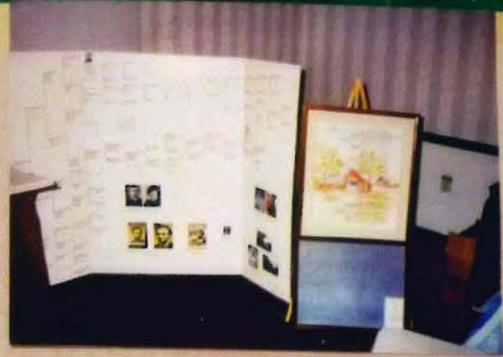


1995

BGS



**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

Dear Friends, I am writing to get you to send a special contribution at this time. We are sure that your prayers and beyond your regular support to the National Veterans of America will be prepared to help those who come home from war.

Please show your support  
sacrificed so much for the  
women of our armed forces,  
defeat America's enemies.  
Your added support will help  
brave men and women in the  
the enclosed stickers to  
Thank you, and God Bless you.



(1995-2003)

BGS

# BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 3912  
Rock Island IL 61201-3912

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1995

**When:** 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, January through October, with annual dinner meeting on 14 November 1995, at 6:00 p.m.  
**Where:** South Park Presbyterian Church  
1501 30th Street, Rock Island IL  
**Who:** Family historians and all visitors are welcome to attend.

**Questions:** Call Judy Rueckert, (309) 788-0051

24 January 1995

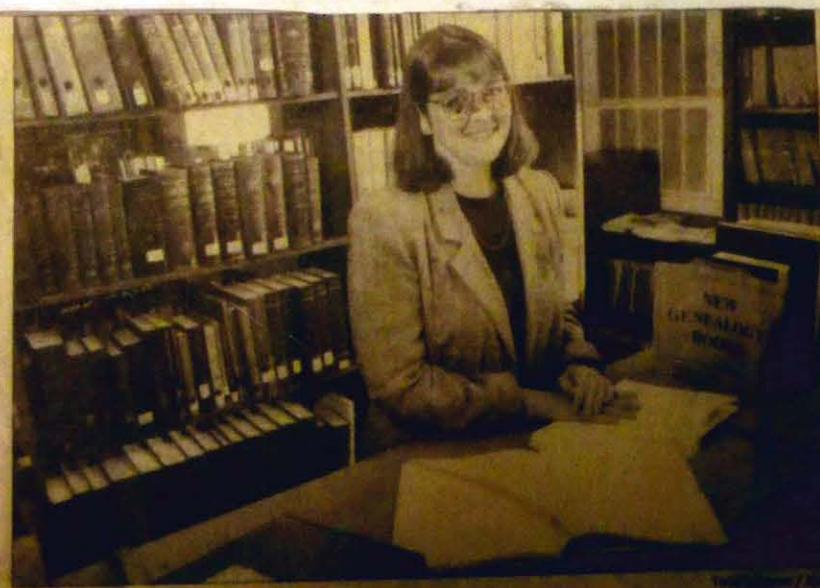
Everette Geurlink will speak on the FGS Annual Conference which was held in Richmond VA.

28 February 1995

Barbara Douglas will demonstrate methods of preservation and care of original documents and genealogical information.

28 March 1995

To be announced.



### 'Digging in for Winter Research'

Elaine Lucas, reference librarian, is set for the 'Digging in for Winter Research' genealogy workshop at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the conference room of the Mohr Center for Learning.

504 17th St. A demonstration of Ponderosa, a CD-ROM database of addresses and phone numbers from across the United States, will be given.

B6 THE DISPATCH AND THE ROCK ISLAND

### What's in a name?

Despite what you may think, people rarely change their names because of a notorious criminal background. Normally, the Chicago Tribune reports, people change their names because of divorce, a religious conversion, to shed a less desirable name or just because they want a fresh identity or better a given name.

## Civil War vet gets new stone

By Ler's A. Postman  
Staff Writer

ROCK ISLAND — For more than a century, few thought about William F. Jobe.

A tombstone placed in 1873 above his buried body is now so worn with age that the letters "JOB" are barely legible.

Saturday, more than two dozen people, many dressed in Civil War era garb, dedicated a new white-marble marker in Chippianock Cemetery.

**"He served his country ... so at least deserves a legible gravestone."**

Benton McAdams,  
Civil War author

"He served his country; I believe he at least deserves a legible gravestone," said Benton McAdams, an Illinois author who uncovered Lt. Jobe's life story and the worn marker while researching histories of the Confederate prison on Arsenal Island and of the 12th Illinois Infantry.

Mr. Jobe worked as a printer for *The Argus* until President Lincoln called for men to fight in the Civil War. He was among the first in Rock Island to volunteer.

He sent home dispatches describing historic battles and life in the field and became the area's first war correspondent.

Mr. Jobe died April 20, 1873, at age 36, of consumption — a progressive wasting away of the body due to pulmonary tuberculosis.



Civil War reenactors of the 16th Iowa Infantry fire a salute for Lt. William F. Jobe Saturday at Chippianock Cemetery in Rock Island, using muzzle-loaders like Lt. Jobe himself used. From left are

John Reger, East Moline, Bob Welch, Riverdale, Jim Briggs, East Moline, and Al Johnson, Moline.

Right: The government gravestone for which Lt. Jobe waited 111 years.

Two days later, his family buried him in Chippianock Cemetery.

Saturday, more than 111 years after his death, Lt. Jobe was remembered by those who appreciate his contributions to his newspaper, his community and his country.

Mr. McAdams said that,

throughout his research, he's seen thousands of Civil War tombstones, "and none were in as bad of condition as this was. Even after I knew his name was Jobe, I still could barely make out the letters."

The spectators huddled under a burial tent for the brief dedica-

tion service Saturday. Four honor guards each fired three shots from their muskets out over the cemetery. Then a solo trumpeter played "Taps" as the rain increased.

The old tombstone, with no historical value, was discarded in the woods, Mr. McAdams said.



Jim Hoefle / Staff

**1995 OFFICERS & CHAIRMAN**

President Virginia Horton 787-1105

1st V. President Judy Rueckert 788-0051

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Printing Eulalia Garrett 1-667-2241

Quad City Gen. Conference Chairman --

Eulalia Garrett 1-667-2241

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

April 29, 1995

Viking Club, Moline

"New England Research" by

Ann Smith Lainhart

**BLACKHAWK  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**



**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 1994**

**England resident looks for relatives**

Dear Editor: The Arpuk I am looking for the family members of my mother, Julia, born Nov. 21, 1882, in Southwold, Norfolk, Dorset, and my father, George, born 1885, who emigrated to Rock Island in the early 1920s.

If you have any knowledge of their ancestors, grandparents, please contact me at the address, M.A. Gault, 7500 Highway 130, Creek Road, P.O. Box 200, 81113-7177, Douglas.

*Marjorie Allen Gault*

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South-Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; Barbara Douglas will present program on preservation and care of original documents and genealogical information; information, call Virginia Horton, 787-1105, or Judy Ruchardt, 788-0061.

**Bury your loved ones at home, Brits told**

*San Francisco Chronicle*

The National Death Center of Great Britain offers this advice on the recycling of mortal remains: Wrap 'em in an old sheet and bury

'em in the yard. Cremation, popular in England, is frowned upon by the NDC, reports the Earth Island Journal, because burning coffins release carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrofluoric acid and dioxin into the atmosphere. If one simply wraps the body in cloth and tosses it underground, it will not release toxic gases.

The approved site is one's own garden — legal in the United Kingdom — or a graveyard, which deters developers and provides refuge for wildlife.

**Welcome, Virginia Horton**

**Invocation**

**MENU**

- Oven-Fried Chicken**
- Twice-Baked Potatoes**
- Steamed California Mix**
- Waldorf Salad**
- Coffee & Rolls**
- Snow on the Mountain**

**Installation of Officers**  
**Pam Langston**

**Memorial Service**

**PROGRAM**  
**John Page**  
**1994 in Sweden**

**For Wednesday, March 29**

**SCRIPTURE READING—Acts 7:37-42**

*But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt (Acts 7:39).*

**THE RETREAT INTO YESTERDAY**

Our family is close to an elderly couple who are quite interested in the past. They have photos, scrapbooks, and documents of earlier times. Many days' research has been done in old cemeteries and libraries, and they have traced their family tree back several generations. Both have decided to learn how to preserve records and portraits. They have compiled a book of family history, including interesting anecdotes that reveal the character and personalities of people long deceased.

We have, however, taken note of an important fact about this couple. Though they have great interest in and respect for history, they do not live in the past. These two fully appreciate the past, but they have not retreated into it. Both are solid Christians, fresh, modern, and involved in their church and service clubs. Their hearts are turned to God.

The scripture says the Hebrew forefathers "in their hearts turned back" (v. 39). We need this reminder. Retreat begins as our nation first. Before retreat is action, it is attitude.

*God, help us guard our hearts, that we may never choose retreat.*  
*Karen Hildebrand-Dreyer*

**SING TO THE LORD**

*Chanted to the praise and joy of the Lord  
Sing to the Lord, ye that love him,  
before the assembly and ye that love him,  
the spirit of praise and thanksgiving.*

*"When We All Get to Heaven"*

*He 8:10 (1918 Hymn)*

**MOMENTS WITH OUR MISSIONARIES**

*Bethel—Mrs. Dorothy Davis Cook, Rock Island, Ill.*

*Prayer Request—Pray for the continued development of family leadership in the Ukraine.*

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which I have been called by heavenward in Christ Jesus.*



**Digging up your roots**

**Railroad story good,  
but contains small error**

Dear Editor, The Argus: I enjoyed the recent excellent article on the subject of the arrival of the first train in Rock Island. However there was a small error although it seems to originate in the cutline under the picture and the headline.

The construction of the line began from the Chicago end and the Rocket made its 40-mile trial run in October, 1852, from Chicago to Joliet, not from Rock Island. The journey took about two hours. As far as I have ever been able to discover there were no railroad lines in Rock Island at this time. Even the small local line from Rock Island to Coal Valley used to transport coal as well as passengers, and later purchased by Philander Cable, was not built until a few years later.

Although, as stated in the article, the first train arrived in Rock Island on Feb. 22, 1854, decorated with flags and greeted by cheering crowds, the official celebration of the event did not take place until four months later on June 5, when a train arrived bearing a group of dignitaries, including former president Millard Fillmore and the historian George Bancroft whose name is engraved on the frieze around the top of the R.I. Library.

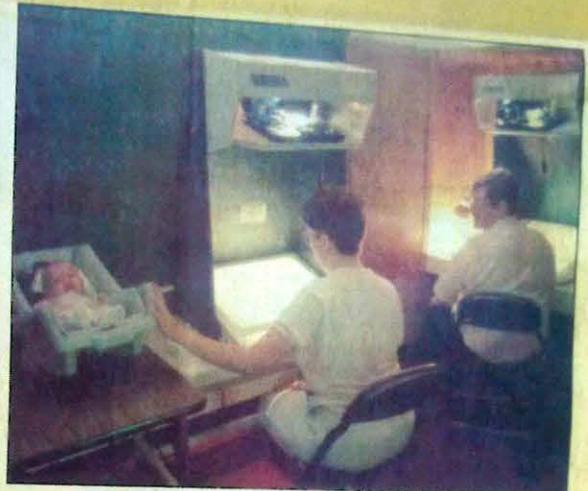
They were met by seven steamboats and taken across the river to a fireworks display in Davenport. This event is shown in Michael Blaser's painting "The Great Excursion of 1854"

**Pamela Langston,  
Rock Island**



Gary Krambeck / staff

Bonnie Kerr, head librarian at the Family History Center of the Quad Cities, helps George Monty of Davenport find microfilm and microfiche files. The Davenport center, at 4929 Wisconsin Ave., is a branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Gary Krambeck / staff

Lynda and Roy Booker of Rock Island, along with their baby, Catherine, go through microfilm as they dig into their family history at the Family History Center of the Quad Cities in Davenport. The center is open to anyone interested in researching their past.

## Q-C Family History Center can help

By Jennifer Ristau  
Staff writer

### Take this advice if you want to get started

**M**illions of people all over the world know the fascination of tracing their family trees through the generations. It's one of the world's most popular hobbies.

Here in the Quad-Cities, people have access to a unique resource to help uncover their family histories.

The Family History Center of the Quad Cities in Davenport is open to the public. "All people, no matter how humble they are, are equally important," said Bonnie Kerry, head librarian at the center.

Want to begin research into your family history? The first thing to do is to gather information about yourself and your immediate family, said Bonnie Kerry, head librarian at the Family History Center of the Quad Cities.

Write down any other known information, such as birth dates and anniversaries, about relatives.

With this information in hand, visit the Family History Center, 4929 Wisconsin Ave., Davenport, where births, marriages and deaths are some of the basics you can research.

After these are uncovered, you can see what additional records may be available. You may find infor-

mation about family wills, land and property, military records, the history of the area your family lived in — even traces of genetic illnesses.

The center also has many books available containing photographs of different geographical areas. It even has a book of ships to help you determine what ship your ancestors came to America on.

Ms. Kerry said she encourages anyone participating in family research to not make judgments about people and their pasts. "Some people may be found to have had children before they were married, but you may come to find out that the minister only came around once every two years then," she said.

names are on microfilm and in books. The collection is owned by The Church of Latter-Day Saints, which considers researching family trees a religious obligation.

"Families are a very important basic unit of society," said Ms. Kerry. A love for deceased family members and a desire to serve them motivated the church to pursue family history research.

Since its beginning in 1894, the Family History Library has become the largest of its kind in the world. Its collection includes nearly 1.5 million rolls of micro-filmed records, 200,000 micro-

The Quad-Cities center is a branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. That library is the home of the world's largest collection of genealogical records: 2 billion

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, B2

## ▶ HISTORY

FROM PAGE B1

fiche, more than 195,000 books, 8 million family-group record forms and many other records.

Most of the library's records have been acquired through an extensive microfilming project that began in 1938. Today, more than 150 photographers are filming original documents in courthouses, churches and other archives in 45 countries. The microfilmmers send the records to Salt Lake City, where they are preserved in a vault in the granite mountains nearby. Many of the records are available to indi-

vidual researchers at more than 2,000 family history centers throughout the world.

Although modest in size, the Davenport branch, located at 4929 Wisconsin Ave., allows access to most of the microfilm copies stored in Salt Lake City.

More than 1 million rolls of microfilm are available for order. They contain records of births, deaths, marriages and more from many countries throughout the world.

Knowledgeable volunteers are on duty to assist patrons in using the index material and to help conduct research. Classes are available for those wishing to start their genealogical research

or for the beginners who may need additional help.

The center offers 10 microfilm readers, eight microfiche readers, document photocopying and instructions in using the equipment and doing the research.

The service is free of charge, although a small fee is required for mailing and handling microfilm rolls obtained from Utah.

Last year 4,300 people visited the Quad-Cities center. Ms. Kerry emphasized that although the center is sponsored by her church, people of all religions and races are welcomed. "Everything is very respected here," she said.

## R.I. veteran finds success tracking down shipmates

By Dorothy Buresh  
Staff writer

Any veteran thinking of looking up a former pal on this, Veteran's Day, might do well to contact Larry Neuerburg.

The Rock Island man has become somewhat of an expert at helping veterans track down the men and women they once served with.

Mr. Neuerburg is a retired teacher from Rock Island High School, where he taught shorthand and typing for 30 years. A stickler for detail, it was natural that he would be the one to compile a list of his former shipmates on the USS Gage — his first attempt at tracking down veterans. The army attack transport ship carved a glorious career in those hectic days, and the men, all now in their 70s, enjoy recalling those days at their reunions.

The first reunion, not organized by Mr. Neuerburg, was held in Indianapolis and gathered just 22 people. At that time only 44 members of the crew had been found. By the time the second reunion rolled around, however, Mr. Neuerburg had accounted for 340 of the original compliment of 680 men aboard the ship that carried troops to their destinations in World War II.

The second reunion was held in the Quad-Cities. In atten-



Larry Neuerburg

dance was the captain of the USS Gage, Leroy J. Alexander of Hammond, Va., who had ended his naval career as a rear admiral. "When I went to his suite at the Jumer Castle Lodge and knocked, he asked me in and asked that I simply call him Roy," Mr. Neuerburg said.

Mr. Neuerburg was a Captain's Yeoman during the war, a post similar to that of a captain's secretary.

Those planning a military reunion might want to contact Mr. Neuerburg. He has a for-

mula for contacting former military men that is extremely detailed. Past experience with genealogy helped him develop his system, which involves help from the Navy and a telephone disc at the Moline Public Library which lists 90 million names. He also uses his Apple computer.

He has many lists, checks and balances to help him find people, long separated from each other by time and space. For his own search he also enlisted a lot of help from other people, who passed on what he called a "chain letter" to locate crewmen. Along the way he also formed a support group for veterans who are ill or in some difficulty with family members.

Mr. Neuerburg also learned that if you find one person, it usually leads to finding another. He also searched telephone books in various states and cities, and placed notices in the veterans clubs.

Mr. Neuerburg said he telephoned his shipmates collect. If they were interested some would talk for a half an hour. If the person was not a shipmate he did not accept the call. It saved a lot of money, he said.

Those searching for fellow veterans can also receive help from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 536 S. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60605.

## Founder of Blocklinger Realty dies

Marie Hazel Blocklinger, 76, Rock Island, died Saturday, Nov. 12, 1994, at Trinity Medical Center, East Campus, Moline.



Services are 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Broadway Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, where she was a 50-year member. Burial is in Chippinock Cemetery, Rock Island.

Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Hodgson Funeral Home Ltd., Rock Island. Memorials may be made to the church or the Albany Indian Mounds Foundation, of which she was a member.

The former Marie Hazel Sible was born March 10, 1918, in Rock Island, the daughter of Sam Mack and Wenona Gilmore Ewing Sible. She was raised by her aunt and uncle, Maude and Ralph Ewing in Albany. She married Edward Joseph Blocklinger June 9, 1934, in Rock Island. He died Nov. 24, 1989.

Mrs. Blocklinger was founder of Blocklinger Realty, Rock Island. She was employed there for 34 years. She received her real estate license in 1960 and broker's license in 1965. She was one of the first women to be licensed in the Quad-City area.

She was on the board of trustees at the church from 1970-1972; board of directors of local Red Cross from 1950-1958; board of directors of City of Hope; Real Estate Brokers Exchange; president of Rock Island Pilot Club in 1972; board of directors, Rock Island County Historical Society from 1990-1992; regent of Fort Armstrong Chapter DAR from 1983 to 1985; senior president of Children of American Revolution; Who's Who of American Women from 1975 to 1976 edition; charter member of Blackhawk Genealogical Society; Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park Foundation; and past member of Illinois Quad-City Area Realtors' Association. During World War II she was chairwoman of Red Cross Nurses' Aides at the former St. Anthony's Hospital.

Survivors include daughters, Janice Johnson, Davenport, and Lisa Blocklinger, Westminster, Colo.; a son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Carolyn Blocklinger, Milan; grandchildren, Jayson Johnson, Davenport, Dawn Campos, Naperville, Ill., and Laura Blocklinger, Westmont, Ill.; a great-grandson, Andrew Campos, Naperville; and nieces and nephews.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; members will help with writing a genealogy query, taking copies of old pictures and using land records; information, Virginia Horton, 787-1105, or Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

**For Monday, May 22**

**SCRIPTURE READING—Hebrews 13:7**

*Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13:7).*

**REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS**

The small Church of the Nazarene my family attended in eastern Colorado initiated its share of new ministers—at least one every year.

We even helped groom one for the mission field. When future missionary Jack Riley arrived to take the pastorate, the tiny parsonage lacked water and power. When someone once asked him how he and his family managed to live and work under such primitive conditions, he smiled and replied, "This is great training for Africa!"

Our family moved to this farming community in 1948 when I was four years old. Although from another denomination, we soon joined the little church, which was just three miles from our farm. The six of us may have doubled the attendance.

Seven years later, we moved to Idaho so that my brother could attend Northwest Nazarene College. Two of my brothers and several of their children have since graduated from NNC. Most of us married Nazarene spouses and are still members of the church.

We owe a great deal to those dedicated Nazarene pastors and their families who faithfully preached the Word in a small rural Colorado community.

Take a moment today to celebrate your spiritual roots.

—Karen K. Hiner

**SING TO THE LORD:**

*Do you hear the stirring anthems  
Filling all the earth and sky?  
'Tis a grand, victorious army,  
Lift its banner up on high!*

—Ralph E. Hudson

"A Glorious Church"

No. 672 (WIS No. 305)

**MOMENTS WITH OUR MISSIONARIES:**

Birthdays—Mrs. Neva Beech, *Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, ret.*  
Mrs. Tillie McCroskey, *Philippines/Hong Kong, ret.*

Prayer Request—Pray for opportunities to plant Nazarene churches in Angola.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**

I was not called to be successful; I was only called to be faithful.

—Mother Teresa



John Greenwood / staff  
Family members gathered at Chippianock Cemetery, Rock Island, Tuesday for interment services for Catherine Hauberg Sweeney.

# One final homecoming

## Hauberg heir Catherine Sweeney buried at Chippianock

By Dennis Moran  
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — The descendants of three great families who helped build the Quad-Cities gathered Tuesday to bury one of their own in the "holy ground" of their ancestors.

Members of the Hauberg, Denkmann and Weyerhaeuser families attended the interment of Rock Island native Catherine Hauberg Sweeney on what would have been her 81st birthday

at the Hauberg family plot in Chippianock Cemetery, alongside her parents, John H. Hauberg and Susanne Denkmann Hauberg. *DELMAE M. CRENSHAW ATTENDED FUNERAL*  
Eighty-two mourners gathered at the Hauberg plot for a brief interment service before adjourning to a luncheon at the Hauberg Center — the mansion Mrs. Sweeney and her brother, John Hauberg Jr., donated to the city in 1955.

terminated their counting off in beginning of a luncheon Club "circle" close the service.

Many of the the ceremony w up with it. Just Sr. once led then held hands in a ed The Lord's "Blest Be the

The mourners themselves de-

- Oslo
- Paris
- Rio
- San Juan
- Seoul
- Stockholm
- Sydney
- Tokyo
- Vienna

### NUMBER

IOWA  
Tuesday 5-  
1-3-13-26  
Saturday 5-  
10-11-12-  
Estimated

### POWERS

Saturday: 6  
Powerball

### Louie Bellson is officially a Bellson

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (AP) — Louie Bellson is finally Louie Bellson.

The jazz drummer came home to Illinois recently to change his name, formally and legally, from Louis Bellson to Louie Paul Bellson, the name he's had his entire life.

His father changed the family name years ago, perhaps even before the 72-year-old drummer was born, said Bellson's lawyer, Joseph Fackel.

The thing is, he didn't do it in court, and the musician only realized it a few years ago when he showed his birth certificate to get a passport.

## Twenty-first Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

Saturday  
April 29, 1995 from  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
at the  
Viking Club of Moline  
1450 - 41st Street  
Moline, Illinois



**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; "The D.A.R.'s It's Records and how they Pertain to Genealogy" is the topic of Lorraine Hathaway; information, call Virginia Horton, 787-1105, or Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; Zelma Hendricks will answer questions on "The Orphan Train Children" and how to research them; information, call Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; program is "How to Research Your English Ancestors from Here" by Pam Langston; information, call Virginia Horton, 787-1105, or Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

Some odd and humorous epitaphs:  
"This grave you see is Willie Paine's; twas raining and he had no chains." "Here lies the body of Jim Lake, tread softly all who pass; He thought his foot was on the brake, but it was on the gas." "In this ground lies Charlie Hueti," he tried to beat a fast train to it."

### HAUBERG

FROM PAGE A1

and raised each others' hands to salute and give thanks for the day.

Mrs. Sweeney — called "Kay" by her friends and relatives — died Jan. 25 in Miami, South Florida had been her home for several years, and a memorial service was held in Coconut Grove.

But like many other descendants of local pioneering families, she came back for burial, said Rev. Neal Lloyd, pastor of Broadway Presbyterian Church, who performed the service. The Haubergs, Denkmanns and Weyerhaeusers had been members of Broadway.

"This is the holy ground for the family where they got their start," Rev. Lloyd said.

"These are the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of the people who laid out the streets of Rock Island, that built the first industries," Rev. Lloyd said. And they have retained "a sense of place and an obligation to place" for the ancestral home, he said.

In 1860, German immigrant Frederick Weyerhaeuser and his wife's brother-in-law, Prussian immigrant Frederick Denkmann, bought a failing Rock Island sawmill, renamed it Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann, and gave birth to a lumber-industry giant.

Mr. Denkmann's daughter, Susanne, married Rock Island attorney John Hauberg in 1911, and they lived in the Hauberg mansion until her death in 1942 and his death in 1955.

Mrs. Sweeney was "a fabulous person," said W. John Driscoll, St. Paul, Minn., great-grandson of Frederick Weyerhaeuser and director and former president of Weyerhaeuser Co.

Mrs. Sweeney, an energetic and inquisitive woman, was widely known for her horticultural pursuits, especially her restoration and stewardship of The Kampong, a world-renowned horticultural center in Coconut Grove.

She was a world traveler who studied horticulture in her travels and brought back new seeds for The Kampong, said Larry Schokman, a Ceylon native who's taken over authorship of The Kampong Notes from Mrs. Sweeney.

"At the drop of a hat, she'd attend a conference in Kuala Lumpur or what have you," said her brother. "She was able to pack a small suitcase with enough clothes to attend a royal coronation and, at the same time, perhaps play tennis."

Mrs. Sweeney and John Hauberg Jr. grew up in the 24th Street mansion that now serves as a civic center. Mr. Hauberg was asked if being in the elegant house brought back memories.

"God, yes — I should say," he said, launching a mirthful recollection of a childhood experience involving slingshots, a broken window, and quick retribution from the senior John Hauberg.

Mrs. Sweeney was a trustee of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, the Fairchild Tropical Garden, the American Horticultural Society, the World Wildlife Fund and the Conservation Foundation, and a member at large of the Garden Club of America. She was a patron of the New York Metropolitan Opera and the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

Surviving are her children, Edward Sweeney Jr., Colorado Springs; John Sweeney, Aspen, Colo.; Phillip Sweeney, Amherst, Mass.; Harriet Fraunfelder, Washington, D.C., and Susanne Kayall.

### NO KIDDING?

They're related

- Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Swaggart
- Sissy Spacek and Rip Torn
- Abe Lincoln and Paul Revere
- Dolly Parton and Buck Owens
- Daniel Boone and Richard Boone
- Pat Boone and Richard Boone

Source: World Features Syndicate

### *Featured Speakers*

#### **Ann Smith Lainhart**

A former reference librarian at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and a self-employed genealogist for the past twelve years.

Editor of *First Boston City Directory (1789)*, and *State Census Records*.

A member and former board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Massachusetts Genealogical Council, and currently on the board of the Essex Society of Genealogists. Also a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society, and the Maine Genealogical Society.

#### **Alice Richardson Sloane**

Of Davenport, Iowa, is a certified genealogist who specializes in lineage papers for the National Society of the Colonial Dames, the Mayflower Society, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She and her husband, Ted, maintain a private genealogical library holding about 800 sources. She has authored several genealogies and the *NSCDA Ancestor Index*.

*Sponsored by*  
**Blackhawk Genealogical Society**  
*and*  
**Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society**

### *Program Schedule*

**Saturday, April 29, 1995**

8:00 - 8:50 am

Registration and an opportunity for you to browse through the exhibits

8:50 - 9:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

9:00 - 10:05 am

Mrs. Lainhart: "New England Town Records, Beyond the Vital Records."

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and Browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

Mrs. Lainhart: "Records of Poor Persons and What Makes Them Unique."

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch and Browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Mrs. Sloane: "New England Research—Can You Get There From Here?"

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and Browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

Mrs. Lainhart: "So You're Coming to New England..."

3:25 - 3:45 pm

Closing Remarks

**Door Prizes**  
**will be drawn**  
**through the day!**

**By Dennis Moran**  
Staff writer

They weren't among the largest groups of ethnic settlers in this area — lagging well behind Germans, Swedes and Belgians — but the Irish left their mark here.

For evidence of that, just talk to some of their living descendants.

Patrick Kennedy, a native of County Tipperary, in 1875 served as Rock Island's first volunteer fire chief. Great-granddaughter Trisha Noack remembers him as a strong presence in the family — even though he died many years before she was born.

James Brinn, a native of Limerick, was police chief in Rock Island from 1911 to 1915. His grandson, Associate Circuit Judge Michael Patrick Brinn, thinks James Brinn's substantial size — 6-foot-4, 300 pounds — may have been a factor in his becoming police chief.

"They say in those days, you got to be chief by fighting your way up," Judge Brinn says. "I guess it went to the rough and tough."

There are many such stories, and you won't find all of them here — space wouldn't permit that.

But on the occasion of the

PLEASE SEE **IRISH, G8**

## IRISH

FROM PAGE G4

Fourth anniversary of the beginning of the Great Irish Famine — the event that opened the floodgates to Irish emigration — Irish-American communities throughout the United States are pausing to reflect on their heritage, and so we asked readers to share information about Irish ancestors who settled the Quad-Cities.

### Send O'Malley right over

More than a million people left Ireland during the famine years — 1845 to 1850 — emigrating primarily to England, Canada and the United States. But large-scale emigration didn't stop with the end of the famine. Ireland remained a very poor country, and as expatriots sent back word about opportunities in the United States, more Irish people were convinced to emigrate.

"The Irish always had a custom that one of them would come over here and save money, to send money back and bring somebody else over," says Tom McGinn of Davenport, a co-founder of the St. Patrick Society of the Quad Cities.

Between 1845 and 1910, an estimated 5 million people left Ireland. Many of those coming to the



James Brinn, a native of Limerick, was police chief in Rock Island from 1911 to 1915.

United States settled in cities like New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago, all of which still have Irish-American neighborhoods.

But many moved on, seeking work where the rivers and railroads took them — places like Davenport and Rock Island.

The St. Patrick Society has researched much of the information available on ethnic settlement in this area, and it also

kept a register of Irish settlers. According to society records, Irish immigrants began arriving here in the early 1850s, after the Belgians, English, Scots, Welsh and the first wave of Germans.

By 1858, there were 1,961 Irish immigrants in Davenport. The numbers never got terribly large on either side of the river, but there were distinct Irish neighborhoods — Cork Hill and The Patch in Davenport and Greenbush in Rock Island. The Catholic faith likely played a role in keeping the Irish together, as most other ethnic residents in the area were Protestants.

In the latter half of the 19th century, Irish immigrants in Davenport, like those in New York and Boston, formed societies that sent money back to Ireland toward the causes of breaking the power of oppressive English landlords and freeing Ireland from British rule. There were also cultural and social groups, such as the Emerald Dramatic Club in Davenport.

### Developing Irish culture

Mr. McGinn, whose mother emigrated from Ireland in 1912, remembers growing up in the Cork Hill area of Davenport in the 1930s. Mr. McGinn's mother, Margaret Anne Gaffney McGinn, was born in Ireland in 1897.

In the 1930s, Cork Hill — which extended from E. 8th Street to E. 12th Street and Iowa to Farnham — Mr. McGinn says — was not exclusively Irish, but many Irish immigrants still lived there.

"O'Reillys ran the grocery store, and Jimmy O'Connor lived on the corner, and John Kelly lived on the other side of Sacred Heart School," Mr. McGinn says. "The Mahers lived on LeClaire Street, and the Ryans and the Foleys on Farnham Street, and down the path were the Coughlins and Hynes and Feeneys."

But an Irish cultural identity

**More than a million people left Ireland during the famine years — 1845 to 1850 — emigrating primarily to England, Canada and the United States.**

wasn't something particularly cultivated in the neighborhood. Mr. McGinn says. "We never made a big thing about being Irish," he says. "It was kind of taken for granted."

The St. Patrick Society, in fact, was formed 11 years ago partly to

remember that. "That's when we formed the society — to 1910 to have the St. Patrick's Day parade, and so it was to develop some of that Irish culture," Mr. McGinn says. Bill Fisher of Moline, head of the society's cultural committee, has been the leader in that," Mr. McGinn says.

In addition to the annual St. Patrick's Day Grand Parade, the St. Patrick Society sponsors Erin Feis, an Irish cultural festival held in the District in Rock Island every September.

### Fascinated with ancestor

Patrick Kennedy, Rock Island's volunteer fire chief in 1875, also was a brick mason, and he built himself a house on 30th Street near 7th Avenue in Rock Island's Greenbush area. His grandson, Bud Davis of Rock Island, remembers growing up in the same house, which still stands.

Mr. Davis says Mr. Kennedy emigrated from Ireland during the famine and fought in the Civil War, in which he was hurt. "I don't know how he got here," Mr. Davis says.

He died on St. Patrick's Day, 1908.

"I was always fascinated by him," says great-granddaughter Trisha Noack. "I think he was still the head of the family (when

# IRISH ROOTS

Blackhawk Genealogical Society - 7 p.m. April 25, South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Elaine Lucas will present the program on current genealogical reference materials at the Allam Public Library and materials on the Allam County Library. Information: 787-1106, or 786-0251.

Blackhawk Genealogical Society - 7 p.m. March 28, South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Sarah G. Gensick-Balentine will present a program for beginning genealogists. "We Will Help You Create Your Family Tree." Information: Virginia Horton, 787-1106, or Judy Ruckert, 786-0051.



The background map is Ireland in 1848. The photos, supplied by Quad-Cities descendants, are Irishmen and -women who settled in this area. From the top are James and Anna Gauley, a younger James Gauley, Agnes McCaw and Patrick Kennedy, Rock Island's first volunteer fire chief.

REMEMBERING ANCESTORS WHO SETTLED THE Q-C

she was growing up), even though he wasn't there.

"Until I was a lot older, I didn't know I was anything but Irish," she adds. "Later I found out I'm half-Hungarian. Lately I've been exploring that."

Some Irish immigrants to this area settled on farms around Edgington and Taylor Ridge — such as John Norton Sr., one of the area's first settlers. Mr. Norton emigrated from Ireland in 1843, settled in Black Hawk Township and married another Irish immigrant, Margaret Conway.

According to news clippings collected by great-grandson Gary Beck of Rock Island, Mr. and Mrs. Norton were noted as playing important roles in the history of the Milan, Reynolds and Taylor Ridge areas.

### Untold hardships

Another Irish immigrant farmer in that area was James Gauley, who farmed near Edgington before moving to Rock Island, according to information compiled by great-great-granddaughter Shelly Johnson of Rock Island. Mr. Gauley, too, was a Civil War veteran.

Another of Ms. Johnson's Irish ancestors, Hugh McCaw, emigrated with his sons from County Down, Ireland, and lived in New Jersey until the rest of the family joined them. They then traveled down the Mississippi River to Rock Island, where Mr. McCaw worked as a shoemaker and then farmed.

William McEniry, a native of County Cork, was a pre-famine emigrant, arriving in New York in 1840. According to a Rock Island County history, he soon made his way to Galena and downriver to the Quad-Cities area, working as a brickmaker in Moline before settling on a farm in Zuma Township. The county history, supplied by Mr. McEniry's great-great-granddaughter Penny Dominicus, East Moline, says Mr. McEniry was the first English-speaking Roman Catholic to live in the county.

Frank Lucas, a native of County Monaghan, came up the Mississippi from New Orleans in the 1850s and settled on a farm in Preemption, according to great-great-grandson Pat Logan, Moline. Mr. Lucas was a Civil War veteran. Mr. Logan says.

New Orleans was a point of

Frank Lucas, a native of County Monaghan, came up the Mississippi from New Orleans in the 1850s and settled on a farm in Preemption, according to great-great-grandson Pat Logan, Moline. Mr. Lucas was a Civil War veteran. Mr. Logan says.

New Orleans was a point of entry for many Irish immigrants because if they wanted to settle inland, it was easier to travel by river than across land, Mr. Logan says.

All of those who submitted information share a fascination with immigrant forebears who endured untold hardships in coming here to build a life for their descendants. Digging out the names and dates may not tell all of that story, but for some of us, it's all we're left with.

Lois Thoman of Coal Valley is of Scottish descent herself, and as she says, "They were people who kept records." The Irish, by and large, didn't. But Mrs. Thoman has been able to take part in the ancestor hunt on behalf of her husband, Robert Thoman, descendant of Ireland's Cornelius Cunningham and Eliza Fogarty.

"People who don't do it don't know the fascination" of ancestor tracing, says Mrs. Thoman. "You can go a long time and find nothing, then all of a sudden you hit a jackpot, like a home run."

### Genealogical conference

The 21st Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 29 at Viking Club, Moline.

Ann Lainhart, Boston, and Alice Sloan, Davenport, will be speakers. Cost is \$18.75 per person, which includes lunch.

The conference is sponsored by Blackhawk Genealogical Society and Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society. For information, call 359-3526.

### Emil Westensee

Emil J. Westensee, 2330 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> St., Rock Island, will be honored April 30 at a reception in observance of his 80th birthday.

Relatives and friends are invited to call from noon to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the First Lutheran Church, Rock Island. It is requested that gifts be omitted.

Mr. Westensee was born April 29, 1915, in Davenport. He married Betty Ferong of Davenport on April 8, 1939, in Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport.

They are the parents of A. Christine Westensee, Davenport; Carol Westensee, Moscow, Idaho, and John H. Westensee, Rock Island. There are three grandchildren.

Mr. Westensee was employed by Uchtorff Metal Products Co., Davenport, where he was plant superintendent, retiring in 1977. He previously was employed in the experimental department of the Rock Island Arsenal.

He belongs to the First Lutheran Church, Rock Island.



### DAILY PLANNER



Danny Frazier / Staff

### Library sells some stock

Beverly Francque is looking through books that are available at the Moline Downtown Library book sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

# Farmer's property taxes are in grave confusion

■ He's been paying for 3-acre cemetery

By Helen Hanson  
QUAD-CITY TIMES  
Clinton bureau

ALBANY, Ill. — Lawrence Ashpole always thought he might be paying a bit more in property taxes than he should for the land he farmed.

But it wasn't until recently that he discovered he's been paying taxes for 17 years on a tax-exempt cemetery he didn't even know he owned. Now, he's giving the cemetery to the Albany Village Board, and it's a gift the board initially seemed reluctant to accept.

The 80-year old Ashpole started farming the ground adjacent to the cemetery 57 years ago. He leased the farm on the outskirts of town from Charles and Hilda Graham. He purchased it from them about 17 years ago. The property was supposed to total 43 acres. He didn't realize it included a three-acre cemetery.

"He has probably paid about \$800 in taxes on it over the years, but there is no way that we can refund that money," said Daryl Drennen, the county's supervisor of assessments.

"The best he can hope for is to give it away and get it off his tax bill. There is nothing else he can do with it, and I do understand it has some historical value for the community."

A search of records compounded confusion. Albany Village Board Attorney Bill Shirk discovered that the cemetery was listed in property descriptions for Ashpole and the Grahams.

An error apparently happened when the property was transferred, but it's not clear who made the error. Also, the cemetery was supposed to be tax-exempt, but somehow, it was taxed, Shirk said.

The last burial in the triangular cemetery was in 1924. Most of the interments were in the mid- to late 1880s. Village surveyor Charles R. Rood platted the cemetery in 1837. At least two of the graves are of some residents who were killed in the 1860 tornado that struck the town in early June of that year. The Grahams had inherited the cemetery from an early settler, Henry Reedy.

Most of the gravestones have been damaged or dislodged. Two years ago, Albany resident and village board member Max Hoover re-



Helen Hanson/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Lawrence Ashpole pays respects at the Yopst family plot in the Albany, Ill., cemetery that he didn't realize he owned until recently.

## Town history lies in cemetery

ALBANY, Ill. — Some of Albany's earliest pioneers are buried in Rood Cemetery.

The village was settled by a Mr. Mitchell and Edward Corbin, brothers-in-law who settled in Albany in 1835. Mitchell made claim to what was known as Upper Albany, and Corbin, to Lower Albany.

In the spring of 1836, Wm. Nevitt and Willis C. Osborne purchased Mitchell's claim. Charles R. Rood, of Washington County, N.Y., and Erastus and Isaac Allen, from Essex County, N.Y., purchased Corbin's claim.

Rood, who actually settled in Garden Plain Township two miles from Albany, surveyed the village, laying out the streets that ran along the river and bluffs. To accommodate the curving river, the 1840 plat included a triangular cemetery at the point where Albany-Erie Road and First Avenue meet on the south-

cast side of the village limits.

Among those buried in Rood Cemetery are:

■ David and Samuel Mitchell, who ran the first ferry between Albany and Camanche, beginning in September 1840.

■ Dean S. Efner, who was the town's justice of the peace for several years and was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1870 and 1873, and his wife, Sarah Efner.

■ Efner's brother, Ed Efner, and Duty Buck, two of five people who were killed when a tornado roared through town June 3, 1860.

■ Erastus Allen, one of the early settlers, and his child.

About 60 percent of the 150 burial plots were used. Time and weather have destroyed most of their grave stones. Many are broken or missing or buried under thick sod.

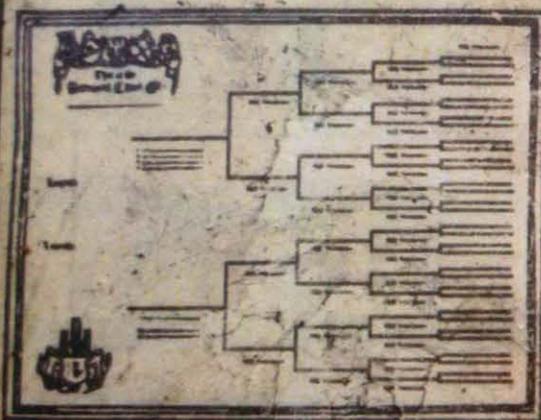
placed a wooden fence around a family's plot.

Albany Village Board President Rick Dettman said the village has been maintaining the site since he has been on the board. "We've been taking care of it for as long as I can remember. I've been on the board nearly 16 years, and we've seen to mowing it. I don't believe it will add any cost to the budget. It is in

city limits. When the paper work is all done, at least we will own it legally, and it will be off of Lawrence's tax rolls." There still is room for more burials.

The village does not have burial records, he added. But a map and a listing of burials that Harold Snyder donated to the Tri Township Heritage Society Museum several years ago may be of some help.

**NEED HELP FINDING  
YOUR ANCESTORS?**



Join:

**BLACKHAWK  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

Meetings 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
South Park Presbyterian Church  
1501 - 30th St. Rock Island

*~ We will help you climb your family tree. ~*

**Next meeting: March 28:  
Special Seminar for Beginners  
Speaker: SCHARLOTT BLEVINS, F.G.S.  
Call 786-5927 or 787-1105**

# Kids should know about older branches of the family tree

Were you to ask me what any of my great-grandfathers did, I'm ashamed to admit I could tell you only this much:

One of them ran a bakery in a German neighborhood of St. Louis. Another one owned a successful lumber business in tiny Glenwood City, Wis.

As for the other two, well, I could find out what they did easily enough, but at this exact instant, I'm at a loss.

I do know that somewhere along the line, one of my paternal ancestors was a Union soldier in the Civil War and a survivor of the infamous Anderson prison — but I believe that my great-great-grandfather

**JOSEPH PAYNE**



That I'm not certain of all this unless I go digging around is true enough. That my sons will never know about these people unless I commit their stories to memory somehow, or write them down, or produce some genealogical records to pass on — that is even worse.

No, it's frightening — for several reasons, not the least of which,

I admit, is a selfish one. Someday I'll be that great-grandfather who my great-grandsons may know nothing about.

Before that happens, my father — who died long before my children came along — could be the great-grandfather my children's children aren't sure about.

And before that, my grandfathers — one, an insurance agent; the other a salesman — could be the great-grandfathers my children know nothing about.

I can't believe that my two sons won't at least know about the only grandparent I knew, Grandpa Lyman. If nothing else, they should know about him for his funny name.

And they should know that "Lyman" was his middle name, his first name was Henry. And although "Henry" is hardly a name to brag about, why anyone would choose to go by "Lyman" instead has been one of the great unsolved mysteries of my family.

They also should know that he was a highly respected man in Glenwood City, and in his old age he became a revered elder statesman of sorts, the sort that can only exist in a speed-bump-of-a-town in the heart of America's dairyland.

"Here comes Lyman."

"Yup."

"I hear he got himself a color TV."

"Don't say!"

"Mmm humm."

And they ought to know that Grandpa Lyman was short, independent, set in his ways and lovable. He always had a twinkle in his eyes, and his favorite pastime was "going for a drive" on the county roads that only he knew, smoking a cigar along the way I can still smell his cigars.

Best of all, my kids should know Grandpa Lyman had huge, oblong ears that framed his bald head like bookends. They were the biggest ears I have ever seen on any human being.

And he could wiggle them. They nearly caused a breeze, and at times I thought he'd lift right

off the ground.

It's not news that most of us don't keep track of our roots the way we should. But a recent Gallup survey on the subject scared me away.

Of 1,005 adults age 18 or older, only 2 percent knew the names of all their great-grandparents. More than 60 percent did not know the names of any of their great-grandparents.

I won't let that be the case with my kids.

After all, how can you forget a name like Lyman?

Maybe Grandpa was even wiser than we know.

Joseph Payne is editor of Life.

## Orion church marks 125 years

### St. Paul Lutheran has Swedish heritage

ORION — The beginnings of St. Paul Lutheran Church — which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this month — are linked to the earliest Swedish Lutheran congregations in Andover and Swedena.

In the 1860s, Swedish Lutherans in the Orion area, mostly farmers, traveled by horse, cart or foot to the churches already established in the two neighboring villages.

In early 1870, it seemed practical to organize a congregation in Orion. On Ascension Day, May 26, 1870, lay people organized the Orion Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A year later the congregation was accepted into the Augustana Synod with 30 men and women as charter members.

By the fall of 1871, the first church building was completed, costing \$3,000, including organ, pulpit, altar and pews. The first church, which was on the same location as the present church, had three rows of pews with an aisle on each side of the center section. Customarily, the south section was for the men and the north for the women. It is not known who sat in the center section. A bell tower was erected a few years later, but no bell was installed until 1886, when the present 1,500-pound bell was raised in place.

The first pastor, who arrived in 1872, was John Finsberg, who emigrated from Sweden shortly after the Civil War. Not yet ordained, he was an experienced lay preacher in Sweden and served as a Chicago city missionary.

The congregation then called Victor Setterdahl, former pastor of First Lutheran, Rock Island. He arrived July 1, 1875, with his bride of two months. His annual salary was \$900.

As the 19th century ended, the congregation continued to grow, due in large part to the great exodus of Swedes from the old country and the railroad coming through.

To accommodate the 600-plus baptized members, it was decided in 1906 to build a new church. By early 1902 almost \$5,500 had been "subscribed." Costs were estimated at \$8,000. The low bid of \$5,627 was submitted by local contractor J.C. Ericson, a member of the building committee.

Demolition of the old church began shortly thereafter and worship services were held in the Orion Opera House. Dedication of the new building was Nov. 18, 1902.

All services before 1900 had been in Swedish. But as second- and third-generation Swedish-Americans came along, it was decided that one Sunday service a month and alternate Sunday evening services would be in English. In early 1920, English became the official language of the congregation and only one service each month was held in Swedish.

In 1922 the name of the congregation was changed to "The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church." The church roster still was filled with names of Swedish



The Rev. John Lekander, confirmation reunion co-chair Margaret Mullgren, anniversary committee chairman Art Schroeder and Sunday School superintendent Rod Lindgren stand in front of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Orion, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this month.

### Anniversary events

The theme for St. Paul Lutheran Church's 125th anniversary celebration is "Rooted, Nourished, Sent!" The following events have been scheduled:

- Founders Day Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. May 25, with the Rev. Roy Nelson speaking.
- Confirmation reunions are 2 p.m. May 27, with the Rev. Charles Bergstrom, an ordained son of the congregation, as speaker. Coffee and fellowship will follow. Please send a greeting if not attending.
- Anniversary Sunday Celebrations for May 28 are a worship

service in the chapel at 8 a.m. Christian Education for all ages will be held at 9 a.m., followed by a worship service in the church at 10:30. The Rev. J. Clemmons Peterson, an ordained son of the congregation, will preach at both worship services.

■ The Anniversary Banquet will be held at 5:30 p.m. May 28 at the Milan Community Center. Bishop Ronald Hasley of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will participate. Reservations are due no later than Monday.

heritage — there were 31 Samuelsons, 34 Petersons, 36 Swanson, 41 Andersons and 21 Johnsons.

The cornerstone of a new educational wing was laid Sept. 24, 1950, the Rev. Conrad Bergendoff, president of Augustana College, presided before an estimated 450 people.

Arriving from the northern Chicago suburb of Deerfield, the present pastor, the Rev. John Lekander, was installed in 1972 as the church's 11th pastor.

A redecorating/renovation project completed in 1973 included new exterior siding, a ramp for access to the sanctuary, enlarging the narthex and installing a window wall between the nave and narthex.

One significant development is the parish nurse program. St. Paul was one of the first 150 congrega-

tions in the United States to have a parish nurse.

The major 1985 renovation/redecorating project includes installing a small elevator, adding a new Welcome Center and stairway, adding a room, enlarging the secretary's office, redecorating, installing new balcony railing, cleaning the stained glass windows and repairing the steeple.

The current membership is 896, baptized and 267 confirmees. Sunday School participation, including a high school and teen adult groups, averages more than 100 each week. While there is still a strong Swedish component, a very large number of members reflect other nationalities.

This information was compiled by the Rev. John Lekander and Art Schroeder.

### Lennart Setterdahl, noted Swedish historian dies

Lennart Gustaf Setterdahl, 87, of 3432 4th St., East Moline, died Friday, May 12, 1985, at home.

Services are 3 p.m. Wednesday at Esterdahl Mortuary Ltd., Moline. Burial will be held at a later date in Franelfors, Sweden. There is no visitation. Memorials may be made to National Vasark, Bishop Hill, Ill.

Mr. Setterdahl was born April 2, 1926, in Franelfors, the son of Thorsten and Elin Larson Setterdahl. He married Lillie Aderson Sept. 26, 1952, in Franelfors.

He arrived in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1929 with his family, and almost immediately began to record interviews with Swedish immigrants in the area. Between 1969 and 1978, he worked full-time for the Swedish Emigrant Institute, Vaxjo, Sweden, inventing and microfilming Swedish-American church records. The work took him to everywhere in the United States and Canada where Swedish immigrants had settled and founded congregations.

Mr. Setterdahl spent a year in Sweden working as an archivist at the Emigrant Institute during the years of 1978 and 1979. Upon returning to the United States, he worked on grants from the National Endowment of Humanities for the Swedish-American Historical Society, Chicago, and Sweden Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island.

In 1965, he became the secretary and field researcher for the local American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden, Inc., conducting an oral history project that resulted in 1,438 recorded interviews by mid-1982.

He then worked directly for the Swedish Emigrant Institute, Vaxjo, conducting an oral history project in Minnesota. In January and February of this year, he inventoried and microfilmed a large private Scandinavian-Australian collection in Sydney, Australia.

He had been a member of Nobel-Mentor Lodge 130 of the Vasa Order of America, Cleveland, since 1963; cultural leader of Pennsylvania District Lodge 9, and executive board of VOA; consultant of National Archive, Inc., VOA; and secretary of American Friends of the Emigrant Institute of Sweden.

He was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Gothenburg in 1980, for his exceptional efforts and achievements in preserving the history of Swedish immigration during his 20 years of field work throughout America.

Survivors include the widow, and a daughter-in-law, Michael and Cecilia Setterdahl, Neuchatel, Switzerland; Stephan Setterdahl, Stavanger, Norway; and Christer Setterdahl, Chicago; grandchildren, Carl and Henrik Setterdahl, both of Neuchatel, and a sister, Gunvor Falk, Franelfors.



Gary Krambeck / staff

Vincent and Robert Dasso, two of seven Dasso siblings to serve in World War II, go through old war photos and medals. Two of their

brothers lost their lives in the war. The Dasso brothers now both live in Milan.

# Family fought battle together

## 7 Dasso veterans include 2 fallen

■ Army aviation event honors contributions of soldiers, planes. **PAGE C1**

■ One of the largest V-E Day celebrations in the Midwest kicks off today at the Rock Island Arsenal. **PAGE C1**

■ Six men from Hero Street who lost their lives in WWII remembered. **PAGE C3**

By Barbara Ickes  
Staff writer

**MILAN** — The young pilot knew the plane was going down, so he ordered those passengers who could to bail out.

The 23-year-old Rock Island airman refused to abandon the crippled craft himself, hoping desperately he could somehow save the plane and its cargo of wounded soldiers.

He struggled at the controls, but, within minutes, the airplane smashed into a field.

Eugene Dasso, Rock Island.

Two of Mr. Dasso's six brothers sat down last week to talk about Eugene, World War II and the Dasso family, which sent a troop of seven siblings marching overseas. Only five of them marched back home.

Robert and Vincent Dasso, both of Milan, proudly told how the survivors who had jumped to safety from their brother Eugene's airplane 50 years ago traveled to Rock Island after the war to meet Henry and Frances Dasso, the parents of the brave pilot.

"Eugene had every chance to bail out, but he wouldn't do it with the wounded on board," said Vincent.

Sadly, Eugene's death was the second blow to strike the Dasso family.

Twenty-six-year-old Carl, also a pilot and the oldest of nine Dasso children, had been shot down during a mission over Berlin



Submitted

The Dasso family — from left front, Eugene, Frances, Beatrice, Jerome, Henry and Leo; and, from left back, Vincent, Lucille, Carl, Raymond and Robert — bore more than their share of sacrifice in World War II.

Robert was a bombardier and navigator who was stationed in England, not far from brothers Carl and Eugene. He had taken a leave to visit his big brother, Carl, in May 1944. The day he arrived at Carl's base, he was told his brother had been killed.

"They acted kind of stunned when I asked to see Carl. They wouldn't talk to me. That's when I found out," Robert remembered.

the Merchant Marines, learned of his family's second loss when a family friend invited him for a walk. "She told me that my brother (Eugene) was dead. Man, I couldn't talk for a while," he said.

While overseas, Vincent and Robert worried about their parents back in Rock Island and how they would deal with the loss of a second son. Carl and Eugene were buried

## ▶ DASSOS

FROM PAGE A1

stand it. It wore on them pretty bad," said Robert.

It wore on Robert and Vincent, too.

Vincent said he was already feeling "beaten up" when he came back to the States after serving in the war for nearly three years. "After all I'd been through, and then to lose another brother..." he said, his voice trailing off.

The young Marine had watched a ship explode while hauling ammunition in the Philippines, and it had left a dark mark on his memory.

"We were over a mile away, and it knocked everybody on our ship to the ground. Not long after that, we were hauling thousands of tons of ammunition in New Guinea. Other ships weren't even allowed around us because of what we were carrying. It was kind of scary, after seeing that ship explode," Vincent said.

The war left its mark on Robert too, who, according to Vincent, "had the toughest go of it."

Robert flew 63 missions during his year-long tour in World War II. Robert remembers Christmas Day of 1944, when he didn't get a meal. He was too busy — dropping bombs at the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert didn't talk about that experience, or anything else associated with the war, for 40 years.

"I think I was in shock and a state of grief. Over there, you didn't let your feelings show," he said.

He no longer hides those feelings.

Robert and Vincent live less than a mile from each other in Milan. They laugh easily as they tell the amazing tales from five decades past. The war didn't beat them down. Their spirits were bigger than the Big One.

They told the story of their sister, Lucille, who worked as a nurse during the war. The brothers explained how, 25 years after the war, a paratrooper spent two years searching the country for her — the nurse who saved his life.

"He just had to find her. And he did. They still write to each other," said Vincent.

The five Dasso veterans sometimes talk about the war they shared, but "not all the time," said

## Then and now

■ Carl, a pilot, died when his plane was shot down in raid over Berlin, May 24, 1944.

■ Vincent, a Merchant Marine, returned to Quad-Cities after serving three years in WWII. The Milan cement contractor has eight children.

■ Robert, bombardier and navigator, flew 63 missions during his one-year tour. He also moved to Milan and followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a vegetable grower.

■ Eugene, a pilot, died when his plane was shot down in Madgeburg, France, Jan. 28, 1945.

■ Lucille, a nurse, now lives in Burnet, Texas. She worked as a nurse at Farmall shortly after the war.

■ Raymond, who served with the Navy during WWII and as a doctor in the Korean War, is a retired physician living in East Moline.

■ Leo, who served with the Navy Air Corps in WWII, worked in construction and lives in Kingsland, Texas.

■ Jerome, who was too young to serve in WWII, served in the Korean War. Dr. Dasso is a college professor in Eugene, Ore., and has been named in "Who's Who In America."

■ Beatrice, who was also too young to serve in the war, became a nurse and lives in Kingsland, Texas.

Robert.

He and Vincent stayed playful and pleasant as they spoke of the Dasso family's amazing role in the war. After 50 years, the brothers still seem a little stunned by the numbers — seven kids from one family serving in the war. "It was volunteer or get drafted, so they got us," Vincent laughed.

"It might not be a record, but it's a hell of a good average," he said.

And the brothers laughed together.

## Stroll back into the past

Dramatic tour Saturday at Riverside Cemetery

MOLINE — Ever wonder what John Deere was really like? Or how early settler Charles Atkinson lived?

The Moline Preservation Society hopes to answer those and more questions about some of the city's most prominent historical figures Saturday during "Echoes From Riverside," a tour of Riverside Cemetery.

Tours begin at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Riverside Chapel Mausoleum, 6th Avenue and 29th Street. The cost is \$2 per person, with children under age 12 free.

Tour goers will take a trolley to the starting point near the grave of Minnie Vinton, who was a Moline school system educator from before the turn of the century to the 1940s.

At Ms. Vinton's grave, as well as the seven other sites featured along the guided tour, an actor portraying the historic figure will speak to the crowd about the figure's life and the era in which he or she lived.

"This is getting a feel of what the founding fathers were like," said preservation society member Barbara Sandberg. "This will bring them to life so they're no longer just a name."

Along with Minnie Vinton, John Deere and Charles Atkinson, stops on the approximately one-hour-long tour route include the graves of:

- John Gould, an early entrepreneur and financier.

- Dr. C.C. Sloan, a prominent physician who played a significant role in bringing passenger air transportation to Moline.

- Jonathan Huntoon, a founding father and manufacturing executive who was an integral part in the Moline Cemetery Board.

- Anders Fjelander, a Moline tailor.

- Ada Stephens, philanthropist and daughter of Moline industrialist George Stephens.

The Moline Preservation Society will conduct a walk this weekend at Riverside Cemetery. Society member Jim Scott stands at the gravesite of

Charles Atkinson, the man responsible for naming the city of Moline. In the event of rain, the tour will be held Sunday.

John Greenwood / staff

## Cemetery reused old graves

SANTA FE SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — Owners of a historic cemetery uprooted remains and dumped the bones in a dirt pile in order to resell the graves, sometimes over and over, authorities said.

Relatives peered through the wrought-iron fence of Paradise Memorial Park as investigators dug into a massive pile of dirt and bones on Wednesday, seeking clues to the number and identity

of those whose final rest was interrupted.

"It was the awfulest thing I ever heard of, it really was," said Sylvester Robinson of Los Angeles. "I have a mother and a brother out there. I never heard of anything like this."

It wasn't clear how many sets of remains were in the pile, said Raymond Giunta, executive officer of the state Cemetery Board. He said 200 discarded grave

markers were found at the back of the 10-acre property.

"Some of the stones we found were 1947; they removed the stone off the grave," Giunta said. Paradise Memorial, established in 1927 about eight miles south of downtown Los Angeles, was the first black-owned cemetery in the West, according to the Santa Fe Springs Historical Society. It was bought in 1967 by the current owners.

### NO KIDDING?

#### They fathered many

- King of Siam - had 370 children
- Isaac Singer - had 24 children
- Chang and Eng - had 21 children
- Randolph McCoy - had 16 children
- Tolstoy - had 15 children
- William Hatfield - had 13 children
- Charles Dickens - had 10 children
- Dr. Seuss - had no children of his own

Source: World Features Syndicate

# Cemetery walk teaches great history of the Q-C

By Carol Loretz  
Staff writer

MOLINE — Minnie Vinton sat in an old-fashioned chair, reading a book. A gentle wind caressed her long skirt, black straw hat and veil. Her crocheted purse rested in her lap.

When visitors broke her solitude, she proved "a teacher's day is never done" by rising to educate visitors about her life.

She wasn't the real Ms. Vinton, whose body has been buried in Moline's Riverside Cemetery for the past 55 years. This Ms. Vinton was portrayed by M. Kathleen Suesy during Saturday's cemetery walk sponsored by the Moline Preservation Society and the city's Park and Recreation Department.

In the walk, famous people from Moline's past "came to life" to teach younger generations about local history.

Standing at Ms. Vinton's grave, visitors learned that she spent more than 38 years in Moline schools. "My parents valued education, so I graduated from the eighth grade and high school," she said. "I always knew I wanted to be a teacher."

Ms. Vinton started teaching at Washington School, long since torn down and replaced by high-rise apartments and the police station. "It was very strange to be a teacher where I'd been a student for so many years," she said.

Her students thought she was a "prim and proper teacher," which she admitted was true. But, she surprised them when she eloped on July 10, 1900, with George Vinton. They didn't travel far. They married in Rock Island and spent their wedding night at the Harper House.

The couple's happiness didn't last long. Mr. Vinton became sick and died within four years. He is buried beside her.

With her husband gone, Ms. Vinton returned to the classroom, teaching sewing in the manual arts building for \$65 to \$80 a month. She taught young women to make their graduation outfits, including their underwear.

"I devoted my life to education," she said, teaching as long as she could. She finished a week of classes one Friday in 1940. She suffered a heart attack a day later and died before the class bell rang Monday morning.

Saturday's visitors paid their respects, then filed past her grave and on to John Maxwell Gould's final resting place. He ran John Deere's financial affairs, but only after Mr. Deere begged and offered him lots of money.

When Mr. Gould started the job, he said he was disgusted by what he found. The financial records resembled those of "two small boys keeping a lemonade stand and writing their accounts on the back of an envelope."

Neither Mr. Gould's story nor the tour ended there. Visitors walked to eight graves for glimpses into the past, soaking up local history along with the sun.

While publicizing the event, Preservation Society member Barb Sandberg said some people asked her why anyone should visit a cemetery, when it brings back so many sad memories.

"There's history there," she answered. Not only history, but life greeted the visitors who made the trip Saturday. Ms. Sandberg expected about 500 people to stroll along on the walk.

They learned that visiting a cemetery is "not just a time for sorrow."

## Genealogical society holds mini-workshop

ROCK ISLAND — The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will sponsor a mini-workshop from 9 a.m. to noon June 3 in the Rock Island Public Library Community Room.

Reservations are required before May 26 by calling Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

Topics offered are basic genealogy — two consecutive sessions, LDS (Mormon) Library Resources, and choosing a genealogical computer program.

## Historical Society elects officers



Lloyd Efflandt

MOLINE — The Rock Island County Historical Society elected officers at its spring membership dinner meeting at the Deere-Wiman Carriage House, Moline.

New officers

are Lloyd Efflandt, Moline, president; Greg Vogele, Rock Island, first vice president; Virginia Isis Dahlberg, Moline, second vice president; Peg Smithers, Moline, corresponding secretary; Rosemary Ward, Moline, treasurer; Catherine Robinder, Rock Island, assistant treasurer; Lucille Sampson, Rock Island, archivist; Dorothy Mellinger, Rock Island, museum curator; John Luppen, Davenport, assistant curator; Paul Johnston, Rock Island, Carriage House curator; and Betty Witt, Rock Island, fashion loft assistant curator.

Directors elected with terms expiring in 1998 are Beverly Franque, Stanley Franque, Charles Cross, Marion Neihaus and John Norton, all of Moline; and William Pettit, Hillsdale.

Honored guest was Millie Eldean Ecker, 101, mother of Carolyn Baum, president of the R.I.C.H.S. Auxiliary.

The Rock Island County Historical Society Museum, Library and Carriage House will be open from noon to 5 p.m. June 18.



Associated Press

## Digging up Jesse James

Workers put together the last of three granite pieces on Jesse James' tombstone in Kearney, Mo. Researchers will be at the grave site Monday morning to exhume the remains of James to determine if they are indeed the bones of the famous outlaw.



Trace your family tree. Ever wondered why your family is

so nuts? Why not look for a genetic explanation? Maybe you're related to one of history's noted madmen or a famous historical figure of more reputable renown. The Scott County Genealogical Library, a special collection at the Davenport Public Library, 321 Main St., houses a variety of records, such as old newspapers and census data, that can be used to track down your ancestors. Employees and volunteers of the Scott County Genealogical Society can help get you started. Helen Bichel, a genealogical society member, warned that this research can be addictive. "Once you get involved, you're hooked. There's no cure for it." Call (319) 326-7902 for more information.

## NO KIDDING?

### Shelf life

The Library of Congress

- by the numbers - \*
- Shelves - 575 miles
- Books - 15 million
- Maps, films, photos, LP records - 82 million
- Posters - 100,000
- Materials received daily - 31,000
- Materials kept daily - 7,000
- Books that become unusable yearly - 77,000
- \* - The Library also has five Stradivari violins

Source: World Features Syndicate

## A PUZZLER



# Generations can't erase his work

ROCK ISLAND — When Larry Beutel writes a name in stone, he lends that life immortality.

Mr. Beutel works up to 60 hours a week, cutting and setting granite for the Art Stone Monument Co. in Rock Island. Don't call and ask for Art, though. He doesn't exist and never has. The name simply describes the business.

As a small child, Mr. Beutel used to come to his family's company at 1800 11th St. to pull weeds or wash the gravestones. "I moved up to doing a little bit of everything," he says.

His job often starts with helping people pick out a stone and inscription. He uses a computer program that enables customers to watch him design the artwork on a computer screen. They can experiment with various typefaces and letter sizes, then pick the perfect spot for praying hands, wedding rings or about 30 styles of crosses.

Fishing, farming and wildlife motifs go over really well, he says. One man brought in a coffee mug with a certain kind of engine from his 30 years with the railroad. He wanted the engine copied to his tombstone.

Other customers have ordered cars, airplanes, dogs and even bingo cards.

Once a choice is made, the computer prints a rubber stencil. Then, Mr. Beutel attaches the stencil to the stone and pushes it into his sandblasting booth. Standing outside the booth in dust mask and earplugs, he sticks heavily gloved hands through the wall to guide the machine.

Although he could use an automatic sandblaster, he prefers doing it by hand to "keep a close eye on what's going on." An automatic system, he says, increases the chances that the "middle of an 'A' can blow out."

As Mr. Beutel works, he often thinks about the deceased, espe-

## On the job

Name: Larry Beutel

Job: Stonecutter

Pay: \$5 to \$7 an hour for beginners

### What he thinks about:

■ Holidays: "Memorial Day is the biggest one for us, but Mother's Day is moving up there."

■ Granite: It comes from all over the world: India, Canada, Sweden, Oklahoma, Vermont, Georgia, Wisconsin and South Dakota.

■ Memorable epitaph: "See, I told you I was sick."

■ Future of the industry: "The Arsenal is doing a booming business. We're getting a lot of orders from veterans of World War II and the Korean War."

cially if he has known the person or is making a baby marker. "I think about how lucky I've been with my two boys," he says. "I know they're not ours to own, we only get them on loan."

At age 35, he says, "I notice when people around my age are dying." When he sees familiar names on a stone, he wonders whether he has met them.

Once the inscription is complete, Mr. Beutel hauls it to the grave and places it on a concrete foundation. Because driving down gravel roads can get the rock pretty dirty, he dusts it before he leaves.

Often, Mr. Beutel takes his tools to cemeteries to add death dates or a final inscription. With stones weighing from 25 pounds to more than a ton, that's easier



Richard O'Connell / Staff

Stonecutter Larry Beutel pushes a gravestone out of an enclosed sand blasting chamber at Art Stone Monument Company in Rock Is-

land. Work has to be done on the granite from outside the chamber to protect the cutter.

than bringing the stone to the shop.

Very rarely does he grab a hand chisel to carve raised letters. Those are less popular because "they'll chip off or get a little crack in them and freeze in the winter."

Over the past 15 years, he says, cemeteries have tightened their rules for markers. In some areas, he says, they want all flat

stones because they were easier to negotiate with a lawnmower.

Those didn't sell so well. "When there's 6 inches of snow on the ground, it's hard to look for Mom and Dad's grave," he says. "A raised stone is easier to spot from a distance."

Although his work is "not the cleanest job you'll find in your life," he enjoys it. Occasionally, on extremely hot or cold days,

he questions whether he should have applied his degree in business administration to another field.

Vandals are his particular foe. "I'd like to find them," he says. "Why anybody would want to do it, I don't know. You can't be that extremely bored."

Being in the business, he can't help but consider a tombstone

for himself. "I like the carving of Jesus over there," he says, pointing to a stack of stones. "But my wife wants a double heart with a vase in the middle. We haven't decided where."

While Mr. Beutel's work is for ever on public display, he labors behind the scenes. He doesn't mind the low profile, though, realizing "We're the last place you really want to visit."

BATTERED  
BEAT  
DOROTHY  
BURESH



## Honoring the dearly departed

This year Memorial Day passed without the usual rounds to the cemeteries, a routine I have followed since childhood.

It is not that I have forgotten my loved ones; it was a matter of no one being available for the trek, and I do not drive.

Every year of my childhood, my father was dispatched to the attic before Memorial Day to dig out the wicker baskets that held flowers. They were large gray baskets with high handles that had been kept from previous funerals. In our family, nothing was ever thrown away if it could be lugged to the attic or the barn.

Those circa-1900 baskets were always filled on Memorial Day with peonies that somehow always seemed to bloom on cue for that day. (This year they did not make it.)

The baskets were sturdy enough to span the ages, unlike the Styrofoam or plastic containers we get today with a \$200 flo-

**I wonder what will happen to the old cemeteries when my generation is gone.**

ral arrangement for a funeral. Not long ago I found an old bill for a funeral spray from Knee's Florist, which is still here. The bill was for an arrangement of snapdragons and carnations and roses, which cost \$3. One can safely assume those days are gone forever.

I still remember the Sunnyside Nursery, which was torn down to make way for a parking lot for the former Lutheran Hospital in Moline. And now they want to tear that down to make room for God knows what. Mamma used

## Preservationist Jon L. Brodd dies

Services for Jon L. Brodd, 62, of 2329 13th St., Moline, the owner of Landin's Lamps on 23rd Ave., Moline, are 1 p.m. Monday at Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover. Burial is in Andover Cemetery.



Visitation is 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island. Memorials may be made to First Lutheran Church, Rock Island, Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover, or American Cancer Society.

Mr. Brodd died Friday, June 23, 1985, at Trinity Medical Center, East Campus, Moline.

He was born Sept. 13, 1932, in Moline, the son of Francis "Jack" and Helen Swanson Brodd. He married Sarah Hofas June 30, 1962, in Urbana.

He was reared and educated in Andover and graduated from Orion High School. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1960, with a bachelor of science degree in finance.

He owned and operated Landin's Lamps, Moline, a business he started in 1973.

He was the force behind the saving of the Women's League Building in Andover in 1987. Built by a group that promoted women's suffrage, the small 75-year-old building was saved from the wrecking ball because of his efforts. It is used today as a meeting place for the Andover Historical Society.

He was a member and past president of Andover Historical Society, member of board of directors of Moline Preservation Society, American Scandinavian Association and member of Edward's River Antique Engine Association.

He enjoyed historic preservation, woodworking, antique engines and genealogy.

Survivors include the widow; a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Brodd and Charles Dix, Rock Island; sons, Anders and Philip Brodd, both of Iowa City; a sister, Mary Jo Hogan, Washington D.C.; and five nieces.

## HEREDITY

I saw a duck the other day.  
It had the feet of my Aunt Faye.  
Then it walked, was heading South.  
It waddled like my Uncle Ralph.

And when it turned, I must propose,  
Its bill was formed like Aunt Jane's nose.  
I thought, "Oh, no! It's just my luck,  
Someday I'll look just like a duck!"

I sobbed to Mom about my fears,  
And she said, "Honey, dry your tears.  
You look like me, so walk with pride.  
Those folks are all from Daddy's side."



## Looking good

**THIS CEMETERY IN MISSOURI TOWNSHIP** received a touch-up last week courtesy of Donald and Allen Lashbrook. Hank Kunkel, who along with James Norvell, has taken care of a section of the cemetery for several years, stopped by *The D-M* last week, and wanted to thank the Lashbrooks. The Lashbrooks mowed and installed a fence around the area. Kunkel said he thinks the cemetery is called the Moody Cemetery, but some have disputed that. It is located on Colclasure property. Kunkel said Brown County, full of cemeteries that are being neglected. "It just isn't right," he said. "We're supposed to have respect for the dead."

## Family Tree Maker CD-Rom excels

By John Schmeltzer  
Chicago Tribune

Since the debut of its DOS version six years ago, Family Tree Maker consistently has been the best-selling software for organizing family information. With its CD-ROM version now in the stores, it's easy to see why.

Unlike some genealogy programs available either commercially or as shareware, this helps you build your family's history.

But the real fun with it begins

when users tap into the 150 million names that appear in U.S. Census indexes, state marriage records and Social Security death-benefit indexes.

All you have to do is see if any relations pop up in an index.

The other feature that sets Family Tree Maker apart from competitors is its ability to compile a picture scrapbook of relatives. A scanner is a must.

From Banner Blue Software Inc., \$60.

## BURESH

FROM PAGE B1

stones that weave many stories of the past.

Americans as a nation are somewhat short on reverence for the dearly departed. Eastern cultures are more likely to recall their ancestors, and in many places like China and Japan people still take food and drink to the tombs. But I suppose that, too, will pass now that computers

have the attention of the young. I have all but abandoned the idea of having a fancy tombstone to proclaim that I passed this way and tried to share some of my feelings with others along the way. There were lots of happy days, but few lives are without the rocky spots.

But I will dwell on that another time.

Dorothy Buresh is a staff writer and columnist for *The Dispatch* and *The Rock Island Argus*.



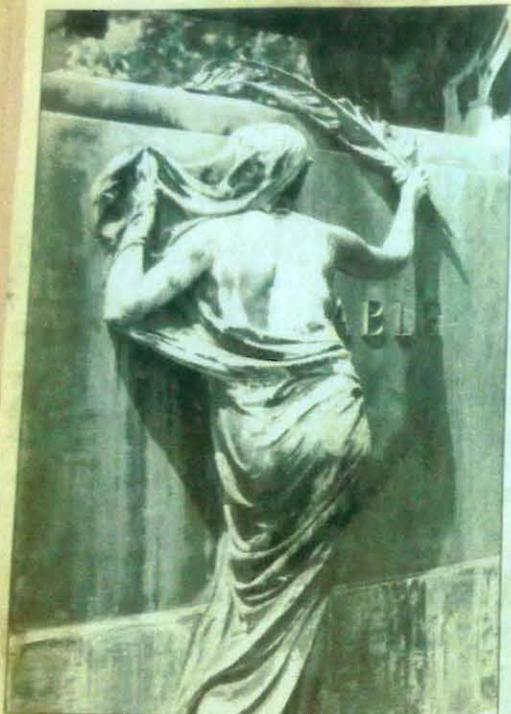
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FRANCA PRESIDENT

Parents of/

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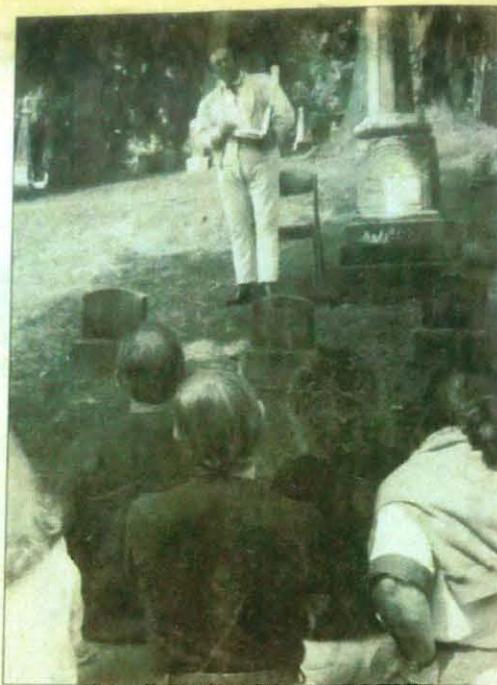
REGULARLY \$35



File

### Tour through local history

Chippiannock Cemetery's tour director, Susan Vogeles, has researched the lives of dozens of early residents buried there and is offering free tours through history at 10 a.m. every Tuesday through Aug. 29. The cemetery is at 2901 12th St., Rock Island. Admission is free.



Jan Hoefle / staff

### 'Epitaphs Brought to Life'

Fifteen actors will portray memorable Rock Island citizens in "Epitaphs Brought to Life" at Rock Island's Chippiannock Cemetery today. The 15 dramatic vignettes will highlight the annual walking tour of the historical cemetery. Performances will be every 15 minutes from 1 to 3:30 p.m., with trolleys leaving Rock Island High School's 25th Avenue parking lot every 15 minutes. Admission is \$2, free for children under 12.

Celebrate Rock Island's Colorful History! Experience



The cast of "Epitaphs Brought to Life," 1994

## Chippiannock Cemetery: Epitaphs Brought to Life

A walking tour of Chippiannock Cemetery featuring dramatic vignettes taken from the lives of Rock Island's memorable citizens

Original script by  
Charles Oestreich

Directed by  
Mick Elliott

Saturday, Sept. 23, 1995  
2901 12th St., Rock Island  
Time: 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$2 ea.  
Children 12 & under free  
Refreshments available

Tours will leave every 15 minutes

"Epitaphs" is sponsored by The Rock Island Preservation Commission & The Chippiannock Cemetery Association

Chippiannock Cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places

## Flood relief finds cemetery from 1850s

GRAFTON, ILL. (AP) — Residents of this Mississippi River community can't get onto the bluffs above the city until the current occupants of the land are gone.

A 180-lot subdivision is planned to move some of the town's nearly 1,000 residents beyond the reach water that spills from the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers during floods.

But excavators unearthed the resting place of 140 early settlers in an unmarked cemetery.

"It was extremely surprising," said Randy Strong, one of the project's overseers for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "And it is very beneficial to the

community because the people are able to find out more about their heritage."

A grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs is paying the \$354,000 cost of the summer-long archaeological survey and removal of bones, Strong said. The Center for American Archaeology, based at Kampsville, is doing the work.

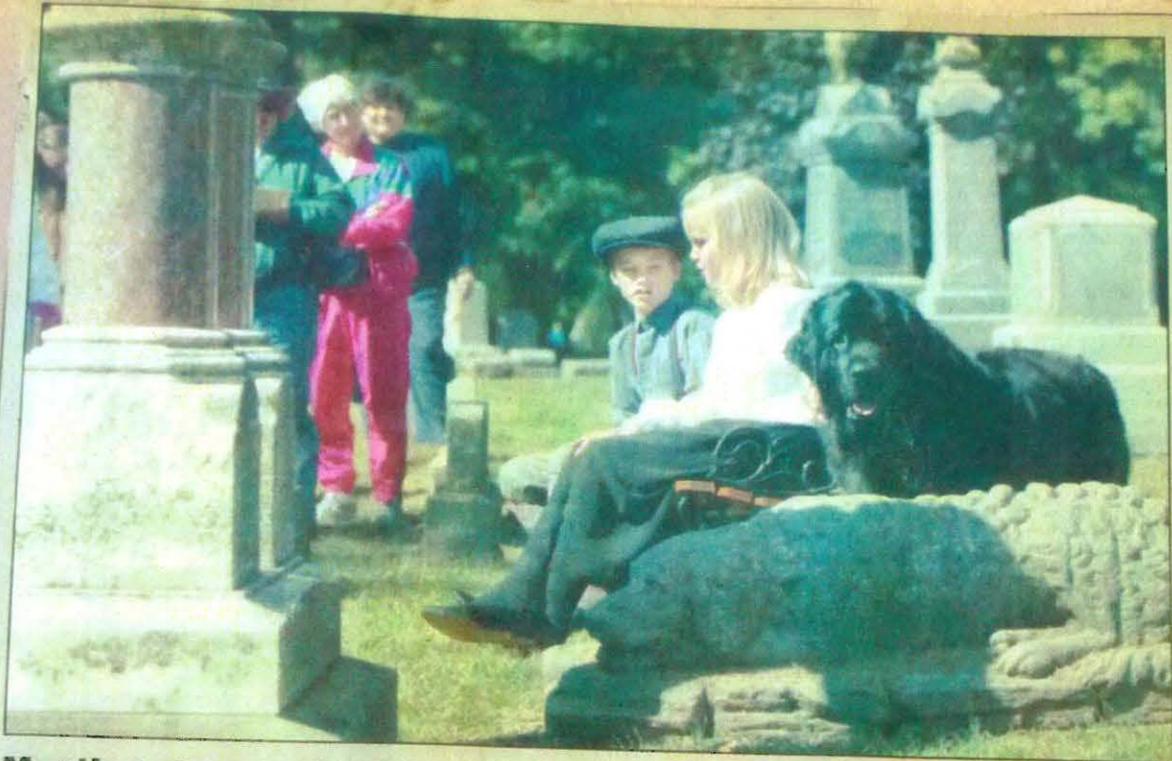
The job is expected to be finished next month and should not delay construction of new houses by families displaced by the flood of 1993, Strong said.

There are no headstones or other markers at the site, which is believed to date to the 1850s.

### Look in the attic

Writing one's own memoirs can often be a good starting point to conducting a family genealogy, says David Thacker, curator of local and family history at Chicago's Newberry Library, an institution renowned for its collection of genealogies. "Usually what we tell people who wish to conduct genealogies is to start with yourself and then talk to family members, getting as much information as possible," says Thacker.

"One should then look in the attic. Family papers might be available, as well as scrapbooks, diaries, letters or newspaper clippings. Once you have exhausted that kind of information, then the research project begins."



John Greenwood / staff

### Meeting stone look-alike

Fifteen actors gathered at Chippiannock Cemetery Saturday afternoon to portray historic Quad-Citians who are buried at the cemetery. Sponsored by the Rock Island Preservation Commission, the walking tour of the cemetery featured vignettes about the lives of Ellen Gale, a Rock Island librarian; Charles Knell, inventor of Knell's Reclining Chair; and many more. In the photo are Jay Fuller and Ashlie Jaeke portraying Eddie and Josie Dimick and their dog Sticks. The children died of diphtheria on the same day in October of 1878. Their Newfoundland dog grieved the death of his playmates for several years, daily visiting the graves, lying on guard most of the time and eventually dying there.



File

### Tour Chippiannock

Chippiannock Cemetery still offers free tours through history at 10 a.m. Tuesdays through Aug. 29 at the cemetery in Rock Island.



File

### Gone, not forgotten

Don't bury your curiosity! Susan Vogele, Chippiannock Cemetery tour director, has researched the lives of early residents buried there and is offering free tours through history at 10 a.m. every Tuesday through Aug. 29 at the cemetery in Rock Island.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; program is "Your Genealogy and the Land Records" by Roger H. Robinson; information, call Virginia Horton, 787-1105, or Judy Rueckert, 788-0051.

### Leslie Balk

Services for Leslie W. Balk, 94, of 1209 21st Ave., Rock Island, are 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island. Entombment is in Memorial Park Mausoleum, Rock Island.



Visitation is one hour prior to service time. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, where he was member.

Mr. Balk died Monday, Sept. 18, 1985, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Rock Island.

He was a born July 25, 1901, in Wanda, Minn., the son of Dirk and Lillie Conrad Balk, who both lived past the age of 100. He married Clara I. Buell May 1, 1926, in University Park, Iowa. She died Aug. 7, 1961. He later married Agnes Etherington Stahly in 1963, in Evanston, Ill. They lived in Rock Island, and Oskaloosa, Iowa, until her death in November 1977.

He received his bachelor's degree in 1924 from the former John Fletcher College, University Park, Iowa, now known as Vennard College. He received his master's degree from the University of Iowa in 1937.

He had served as a social studies supervisor for the Illinois Department of Education from 1965 to 1972, the year he retired. He was a teacher at a school in Courtenay, N.D., was a teacher and superintendent in the Mission and Colome Schools, both in South Dakota. He was superintendent in Tracy, Iowa, and in 1935, became principal of McKinley Elementary School, Muscatine, and later was a history teacher at Muscatine High School.

In 1945, he moved to Rock Island, where he taught social studies and science at Washington and Central junior high schools until 1965.

He had served on several committees of the church. He also served for many years on the board of Vennard College, was a member of Phi Delta Kappa Professional Education Society, and a member Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

He enjoyed traveling and photography. He had traveled around the world as well as throughout the United States.

Survivors include a daughter, Virginia Pickering, Fullerton, Calif., a son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Phyllis Balk, Syracuse, N.Y.; granddaughters, Laraine Hope, Bethesda, Md., and Diane Palguta, Indianapolis; great-grandchildren, Anna and Andrew Palguta; and a sister, Gladys Rogness, Britt, Iowa.

MEMBER OF BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

# Name registry has roots in Germany's darkest past

N.Y. Times News Service

BONN, Germany — What's in a name? Ask Hans Peter Hainen and the answer will be just about everything from the Nazi past in Germany to the worst nit-picking of its modernity.

His specialty is names, the names that people may call their children, the names that ethnic Germans accumulated in Siberia, the names that people may acquire when they marry and those they may inherit from their forebears.

Such is Hainen's concern with names that he has become renowned as the author of "The Law of Names," a slender monograph composed in his free time in the last year to guide others in his profession through the maze of official nomenclature.

"The Germans aspire to do

everything by law and regulation," he said. "They don't want to leave anything to chance."

Hainen works in the registry department of the Bonn city administration, one of many in Germany where ledgers full of names dating to Napoleonic times are stashed in steel-lined cupboards to protect those very details the Nazis used to perpetrate the Holocaust: given names, family names, religions.

It is emblematic of Germany's vaulted thoroughness that modern registrars like Hainen can still lay hands on the statistics from bureaucratic forebears in the "special registry offices" that were set up to document the deaths of Jews in Nazi concentration camps at a time when names meant the difference between life and death. A Nazi law, no longer on the books,

once required all Jews to add the name Israel for men and Sarah for women to make identification easier, he said.

"They took everything they could," Hainen said, referring to the Nazi practice of rifling through the official registers of births to identify Jews. "And because they were such bad times, we take much more care now to protect the information."

People seem to take care, too, that names conform to the Law of Names, which has been gathering a carapace of antecedents and juridical rulings since it was written into the civil code in 1900.

"In Germany, the gender of the child must be recognizable from the first name," Hainen intoned.

In his 43-page monograph, he cited five court rulings to support his contention that "the task of the forename is to distinguish its bearer as an individual, to differentiate among different family members and, not least, to establish gender."

What about "Hemingway" and "Jesus"? Both were ruled unlawful as first names by German courts in 1984 and 1985 respectively, while the palindromic "Max Amos Soma Xam" scraped through as an acceptable male first name in 1983. "Lafayette Vangelis," by contrast, was deemed beyond the pale as a male name, as was "Woodstock," in 1989, as a female name.

Junior, Jr. and Jun. are definitely out as adjuncts to names, and there is no point trying to call a child Junior to get around the ruling, because that's out, too.

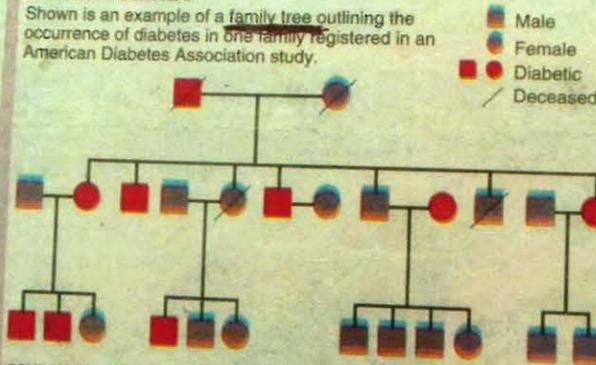
"Descriptions that are not of their essence forenames may not be chosen," Hainen rules in his monograph. And the rule seems to be that most people have no greater inspiration than tradition.

## TRACING INHERITANCE PATTERNS

Close relatives who become diabetic probably share genes that predispose them to the disease. By studying families that have a history of diabetes, geneticists hope to identify those shared genes.

### IN THE FAMILY

Shown is an example of a family tree outlining the occurrence of diabetes in one family registered in an American Diabetes Association study.



SOURCE: Genetics of Non-Insulin-Dependent Diabetes study

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The cousin connection

Knight Ridder Newspapers

**Q.** What is a second cousin twice removed or a first cousin once removed?

**A.** If you are not removed from a cousin, you have the same relationship to the closest ancestor that you share.

You have the same grandparent as your first cousin, who is a child of your aunt or uncle.

You have the same great-grandparent as your second cousin, the same great-great-grandparent as your third cousin, and so on.

A cousin who is one generation away from being your first cousin is your first cousin once removed. The person could be either the child of your first cousin or your parent's first cousin.

A cousin who is two generations away from being your first cousin is your first cousin twice removed — either your first cousin's grandchild or your grandparent's first cousin.

Along these lines, a second cousin twice removed is either your second cousin's grandchild or your grandparent's second cousin.

# Q-C landmark won't be razed

■ Old Standard Hotel is saved by German American Heritage Center

By Alma Gaul  
QUAD-CITY-TIMES

If it seems as though every old building in Davenport is being demolished, take heart: The old Standard Hotel is being saved.

The non-profit German American Heritage Center secured ownership of the building Monday, buying it for \$42,500 from Dean Patel with plans to turn it into a German cultural center, said Kory Darnall, vice president of the heritage group.

Patel, who is operator and part-owner of the Park Inn log hotel at 6014 Brady St., Davenport, had planned to renovate the building, creating deluxe suites, a restaurant and lounge, but his plans didn't materialize.

The heritage group hopes it has better luck.

It already has received a \$25,000 grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to help replace the building's roof and has raised another \$10,000 through various fund-raisers and solicitations, Darnall said.

## YOU CAN HELP

Donations are accepted at P.O. Box 243, Davenport, Iowa, 52805-0243.

Memberships are \$20 annually.

For more information, call (319) 322-4067.

Total renovation has been estimated at

about \$500,000, which would include an archive, museum and library.

Now that the group actually owns the building, grants and donations should be easier to get, he added.

"With all the historic buildings that have been torn down, here's one that's going to be saved," he said.

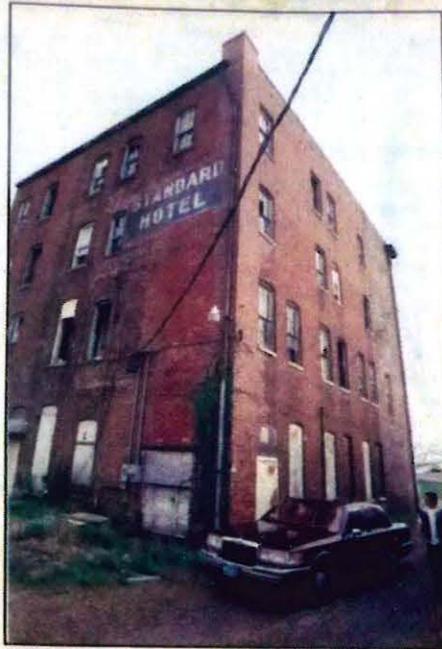
"We're going to recycle this building, and it's going to be useful to the community."

The hotel was built in 1871 as the Germania House during the heyday of German immigration.

Thousands of immigrants coming upriver stayed there and settled in what became a German neighborhood around it.

Through the years, both the hotel and neighborhood have taken a downturn; the Standard closed in 1990, its owner forced into bankruptcy.

But members of the heritage group hope renovating the hotel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, can act as a catalyst for the neighborhood. The



Davenport's old Standard Hotel ...future home of German American Heritage Center

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The German American Heritage Center was incorporated in 1994 and is governed by a board that includes representatives of various German and historical organizations and two at-large members, Harlan Meier and Robert F. Voelcker.

idea for a German cultural center has been discussed for years.

Given the area's strong German heritage — an estimated 60-80 percent of Scott County residents can trace their roots to Germany — it's a natural.

The Standard is a good choice because of its history and location.

Group president Scharlott Goetsch Blevins envisions the center as a tourist attraction as well as a place to preserve German heritage and the immigrant experience.

# Get help tracing ancestors

Want to trace your Civil War ancestors?

Members of the Civil War Re-enactors group in the Quad-Cities will help at The Great Collections of the Quad Cities this weekend at The Mark of the Quad Cities.

Don Finch of the 16th Iowa Division will provide data that can be obtained by writing to the Adjutant General, National Archives and Record Administration (RNNRG), 7th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20408. Ask for form 80.

Illinois veterans may be traced through the Illinois Director of Archives and Records, Management Division, Office of the Secretary of State, Springfield, Ill. 62756. No form number is necessary.

Correct names and initials of the veteran and his company and regiment are needed, Mr. Finch said.

Books that are helpful are also available at area libraries and you can be aided by the librarian who will direct you to the correct books. K. Krewer, an attorney on Rock Island Arsenal who is a member of the 16th Iowa Regiment Veterans Volunteers Infantry Co., said volunteers will be on hand this weekend at Great Collections to assist those looking up their relatives on either side of the conflict.

Recruits locally from the former Camp McClellan in Davenport included men from both Iowa and Illinois. Books on the Civil War and information also will be available.

Those who successfully trace their ancestors are eligible for membership in many organizations North and South.

# Powell related to British royal family?

LONDON (AP) — Colin Powell is related to the British royal family and many other European royal houses as well as several former U.S. presidents, including George Bush, Burke's Peerage reported Sunday.

In Washington, Powell spokesman Bill Smullen said he "wouldn't put much stock" in the reports.

The retired four-star general, son of Jamaican immigrants, is descended from six generations of Jamaicans and his ancestry includes English, Irish, Scottish,



Colin Powell

Jewish and Arawak Indian blood, Burke's Peerage said.

In "My American Journey," his autobiography released in September, Powell wrote

about an aunt and uncle named Coote.

According to the research, Powell is a direct descendant of

the Coote family of Irish military baronets. While lieutenant governor of Jamaica, General Sir Eyre Coote (1762-1823) had a child by one of his slaves.

"This child, born in or around 1807, was General Colin Powell's great-great-great-grandmother," said Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage.

Through Sir Eyre, Powell is related to most of Britain's great ancient families, including the royal family, and to many royal and noble families in France,

Italy, Germany and Spain, Brooks-Baker said.

He is also directly descended from England's King Edward I and Caroline Stanhope. The link with Edward means his lineage can be traced to William the Conqueror, and through the Stanhope line he can claim kinship with presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and George Bush, Brooks-Baker said.

Burke's Peerage publishes books about royal families and specializes in ancestor research.

# Students get history lesson by fixing old tombstones

By Edward Husar  
 Photo-Shop Staff Writer

EWING, Mo. — A small, forgotten cemetery — hidden for years under a blanket of weeds — has become a history classroom for a group of civic-minded students from Highland High School near Ewing.

The 53-member Highland History Club has taken the old Tolona Cemetery under its protective wing and is restoring its appearance.

Tolona is a tiny community about a mile west of the high school along Mo. 6. The cemetery is between the town and school on the south side of the highway.

As students repair the forlorn graveyard, they're getting a lesson in local history by learning about some of the early settlers who lived, worked and died in southern Lewis County.



11-W Photo/Michael Kipley

From left, Jackie Kendrick, Justin Getz and Brill Fretwell work on a tombstone in the old Tolona Cemetery.

"They're having a lot of fun," teacher who serves as the club's said Brian Leeser, a Highland sponsor.

Leeser said the club was looking for a community service project when students heard about the old graveyard.

"I graduated from Highland in 1978, and I knew nothing of the cemetery until about two months ago," Leeser said. "Nobody's ever taken care of it. So we thought this would be a good project to undertake."

Students eagerly adopted the restoration project. They started by mowing the weeds. "Some of the brush out there was four and five feet high," Leeser said.

Students then unearthed some of the old tombstones that had sunk below ground level. Several headstones had been broken into pieces — apparently when run over by a farm implement some years ago, Leeser said.

Students cleaned the head-

stones, glued them back together and reinstalled them during a work session Friday afternoon.

The club is taking advantage of the history lessons offered by the old cemetery. Members plan to trace the background of the 14 people buried there, hoping to learn where they came from, what they did for a living and what their lives were like.

Six family names were listed on gravesites — Yarchow, Dubois, Rash, Toole, Anderson and Fretwell.

The latter name was most interesting to the club's president, Bill Fretwell of the Monticello area. Fretwell, a senior, is trying to find out if the James Fretwell buried in the cemetery is any relation to him.

"I'm looking forward to talking to some of my relatives and getting out some old books and photo-

albums to see if I can round up any information on that," Fretwell said.

Fretwell said he and his classmates have enjoyed the restoration project. For one thing, they're happy to restore the appearance of a downtrodden burial ground. But they're also glad to learn something about their community in the process.

"I'm hoping we can continue doing community service like this," he said.

"I'm hoping this is the first step in getting the area introduced to some of the things we can do. And, hopefully in the years to come we can continue doing historical cleanup like this and preserving some of the historical monuments that we have around here so that people in the area can better appreciate them."

Welcome, Virginia Horton

Invocation, Judy Rueckert

Menu

Swiss Steak

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Waldorf Salad

Green Beans

Rolls & Coffee

Angel Food Cake with Assorted Toppings

Installation of 1996 Officers

Eulalia Garrett

Program

"Maryland in the Revolutionary War"

Skit written & performed by

Bob & Laura Millet

REAL LIFE ADVENTURES



It's not always a good idea to trace your family history.



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Quad Cities Genealogical Conference  
April 20, 1996  
Viking Club, Moline  
Arlene Eakle on  
"Migration Patterns"

**Blackhawk  
Genealogical  
Society**



**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting  
November 14, 1995  
South Park Presbyterian Church  
Rock Island, Illinois**



# Black Hawk's legend strays from the facts

By Roger Ruthhart  
Staff writer

Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiak is one of the greatest, and perhaps most misunderstood, leaders in Native American history.

Born in a Sauk village where the city of Rock Island stands today, Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiak (or Black Hawk, as he was called in English) grew to become the most feared warrior of the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

The first great misunderstanding about Black Hawk is he was a chief. He was only a strong leader, a rebel, who led many war parties as if he were chief. Keokuk was chief of the Sauk, and throughout their history, he and Black Hawk provided a marked contrast.

Black Hawk was considered a great warrior, conservative, and faithful to his people and his family. Keokuk was considered a great orator and debater, more liberal, a gambler, and less faithful and trustworthy.

While Black Hawk was fighting to retain his tribe's native land, Keokuk abandoned the village of Saukenuk and crossed the river

into Iowa. He later sold eastern Iowa for \$900,000.

Keokuk was charged with having seven wives, with drunkenness, gambling and a greed for money. He rode a white Arabian horse, accompanied by a bodyguard of 40 to 50 braves on beautiful horses, and wore magnificent robes.

Black Hawk, on the other hand, lived simply. He said of his only wife, "She was the best, and only wife I ever had or ever wanted."

Black Hawk was the great-grandson of Na-Na-Ma-Kee, or Thunder, born near Montreal, and the son of Py-E-Sa. At his father's side, Black Hawk made his first kill and took his first scalp in a battle with the Osage Indians at age 15.

The group that followed Black Hawk was known as the British Band because, unlike many Indians of the region, they had sided with the British in the War of 1812 and remained loyal afterward.

On July 15, 1830, the Sauk and Fox sold the remains of their country east of the Mississippi River to the United States government. Black Hawk boycotted the ceremony and quarreled with Keokuk, who had approved the treaty.

In the autumn of 1830, Indians opposed to moving west across the Mississippi asked Black Hawk for his opinion. He met with Quash-Que-Me, who had been present at the signing of the treaty, and was told he never had consented to sell the village. Black Hawk met with Keokuk and suggested the land where their village sat might be traded for other land.

**'I was of the opinion that the white people had plenty of land and would never take our village from us.'**

Black Hawk

"I was of the opinion that the white people had plenty of land and would never take our village from us," Black Hawk wrote in his autobiography. "Ke-O-Kuk promised to make an exchange if possible."

The Sauk then left for their winter hunting grounds. During the winter months, settlers

moved onto the land they had left. When Keokuk arrived, Black Hawk found there had been no progress in trying to trade the land. Instead, the chief tried to convince others to leave the land.

The Sauk became a divided people, and Black Hawk and his followers became a minority within their own culture.

The Prophet, leader of a Winnebago community upstream on the Rock River, encouraged him to fight the United States. Instead, on June 30, 1831 — not wanting to start a war — Black Hawk and his followers agreed never to return to the east side of the Mississippi River in exchange for adequate corn supplies to replace what they had left growing in the fields.

However, in the winter of 1831, facing starvation, Black Hawk, about 500 warriors and an equal number of women and children returned to Rock Island and began heading north to meet with The Prophet.

Gen. Henry Atkinson sent messages to Black Hawk, ordering him off the land. Black Hawk sent messages back, saying he was moving from Rock Island to The

Prophet's land. However, drunken guards in an Army advance party killed three braves who had approached them under a flag of peace near Sycamore Creek. Black Hawk retaliated, and 40 Indians routed 270 soldiers, killing 12.

The legend of Black Hawk as a fierce, bloodthirsty Indian grew out of that battle and was embellished after similar skirmishes followed. Eventually, Black Hawk and his followers were trapped at Prairie du Sac, on the Wisconsin River.

Black Hawk tried three times to surrender, but in the end, 3,000 whites and Indians faced about 300 Black Hawk followers who were left. As his followers tried to swim the Mississippi, they were slaughtered. About 150 Sauk survived. Black Hawk escaped to a Winnebago camp, where they turned him over to the United States.

Black Hawk spent the winter in prison in St. Louis. In the spring he was taken to Washington to meet with President Andrew Jackson. He toured eastern cities and was well received. A ceremony was held in Rock Island when he returned.

Black Hawk, his wife, their two sons and a daughter settled in a

rural Wisconsin community near the Iowa River. It was there he dictated his autobiography to Antoine LeClaire in 1833. It showed the truth surrounding his exploits differed greatly from the legends spun about the great warrior.

In 1836, Black Hawk and his family moved to a site on the Des Moines River. He died Oct. 3, 1836, and was buried in the traditional manner — sitting erect inside a small mausoleum of logs. The grave was robbed, and one report had the governor of the Iowa Territory keeping the skeleton in his office.

Black Hawk's remains later were deposited in the museum of the Geological and Historical Society in Burlington. They were destroyed when the building burned in 1855.

Today, all that remains of Black Hawk are the historical accounts, the many symbols honoring him throughout the Quad-Cities and the former Sauk territory, a professional hockey team, and regular services at more than 100 small churches in New Orleans where he is regarded as a patron saint.

"Black Hawk: An Autobiography" was the main source for this story.

## Computers and Genealogy

E-mail and Web-sites are terms that are quickly gaining currency in our daily lives. For those interested in Swedish genealogy who have access to the Internet, both electronic mail and the World Wide Web can prove to be important sources of information.

There is a general genealogy e-mail mailing list called Roots-L, which is read by over 4,000 genealogists, professional and amateur, around the world. Many of them have handy access to vital records and are willing to do quick searches on request. If you have access to e-mail, to subscribe to the Roots-L list, send to the address: listserv@mail.eworld.com the message: sub roots-L (your first name) (your last name). Example: sub Roots-L Johan Johansson.

Directions will then be forwarded to you by the list server. There is a very high volume of Roots-L e-mail sent to

subscribers daily, so it is possible to have the messages "digested" or grouped into a few very large daily messages.

There is a general Swedish discussion list called Swede-L, for anyone "having any sort of interest in things Swedish." To subscribe, send to the address: listproc@u.washington.edu the message: subscribe Swede-L (first name) (last name) example: subscribe Swede-L Johanna Johansson

There is also a computer bulletin board usegroup called soc.genealogy.nordic, which is read by many helpful Nordic and Nordic-American genealogists, both professional and novice. Soc.culture.nordic is another pertinent usegroup.

The World Wide Web, which greatly simplifies navigating the Internet, is quickly gaining recognition as a useful source of genealogical records and as a way of locating and contacting other genealogists and archives.

Some interesting Web-sites pertaining to genealogy, Sweden, and Swedish genealogy include:

<http://www.bahnhof.se/~Boyd/scandgen>  
<http://www.rand.org/personal/genae/>  
<http://www.doh.umd.edu/>  
<http://www.mtr.org/mtr/branches/swedish.html>  
<http://www.sunet.se/>  
<http://www.webcom.com/vs>

We at the Center anticipate having our own homepage active by February, which can be reached through: <http://www.augustana.edu>

## More and more lowans study their roots

By Jennifer DeWitt  
QUAD-CITY TIMES

All the hoopla about Iowa's birthday and its heritage has prompted more Quad-Citians to become interested in historical and genealogical research.

After 20 years of teaching research techniques, Scharlott Goettsch Elevins had decided not to offer her classes this year. "But people have just been calling and calling," she said.

Elevins has not seen this level of interest since the Bicentennial and when Alex Haley published "Roots."

With the heightened interest, she is offering two sessions of Beginning History and Genealogy classes.

Elevins, chairman of the State Historical Society Board of Trustees, said a lot of history buffs have never had any training in col-

lecting and preserving their materials. The classes will cover the basics in beginning your research including good record-keeping systems and documentation; how to preserve documents, photos and records; contacting unknown relatives; resources available at local libraries and major historical and genealogical libraries in the Midwest; and records available from the courthouse.

"Most people that want to do this are retired because they have more time," she said. "But I wish we could get more young people involved."

"I really want to get organizations and businesses interested. Then when we do our next Scott County Heritage Book, it will be fun to get them involved," she added. "They always wait until they have a special anniversary and then they're scrambling to get it done."

## More and more lowans study their roots

Participants can chose from two eight-week sessions: Thursday nights from March 12 to April 30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Des Moines; and Saturday afternoons from March 2 to April 29 at the Rock Island County Historical Research Library in Moline. The sessions also may include research field trips to libraries or cemeteries. Anyone interested must pre-register by March 1. For information and to register, call Elevins at (319) 324-7326.

She is an author and lecturer on genealogy research and preservation. Elevins, the founding president of the Scott County Genealogical Society, also is involved with the German American Heritage Center, the American Schlemmer Holstein Heritage Society, the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board and other genealogical organizations.

# Climbing up the family tree can put you out on a limb

"It's better to let sleeping dogs lie," I always say.

Actually, I almost never say that but I'm going to start, especially when talking to my niece, Annaliese Kennedy.

You see, Annaliese has taken up genealogy and has climbed quite a ways up (or back) in the family tree. I have found this unsettling and for reasons you will shortly discover.

I've never been very curious about my forebearers. I read of a Richard Lacey "Uncle Dick" Wooten who is variously depicted as a pioneer of the old west or a vicious old man and I worried that I might be related. In fact, I just assumed it.

After all, the Wooten name wasn't all that common, I thought, so all of us must be related, both the black and white branches.

Once I asked my father about our relatives. I figured that we must have some, apart from his siblings, Rose and Jake, and mom's younger sister, Clara, but they were seldom the subject of conversation.

"We aren't much on kin," my father replied, his voice expressing neither approval nor disapproval; that's just the way it was.

Of course, over time, my family background gradually filled in and I heard about all my aunts and uncles, but not much beyond them. Some information was only grudgingly revealed. Only after some FBI agents came to the door inquiring about Uncle Branford did I learn that he had been mom's favorite until he tried to rob a bank.

That invested him with a considerable interest in my mind, but mom didn't want to discuss the matter. She told great stories, some of which improved with each repetition, but it took quite a while for the really good stuff to surface. Like Branford.

I came to understand and ap-



**DON WOOTEN**

preciate her reticence. Let's just say that, among some truly noble and dedicated citizens in her family, there were a few who gave rich meaning to the term "Southern Gothic."

Not many years ago, her other brother, Joe, surfaced from his place deep in the Missouri woods to visit mom and my sister Julia in Memphis. He was a delightful man with a taste for simple living and an impish good humor. I'm sorry I never ventured far enough off the paved roads to look him up.

Aunt Clara has also shown up from time to time, a ferociously independent woman who has

**I do not believe that ancestry determines much beyond physical characteristics and some behavioral traits.**

never hesitated to speak her mind. What with her stories and Joe's, I thought we had most of the important details about our family filled in.

Of course, all this changed when one of my sisters got a letter from a cousin, Mildred, who had discovered that we weren't really Wootens at all. It seems that three or four generations back, one of our forebearers simply adopted the name.

His name was originally Candler, which explains why my pa-

ternal grandfather was named Charles Candler Wooten. Mildred wasn't sure exactly why the name was changed, but I happily guessed that he was on the lam or avoiding military service.

There's precious little spice in my own life, so I am happy to invest my ancestors with some.

Well, Annaliese verified the Candler/Wooten switch and pushed the family rolls back some three centuries. I had always thought we were fairly late arrivals in this country, but my family appears to have been hanging around for a long time.

In fact, one of them was among the dozen or so who petitioned for the establishment of the State of Franklin in what later became Eastern Tennessee.

Political idealists aren't entirely respectable either, but I don't object to them.

This Christmas, Annaliese sent all of us a book collecting her work thus far and it was reading this that set off alarm bells. In fact, I have suggested that she might want to take up another line of study. This genealogy business can be dangerous.

You see, I can accept bank robbers or political dreamers in the blood line, but her study suggests a connection that fills me with a dread that there may truly be a taint in my ancestry.

I have long known of the McPherson line and of the Donelsons. We had heard tales of being related to "the Scarlet Woman," Rachel Donelson, who was married to Andrew Jackson even though not "completely" divorced from her first husband.

That was fine with me. I figured that the story probably was apocryphal but it was fun to tell. However, Annaliese's research turned up some facts on the McPherson branch and it was here that I found cause for alarm.

Our McPhersons settled in the Carolinas. They weren't the only



**Newt Gingrich**

ones of that name, but the association of McPherson and Carolina is a fearsome one.

I didn't know just how fearsome until I read Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" feature and discovered that Newt Gingrich's natural father was Newton McPherson. From Carolina.

That means that there would be a link — albeit a tenuous one — between yours truly and the "revolutionary" who would lead us back to the twenties.

I do not believe that ancestry determines much beyond physical characteristics and some behavioral traits. We are products of the past but need not be prisoners of it.

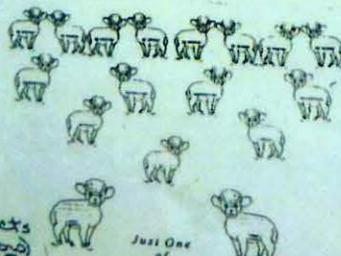
So, I will continue to enjoy hearing about Tennessee pioneers, bank robbers and the rest and will regale my grandchildren with their stories.

But the less said about those Carolina McPhersons, the better.

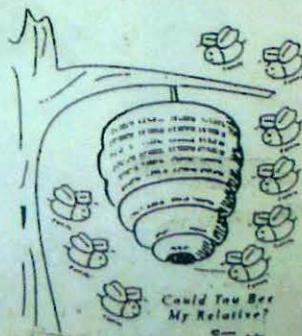
**Don Wooten**, general manager of Augustana College's WVIK radio station, lives in Rock Island.



Just the Bear Facts  
(about our ancestors)  
Kathy Timlin 1994



Just One  
of  
The Flock



Could You Bee  
My Relative?

1996

# Immigrant: Remember your roots

## Cuban professor urges students to honor past

By John Kanthak  
Staff writer

DAVENPORT — An educator whose grandfather was a hero in the 1895 Cuban War of Independence told Quad-Cities Hispanics Sunday not to turn their backs on their cultural heritage.

"Without your roots, you have nothing," Angelina Pedroso, a professor at Northern Illinois University, told guests at St. Ambrose University's Latino Heritage Day.

Ms. Pedroso and her husband emigrated from Cuba in 1959. Her grandfather was a statesman and military hero of Cuba's war of independence from Spain. Her mother, a history professor, helped found Havana Teacher's College.

She urged her listeners to take pride in traditional Hispanic values, especially that of openly expressing affection and respect to family members.

"How long has it been since you kissed your mother, kissed your brother, embraced your father?" she asked college students in the audience. "Take your hat off to your father. Maybe his English is limited. Maybe he didn't go to the university like you because he was busy surviving — he was getting up at 5 a.m. every day to go to the factory.

"But your mother and your father are your roots," Ms. Pedroso said. "They made possible what you are today and what you will be tomorrow."

The strength of the Hispanic culture is the strong emphasis on family and neighborhood ties, she said.

"I was so proud after the terrible heat wave in Chicago," she said. "Six hundred people became victims of the heat, but not one elderly Hispanic person died — even though our community is so poor. We took care of each other. If someone knew of



**'The (immigration) law seems to care only about how far you swam to get here.'**

Angelina Pedroso

an elderly person who was alone, they knocked on that door and gave them whatever help they needed."

Ms. Pedroso tried to debunk a few myths and misconceptions about Hispanics.

"Don't call us lazy because we have a siesta," she said. "We work the same eight hours as anyone — but we may do it from 8 a.m. to noon and 4 to 8 p.m. The time in between is time to be with the family, to eat and converse and remain close."

Ms. Pedroso called upon Hispanics to preserve their legal rights and social status by lobbying and voting against cuts in education funding and restrictions on Mexican immigration.

"The law seems to care only about how far you swam to get here," she said. "If you swim to Florida from Cuba, the immigration people open their arms and say, 'Welcome to the land of opportunity!' If you swim across a river from Mexico, they call you a criminal."

## Twenty-second Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

Saturday  
April 20, 1996 from  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

at the  
Viking Club of Moline  
1450 - 41st Street  
Moline, Illinois



QUAD CITIES USA

G2 THE DISPATCH AND THE ROCK ISLAND ARGUS SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1996

BIRTH

### Eva Johnson

Eva Johnson, 961 40th St. Court, Moline, will be honored April 21 at a reception in observance of her 90th birthday.

Relatives and friends are invited to call from 2 to 4 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, Moline, where she is a member.

The former Eva Peterson was born April 21, 1906, in Grand Ridge. She was residing in Joliet when she was married to Melvin Johnson, Moline, on May 17, 1931, in Aledo. He is deceased.

She has a daughter, Carol Ann Watkins, Moline. There are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mrs. Johnson was employed by Moline Visiting Nurses, where she was director, retiring in 1968. She previously was employed by the American Cancer Society.

*Delna Moore*

**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL  
QUAD CITIES GENEALOGICAL  
CONFERENCE**

Saturday, April 20, 1996 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Viking Club of Moline 1450 41st Street, Moline, Illinois.



IOWA

150

Celebrate  
Our State  
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Officially Endorsed by the  
Iowa Sesquicentennial  
Commission

*Officially Endorsed by the Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission*

*Sponsored by*

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
SCOTT COUNTY IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

### *Featured Speaker*

## **Arlene H. Eakle**

Arlene H. Eakle, Ph.D., is president and founder of The Genealogical Institute, Salt Lake City, and a professional genealogist with more than twenty-five years experience.

She is skilled in tracing English, Scottish and Irish ancestors. Her expert talents in tracing southern ancestors including Scots-Irish pedigrees has yielded a 96% success rate.

Dr. Eakle is a prolific writer with more than 40 titles on her publications list. She is general editor with Johni Cerny of the award-winning *The Source: A Guidebook for American Genealogy* (1984), and author of three chapters of this fine book.

She is an excellent seminar speaker and has addressed more than 300 seminars and workshops in the United States, Canada and Europe, including the World Conference on Records, and the annual National Genealogical Society Conferences in the states.

Dr. Eakle will tell us about new sources for immigration data, migration patterns into the central United States, and British migration to America before 1850, among other topics. Her lecture on migration patterns into the central United States will be in honor of Iowa's 1996 sesquicentennial celebration. \*

This is a great opportunity for all to learn from her wealth of experience.

*Sponsored by*

**Blackhawk Genealogical Society  
and**

**Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society**

### *Program Schedule*

## **Saturday, April 20, 1996**

8:00 - 8:50 am

Registration and an opportunity for you to browse through the exhibits

8:50 - 9:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

9:00 - 10:05 am

Dr. Eakle: "Are Your Immigrant Ancestors on Microfilm?"

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and Browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

Dr. Eakle: "New Immigration Sources."

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch and Browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Dr. Eakle: "**Migration Patterns into the Central United States.**" \*

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and Browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

Dr. Eakle: "British Migration to America Before 1850."

3:25 - 3:45 pm

Closing Remarks

*\*This session is the Iowa Sesquicentennial Lecture honoring Iowa's 150 years of statehood.*

*Door prizes drawings throughout the day!*

# Family Tree

## Going out on a limb can become a real obsession

By Kari Siegle  
Staff writer

Chris Fiedler's obsession began when she was antique shopping in Iowa. She picked up a copy of the 1940 "Who's Who in Iowa" and found two people with her name. Not knowing if she was related to them, she asked an aunt about the connection.

"From that moment I got stuck. It's really weird to find people you're related to, dead or alive," said Ms. Fiedler, the first vice president of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

When she was growing up she was told her grandfather was an only child. Ms. Fiedler later found out that after her grandfather's father died, his mother remarried and he had half-sisters. "Finding all these people is incredible," she said.

Scharlott Goetsch Hlevins of Davenport, who has studied genealogy for 30 years, said tracing family trees is becoming more popular because of today's fast-paced, busy society.

"Families are not as close as they used to be and we lose those connections," she said. "It makes history much more exciting if you can relate your family to a certain time period and certain events."

The first step in tracing a family tree is to talk to all living relatives and get as much information from them as possible, especially names, dates, and places. Write down everything, even the things that might seem trivial because they may come in handy later. To organize the information, use forms like family group sheets and descendant charts, or special computer programs geared for genealogical work.

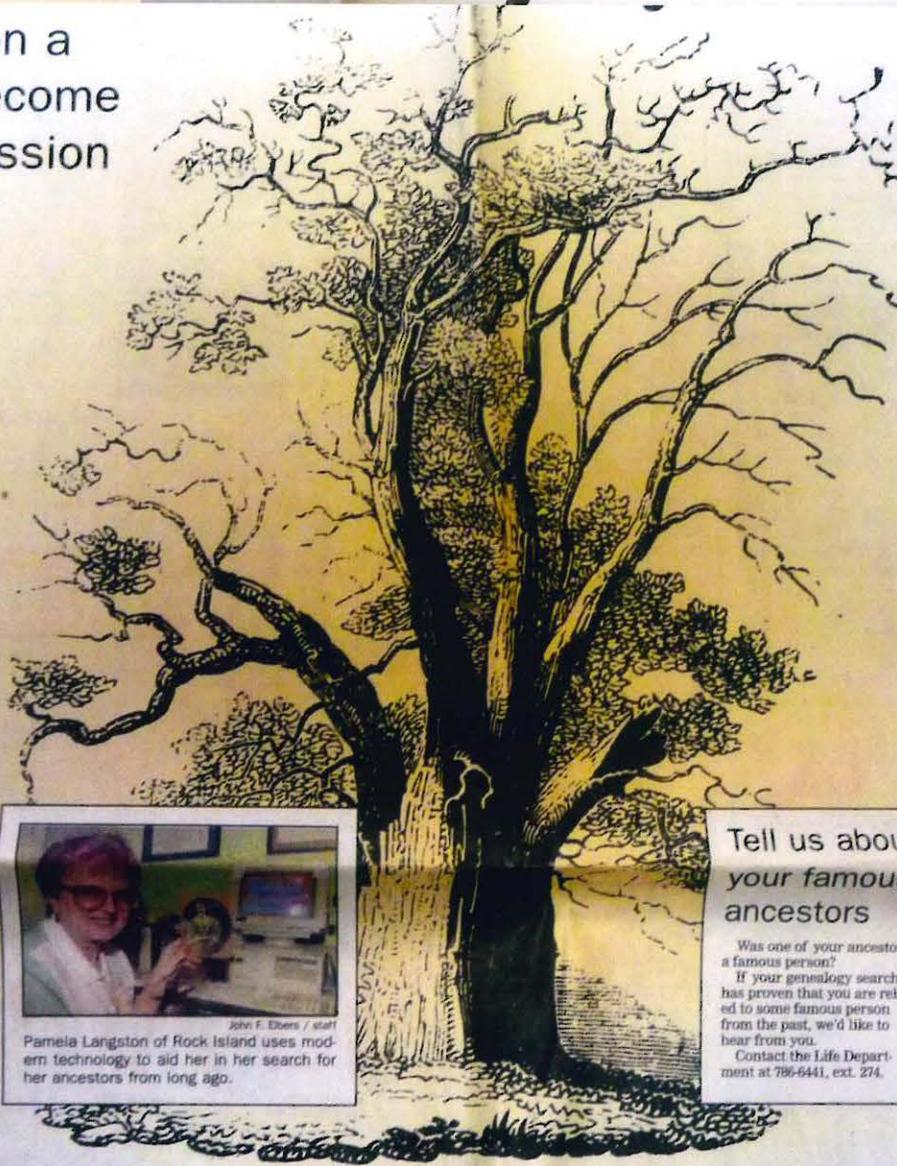
"When you look at it you see the gaps and that's when you start to search," said Pamela Langston, librarian of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

To be successful a genealogist should learn what kinds of written records are available, where to find them and what information will be revealed. There are two main types: primary records (the original copies, like a birth certificate or a will) and secondary records (such as indexes or other published records that are not the authentic sources). Primary records are more reliable than the secondary sources because they recorded the event when it happened.

Several kinds of written records provide helpful information. A birth certificate gives many leads because it lists the names of the parents, the mother's maiden name, where the parents were born and the date of birth. Cemeteries are also helpful, and many genealogical societies or local libraries have listings of who is buried. Wills sometimes give information on relations that were overlooked. "Sometimes there is a big squabble in the family and you might not know they (certain relations) existed before," Ms. Langston said.

Government census reports, cur-

PLEASE SEE ▶ SEARCH, B5



John F. Ebers / staff  
Pamela Langston of Rock Island uses modern technology to aid her in her search for her ancestors from long ago.

### Tell us about your famous ancestors

Was one of your ancestors a famous person?

If your genealogy search has proven that you are related to some famous person from the past, we'd like to hear from you.

Contact the Life Department at 786-6444, ext. 274.

## Here's help for starting your search

Need help or guidance in tracing your family tree?

Check out the following resources:

**GENEALOGY SOCIETIES:** There are two main genealogical societies in the Quad-Cities and anyone is welcome to attend a meeting.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month in South Park Presbyterian Church, 1501 30th St., Rock Island.

The Scott County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2136 N. Brady St., Davenport.

### GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES:

There are several libraries in the Quad-Cities that can help you get started tracing your family tree. They include: the Davenport Stake Branch Genealogy Library in Davenport, which is directed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4929 N. Wisconsin Ave., Davenport, 386-7547; the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, 822 14th Ave. Drive, Moline, 764-8580; and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, 3520 7th Ave., Rock Island, 794-7204.

**ON THE INTERNET:** There are several World Wide Web sites devoted to genealogy that provide information on how to start

tracing your family tree. Here are just a few of them:

<http://www.firstct.com/tv/stone.html>

This site tells how to get past the "Stone Wall Syndrome," or when you are unable to trace a line back any farther. It also tells which records to look up for information like age, birth date, divorce, etc.

[http://www.everton.com/FAQ/FAQ\\_STARTING](http://www.everton.com/FAQ/FAQ_STARTING)

This site tells which types of records you should begin looking at and then which to move onto.

<http://www.everton.com/GENEALOG/GENEALOG.LDSFHLS>

The largest collection of

genealogical materials in the world is housed in the Family History Library in Utah. The Church of Latter-Day Saints is actively involved in collecting and storing past records and offer their resources and help to interested genealogists.

<http://www.everton.com/GENEALOG/GENEALOG.FHSEARCH>

This site offers a good rundown on how to get started researching your family tree. It gives real-life experiences of the author about his work, which makes for an interesting read.

For more genealogy sites on the Web, see today's Online column by George Cottax, at the top right corner of this page.

# A century of history in Sherrard

## Ex-bank building named historic site

By Debra Schaubroock  
Correspondent

**SHERRARD** — The 100-year-old Sherrard Banking Company building has battled fires three times and won, battled time and aged gracefully.

Now the historic brick building, built in 1896 by David Sherrard, for whom the village is named, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Ron and Marlene Parker, who bought the old bank building at 314 3rd St. in 1976, have poured a lot of love and work into the Victorian-styled building, which now houses Benny's Pizza.

Mr. Parker, a retired construction superintendent, has done much of the work himself. The Parkers have sandblasted the exterior bricks to remove red paint, waterproofed and tuckpointed, made a new cornice, rebuilt the windows, made wooden storm screens to match the architecture of the building, and modernized the second floor.

"I tried to keep it as true to the original as I could," Mr. Parker said.

Mrs. Parker said her husband's work was "a labor of love," because he's interested in preserving the past and the history of the area

and his family. His great-grandfather was the first pioneer child born in Richland Grove Township, she said.

Mr. Parker also likes the building because it stirs fond memories of his youth. He remembers when the village photographer, Walter Trego, lived on its second floor in the mid-1940s.

"There were old motors piled in the back of the building because it was an auto repair shop then. We played there and Mr. Trego would sit on the back steps and tell us stories," he said.

Over the years, the building has been home to the bank, a telephone company, a dentist, a doctor, an auto repair and welding shop, an automotive supply store, a gas station, a paint store and a barber shop.

The building has seen many owners as well. Mr. Sherrard died in 1908 and willed it to his 11-year-old grandson, David Earl Sherrard, who sold the building to Grace and Foster Shultz in 1948. In 1970, the Shultzes sold the building to Oliver Brasmer, who sold it to Marilyn and Marianne Basala. The Parkers took it over in 1976.

The first time fire threatened the building was in 1914. Three nearby businesses were burned and sever-



Submitted

The village of Sherrard was named for David Sherrard, owner of the Sherrard Banking Company, shown leaving the bank with grandson David Earl Sherrard in the early 1900s.

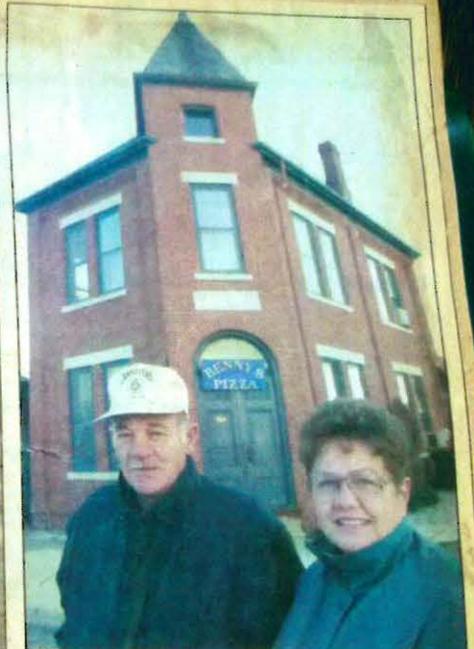
al others damaged, but the bank building survived.

In 1965, the roof of an attached garage, added in 1948 to house an auto repair shop, caught fire. The bank building was undamaged.

A fire this past January caused the most damage and also de-

stroyed the town's only grocery store. A Mercer County man and a juvenile have been arrested in connection with the fire.

Mr. Parker, who applied for the historic designation two years ago, said several rafters are being replaced, along with some sheathing



Debra Schaubroock / correspondent

Ron and Marlene Parker stand outside the former Sherrard Banking Company building, which they own. It recently was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

and the cornice on the east side of the building.

When they first applied for the designation, they received an 80-page booklet of instructions and had to supply geological survey maps, pictures of the building, a history of David Sherrard and doc-

umentation of the information. They also had to show the significance of the building and the role it played in the village's development.

The couple says the designation came at just the right time. The village also is celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

# Tracing family history helps some adoptees develop a special courage

**DEAR ABBY:** I loved the recent letter from the woman who received a family history from her grandmother as a Christmas gift. You responded that a family history is a treasured gift. I agree with you completely. However, there is an aspect of having a family history that many people do not think is necessary. I am referring to the need for some adult adoptees to know about their birth family.

My husband is an adoptee in his late 40s. He was a teacher for more than 20 years and is now a middle school administrator. We raised a handicapped child who, for many years, was the top priority in our lives. She is now grown and is also a teacher.

My husband did not search for his birth family until he was well over 40 years old. We knew nothing about these people. What we found was a wonderful family genealogy of his birth family that revealed pioneer Virginia families, and birth grandparents who were educators. We worked hard to trace the birth family back to the 1700s.

When adoptees search for their heritage, it is an act of fulfillment, not necessarily to disrupt the birth families. We have had the pleasure

DEAR ABBY

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN



of meeting most of my husband's birth relatives, but the discovery of his "roots" has really been the best of bonuses. My husband was raised an only child. Now he has two wonderful half-brothers who have been

**When adoptees search for their heritage, it is an act of fulfillment for them.**

fascinated with their family history that we found, parts of which they were unaware of.

Abby, thank you for any support that you can give adult adoptees who want to know about their fami-

lies of origin. It gives them courage when others see why all aspects of family are important to the adult adoptee. — An adoptee's wife in Richmond, Va.

**DEAR WIFE:** My heart aches for the many "older" people who were adopted as infants, but because their families falsely regarded the circumstances of their birth (unwed mothers) as somehow disgraceful, they have been denied information concerning their parentage.

**DEAR ABBY:** Regarding "Hurting and Hoping, Fort Worth, Texas," whose son mysteriously disappeared five years ago, leaving his family to wonder if he was dead or alive: I had the same experience.

My son was staying at my sister's home when he went out one evening and never returned. At first we assumed it was a temporary disappearance, but as time went on, we realized it was for real.

For five years, I heard not one word, and I visualized everything from prison to death. The anxiety of not knowing is indescribable. Finally around the fifth year, I gave up and said to my Lord, "I am turning it over to you"; then I put it out of my mind.

In September of the fifth year, I

received a letter, and the thrill of recognizing his handwriting on an envelope made my heart want to jump right out of my chest! His letter said that he was coming home and would be at the airport at a certain time on a specific day.

Of course, I was there to meet him, and I have never questioned him as to where he had been or the reason for his silence. I felt that since the Lord had answered my prayers, who was I to question him?

He is now a respectable young man, holding a good job and sending me letters of appreciation constantly.

So to "Hurt and Hoping," don't give up. Keep praying. — Faithful from Fresno

**DEAR FAITHFUL:** Thank you for writing. Your letter is a testament to the power of faith, hope and prayer.

## TUESDAY

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; program is a Book Share; information, call Judy Rueckert, 788-0051

## Holocaust survivors protest fees for stones

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel's national Holocaust museum is under attack from some death camp survivors for charging a fee for individual memorials to those who perished.

For between \$500 and \$1,500, the Yad Vashem museum will inscribe memorial stones with the names of victims of the Nazi genocide. The amount depends on the size of the stone.

"This is enraging," Daniel Chanoch, 63, who survived the

Auschwitz and Dachau death camps as a child, said Sunday.

"Those who have no money will not be memorialized. It is just like in the ghettos: Those who had no money were the first ones sent to the gas chambers."

Yad Vashem spokeswoman Avital Baer defended the sale, saying the idea came from Holocaust survivors and their relatives. The revenues, she said, cover the cost of the memorial, and Yad Vashem makes no profit.

## BIRTHDAYS

### Roy Roba

Roy C. Roba, Friendship Manor, 1209 21st Ave., Apt. D-304, Rock Island, will be honored at a reception June 30 in observance of his 80th birthday.

Relatives and friends are invited to call from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Activity Center at Friendship Manor. It is requested that gifts be omitted.

Mr. Roba was born July 6, 1916. He married the former Bertha Bjerkan in Dubuque.

He has a son, William of Davenport, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Roba was employed for 38 years at John Deere Dubuque Works, retiring in 1979.



## Louis and Lorraine Hathaway

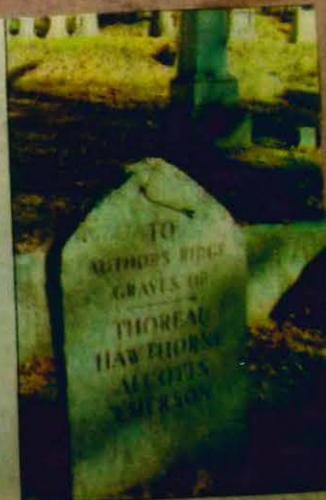
Louis and Lorraine Hathaway, 6229 95th Ave. Court West, Taylor Ridge, were honored May 4 at a dinner in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary. The couple also renewed their marriage vows in the First Presbyterian Church, Milan, where they hold membership.

The former Lorraine Hall, Rock Island, and Mr. Hathaway, Moline, were married May 7, 1961, in South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island.

They are the parents of Christine Moe, Pleasanton, Calif.; Cindy Schreppler, Chestertown, Md.; and Carolyn Hathaway, Overland Park, Kan. There is one grandchild.

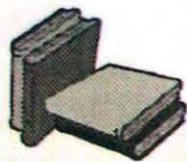
Mr. Hathaway is supervisor of publications process for Deere & Co., Moline.

A stone marker directs visitors to the grave sites of 19th century writers Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and Ralph Waldo Emerson at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Mass.



Associated Press

1996 Program Schedule  
Blackhawk Genealogical Society



**May**

"Book Share" If you belong to another genealogy society, bring the quarterly to share with others. Also, Judy Rueckert's report on her Illinois State Fall Conference.

**June**

Pam Langston will be speaking on "Heraldry".



**July**

"Who, What, Where and How" - Various members telling about their recent research trips and their discoveries.

**August**

"Genealogical Holdings at the Swenson Center" by Jill Seaholm.



**September**

"Topography: Learning to Read Maps" by Dr. Norman Moline.

**October**

"The History of the Deere-Wiman House" by Gretchen Frick Small.

# Climb your family tree in Q-C

## Mormon library will lend a hand

By Sarah Bawden  
QUAD-CITY TIMES

New facilities of the Mormon Family History Library in Davenport will be dedicated today, and the public will be able to take a short tour.

The name may not be exactly a household word, but the center is where anyone can access the world's largest collection of family history data and use the facilities for free.

Several hundred people with genealogical thirst visit it every month, some driving from 100 miles or more to the center in six rooms of the educational wing of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints, 4929 Wisconsin Ave. "We used to be spread over eight rooms of the building, and run back and forth. We just couldn't function as easily," says Bonnie Kerry, head librarian at the center for four years.

The center is a branch of the Family History Library at Salt Lake City. Although the Utah library was begun in 1894, records

reach far back beyond that. Kerry says although the bulk of records have been kept since the 1440s during the Reformation era, some information dates from Medieval times.

During the Reformation, people thought it was important to know whether a person was Lutheran, Roman Catholic or neither, so the registers began, she explained.

Records available in Davenport include practically every denomination, country and nationality. What is not available in Davenport can be ordered by modem from Salt Lake City, but there is a fee when material must be ordered.

Through the amazing storage ability of today's computers, a short double film case in the computer room holds 240 million names. The contents of a full standard file card drawer are stored on one CD-ROM.

"When people come here, we teach them five basic steps to get started," Kerry explains. "They will receive good solid help. We also know what is at other libraries." Visitors can bring their own floppy discs to take information home to their computers.

People tend to be thunderstruck at all the information that is available. "We have half a billion people here," Kerry says, pointing to some of the record cases.

The staff is volunteer, and each completes a special training program. Two members are on a ministry from Salt Lake City.

The service is funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The philosophy of the Mormon church is that life does not end with death. As a result, members find family history



Greg Boll/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Alfred and Elsa Stetter of Davenport have found ancestral links back as far as 13 generations by using research facilities at the Mormon Family History Center in Davenport.

research important so they can be eternally united with their families.

From March 1995 through February 1996, more than 6,200 people visited the center. On a usual day up to 30 people come to study.

The public is not questioned or taught about religious affiliations. More than 70 percent of the people who use the genealogical services are not Mormons.

First-time visitors should identify what they want to know about their families and bring as much information as possible.

The most popular points of reference at the Quad-City facility are Sweden and Germany, Kerry says.



Mr. and Mrs. Everett Thompson

### Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Everett A. Thompson, 4025 27th Ave., Rock Island, formerly of Orion, Ill., were honored at a buffet dinner Jan. 27 at Skarfi's, Rock Island, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Ruth Kraklow and Mr. Thompson were married Jan. 27, 1946, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were farmers in rural township since 1951, retiring several years ago. Mr. Thompson was also employed by John Deere Harvester, East Moline, retiring in 1982. His wife was employed in the advertising department of Eagle Foods, Milan, Ill., retiring in 1985 after 20 years.

Their daughter is Alene Humphrey, Norris, Tenn. They have one grandson.

## Tracing your Jewish roots

Many American Jews are intrigued and challenged by tracing their roots.

"Researching Jewish roots presents special problems, beginning with name changes at Ellis Island," says Miriam Weiner, president of Routes to Roots, an organization specializing in Jewish genealogy, in Secaucus, N.J. "Additional barriers occur because many documents were destroyed during the Holocaust and many places where Jews once lived have little trace of Jewish life."

Researching Jewish roots is becoming more popular, says

Weiner, because with the fall of Communism many Eastern European countries are now accessible.

For information on genealogical searches and tours in Eastern Europe focusing on Jewish roots:

**Routes to Roots Foundation**  
Miriam Weiner  
136 Sandpiper Key  
Secaucus, N.J. 07094-2210  
1-201-866-4075

**Family Research Foundation**  
Allan Mallenbaum  
P.O. Box 24  
Plainview, N.Y. 11803-0024  
1-516-349-0425

## Family history centers in Illinois

Centers cannot respond to research inquiries. When visiting a center, bring research notes, such as pedigree charts, family group records and copies of other family records and documents.

**Buffalo Grove**  
15 Port Clinton Road  
1-847-913-5387

**Champaign**  
604 W. Windsor Road  
1-217-352-8063

**Chicago Heights**  
402 Longwood Dr.  
1-708-754-2525

**Naperville**  
25 W. 341 Ridgeland Road  
1-708-505-0233

**Nauvoo**  
Corner of Hibbard and Durphy  
1-217-453-6347

**O'Fallon**  
255 Fairwood Hills Road  
1-618-632-0210

**Peoria**  
3700 W. Reservoir Blvd.  
1-309-682-4073

**Rockford**  
620 N. Alpine Road  
1-815-399-2660

**Schaumburg**  
1320 W. Schaumburg Road  
1-847-885-4130

**Wilmette**  
2701 Lake Ave.  
1-847-251-9818

### Rev. Raymond Spindel

Services for Rev. Raymond D. Spindel, 68, of 4122 4th Ave. A, East Moline, are 1 p.m. Monday at Sullivan-Phillips Mortuary Ltd., East Moline. Burial is in Hampton Cemetery, with military rites by East Moline American Legion 227, of which he was a member.



Visitation is 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today. Memorials may be made to First Church of the Nazarene in Rock Island, where he was a member.

Rev. Spindel died Friday.

July 12, 1986, at Illinois Hospital, Silvis.

He was born Dec. 16, 1926, in Bloomington, the son of Ernest and Doris Herrmann Spindel. He married LaDonna Jacobs Jan. 18, 1947, in Matherville.

He retired from John Deere Harvester, East Moline, as a welder and inspector, retiring in January 1986 after 28 years. He was also a retired minister and evangelist.

He was a graduate from Bible Missionary Institute in Rock Island.

He was a Navy veteran, having served in New Guinea.

He was a past president of Zephyr Flying Club and member of United Auto Workers Local 865.

Survivors include the widow; a daughter, Patty Jo Barnes, Las Vegas; sons and daughters-in-law, Leonard and Denise Spindel, Rock Island, Donald and Vicki Spindel, Moline, Terry and Melany Spindel, Colona, and Marvin Spindel, Silvis; nine grandchildren; two great-granddaughters, and a sister, Joan Abbott, Jackson Gap, Ala.

FORMER MEMBER OF B.G.S.

### Burning old cemeteries is against the law

Dear Editor, The Argus: I am responding to your article by correspondent Debra Shaubroek about the guardians aim to preserve prairie plants and grass.

Perhaps you would be interested in knowing that there are many things in this article that people loyal to their ancestors simply do not approve of.

For instance, the burning of the cemeteries is particularly uncalled for. Do you know that this is against the law, Public Act 86-151 Human Grave Protection. This includes "grave markers," or any tomb monument, stone ornament, mound or other item of human manufacture that is associated with any grave. This includes "disturb excavating, removing, exposing, defacing, mutilating, destroying and molesting or desecrating in any way grave markers."

Since I have been writing our genealogy for the past nine years, and have visited many old cemeteries in

Bureau County, I have many pictures of these old graves with most of the beautiful markers that were then readable. Now the stones are black, and some of them you can hardly read the inscriptions. This is a violation of the law, and for that reason the Bureau County state's attorney's office was notified. An action is being taken at this time to stop the burning of this old cemetery in LaMoille, Ill. This was requested by the Historic Preservation Agency because of the damage to the grave markers. They have ample power under the law to proceed with court action if an agreement is not taken in this matter. Most of these old cemeteries are set on fire, and many of the descendants do not know this. I have yet to see them wet down the stones as your article states. Let them find other ways to spur the growth of prairie grass and flowers. Even our ancestors took better care of their cemeteries at that time than we do.

I am sure the cemeteries in Whiteside County are very old. Why not mow them and keep them up for people to visit them. They are very historical, and contain many of our ancestors who helped settle this country.

This should include the Heaton Cemetery, Sandy Town Cemetery and Clyde Cemetery. Let them keep the railroad right-of-way in Sterling for their preservation, but let us keep our cemeteries free of burning and the defacing of old headstones.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will be interested in obtaining information about the burning of these old cemeteries, and as I said before, they have ample power under the law to proceed by court action against any association burning these old cemeteries as an alternative to mowing.

Carol Moss,  
Rock Island

members covering five generations. There was also a worship service at First Lutheran Church, Moline, which was attended by the sons of great-grandsons residing in the Quad-Cities area are Kenneth J. Tolson, Cambridge, and Frank J. Tolson and John M. Tolson, both of Rock Island.

The approximately 150 relatives from throughout the country toured Andover and Bishop Hill, both settled by Swedish immigrants. Also scheduled were a golf outing at Valley View Country Club in Cambridge, and a smorgasbord at the Gustavus College. The Tolson family alma mater of all Tolson family

The national Tolson family reunion held Aug. 1-4 in the Quad Cities commemorated the 143rd anniversary of the arrival of Sven and Pernilla Anderson who came from Knared, Sweden, in 1863. Along with three sons, they settled in Moline after a seven-hour journey by sailboat across the Atlantic. One of the sons, Johannes, who became a Lutheran minister, was believed responsible for changing the family name from Anders to Tolson to avoid conflict with many other immigrant families.

### Roscoe and Virginia Horton

Roscoe Leroy and Virginia M. Horton, 1333 Hilltop Drive, Milan, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house Aug. 24.

Relatives and friends are invited to their home from 1 to 3 p.m.

The family will take a cruise afterward.

The former Virginia M. Heaton, Toulon, and Mr. Horton, Manchester, were married Aug. 24, 1946, in the Moline Methodist Chapel.

Their children are Neal R., Orlando, Fla.; Randy L. and Jill L., both of East Moline, and Jay K., Colona. They have eight grandchildren.

Mr. Horton was employed for 33 years by John Deere Harvester, East Moline, retiring in 1974. He served in the 12th Air Force in World War II. He is a member of Eureka Lodge, AF&AM #69; Moline Scottish Rite; KAABA Shrine, Davenport; Eastern Star #326; and Milan American Legion Post #569.

Mrs. Horton was employed as a teacher at Calvin Coolidge Junior High School, Moline, and Rock Island School District, retiring in 1979. She is a member of the Methodist Women's Society, Milan American Legion Auxiliary #569, Milan Eastern Star #326, Mary Little Deere Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, Blackhawk Homemakers Extension, Rock Island County Historical Society and Quad City Computer Society. She is a past member of Rock Island County Family, Community and Education Council and Board.

They hold membership at Trinity United Methodist



### HEBREW GENEALOGY

#### ROCK ISLAND

#### Esther Handelman

Esther Handelman, 93, Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of Rock Island, died Saturday, Sept. 28, 1996, at home.

Graveside services are 2 p.m. Tuesday at Rock Island Hebrew Cemetery.

There is no visitation. Memorials may be made to Tri-City Jewish Center, Rock Island, where she was a member.

Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island, is in charge of arrangements.

The former Esther Lefstein was born Dec. 12, 1902, in Rock Island, the daughter of Jacob and Anna Cohn Lefstein. She married Alex Handelman Feb. 16, 1926, in Rock Island. He died Jan. 9, 1986.

She moved to Phoenix from Rock Island in February 1993.

She was a member of Hadassah and Beth Israel Sisterhood.

Survivors include a daughter, Geraldine Hyman, Scottsdale, Ariz.; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a sister, Sally Rich, Skokie, Ill.; and a brother, Harry Lefstein, Colorado Springs.

# War brides enjoy sharing memories at reunion in Q-C



Pamela and Caleb Langston were married in 1945 in England. They attended the recent war brides reunion in the Quad-Cities.

The reunion of war brides held recently in Rock Island was "awesome," according to the 50 brides who participated in the event. The reunion was organized by Simonne Moore of Clinton, Iowa, who went to a lot of trouble to find the brides across the United States.

"And the unanimous opinion of those who attended was, 'It was worth it.' We had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the next reunion," said Joan Green, who married Eugene Green in England during World War II. Joan came to America to become part of the large Green family — Gene had eight sisters and four brothers. Mrs. Green and Lillian Burnet, now of Hanna City, Ill., came over on the Queen Mary.

Another English bride, Pamela Sanders Langston, echoed the refrain. She and her husband, Caleb, also enjoyed the reunion and

## BATTERED BEAT DOROTHY BURESH



the chance to talk to old friends and hear a real English accent again.

Pamela Sanders lived in Wallingborough, 60 miles north of London and 30 miles east of Coventry, right in the heart of the area the Germans were bombing, she said. "I was injured in a daylight raid when I was 18 years old," she recalled. "The flying glass and debris dropped by a single plane strafing the roofs hit me," she said.

The war started in 1939 for the British. But despite the heavy bombing and the shortages, which

were common, the young people went on with their lives. Pamela met the boy who was to be her husband at her uncle's office. Caleb was stationed with the military police and had an office next door to her uncle.

The couple married on Feb. 12, 1945, in her hometown. They have two sons and a daughter and nine grandchildren. She is retired from the Rock Island Public Library and now serves as librarian for the Blackhawk Genealogy Society. She has returned to England many times to search for her own roots.

Pamela settled into life in America well, but she recalled that her cousin who married an American went back to England with her husband to live out her life, and that many other war brides returned to their homelands, some with, some without their American husbands. The French brides at the reunion

broke into their native language and enjoyed speaking to each other in French. The Belgian brides enjoyed using their Flemish tongue. They visited the Center For Belgian Culture and The Flemish Lion in Moline, where they shopped for gifts. They also learned the words to their national anthem from Belgian Consul Dolores Bultinck and sang for the group.

"The song was so moving it gave me shivers," said one of the other brides. Every group then sang their own national anthem, which was a great hit with all.

Many of these women saw their parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters injured or killed before their eyes. The memories of these atrocities will never fade, but it helps to be able to share the pain with others who were there and know what war is really all about.

Despite all the television reports,

all the stories to come out of war zones, all the hype, everything — there is nothing to compare with being there and experiencing the pain and fear, the hunger, the deprivation and the degradation of war. The women attending the reunion repeated stories to me about how they were treated, both in war camps and on the ships enroute to this country. They still shudder to think of it.

Rock Island's Augustana College helped with the reunion by providing space for the participants, and a visit to the Casino Rock Island was a hit. And everyone enjoyed the good food and the sights of this area, since many of the brides came from other states and Canada.

Dorothy Buresh is a staff writer and columnist for The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus.

## LIFE

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## SEARCH

FROM PAGE B1

rently available up to 1920, are also helpful. The government has conducted a census of each state and territory every 10 years since 1790, although information in each census record varies. There is little genealogical information available for the 1790 to 1840 census records. But beginning with the 1850 census the name of each person in a house is listed along with age, sex, color, occupation, and birthplace. Occupation, value of real estate and personal property were also given for the head of the household. Over the next few decades more information about individuals in each home were added.

"You can get so much done locally until you've exhausted the possibilities. Then you have to start traveling," Ms. Langston said. "For some people the only vacation they take is trying to find their ancestors."

Some people may need to visit courthouses in the county in which their ancestors lived, while others may need to travel across the ocean to find out more. One way to access libraries across the globe is to use the Internet, which also offers bulletin boards in which a searcher can post a query and may receive an answer. Ms. Langston cautioned users to be careful with the information they receive because there could be mistakes. "I do not accept anything unless I look at the original sources myself," she said.

Assuming and guessing are the two worst traits to pick up. Ms. Langston said. She was guilty of these sins of omission a few years ago when she was looking for a man named John who married a woman named Elizabeth in the 18th century. Ms. Langston found the marriage recorded in church records and thought it was the correct one, so she extensively researched the woman, thinking she was a relative. Later she found a will and discovered that there

were two men living in the same small village who both married women named Elizabeth. "You never assume anything and you never guess; you have to get proof," said Ms. Langston.

**'At first I thought (genealogy) was kind of boring. Once you get started on it you get addicted. It becomes an obsession.'**

Pamela Langston

Helen Bichel, first vice president of the Scott County Genealogical Society, said genealogical researchers often find the same name spelled many different ways. "You just have to get in there and dig," she said. Ms. Bichel is tracing her family history to leave for future generations, and wants as com-

plete and accurate a record as possible.

Ms. Langston said, "When you put these genealogies together, what are you going to do with them? You've got to fill it out, bring these people to life."

From court records she has found a relative who was sent to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread. She also traced one of her husband's relations back to the Revolutionary War, when he fought at Valley Forge and lost an eye in a battle. Ms. Langston found letters he wrote about being at Valley Forge and seeing George Washington, which proved he actually fought there. He wrote the letters to apply for a pension to compensate for the loss of an eye. He eventually received a pension 20 years later.

Ms. Langston also found a great-grandfather who drove a stage coach and had a wife at each end of his route. He had all his children with a common-law wife and went to church with the other wife. "The poor man probably

went to his grave thinking no one knew about it," she said.

There are some common stories about ancestors that almost every family shares and the majority of them are wishful thinking. They include being related to nobility or an association with famous people.

But some things, like illegitimate births, are almost guaranteed to be found. Ms. Langston found that one of her relatives declared the father's name at an illegitimate child's baptism. "That would be a shock to someone sitting in the front row, wouldn't it?" she said. Ms. Langston said this was done not for punishment but for monetary reasons. Usually the church would take care of children without fathers, but this way the father would be forced to pay some money.

"At first I thought (genealogy) was kind of boring," Ms. Langston said. "Once you get started on it you get addicted. It becomes an obsession."

## COTTAY

FROM PAGE B1

"genealogy." That was mistake number two. The spelling was right, but the search way too broad. Up came thousands of sites, many of them focused on a particular family or name.

Going back to Alta Vista, I decided to use my head for more than scratching. Applying a simple search method — the sort of thing children should know by about the third or fourth grade — I asked for

"genealogy-family." That was a request designed to eliminate the family tree problem and get closer to the point of Sherry's request.

If I knew more about the subject, I could have done a better search. All the services allow for detailed instructions on what should be included, excluded and favored in priority. Often a little trial and error, or trying a different service, can be helpful. Time spent learning search procedures and syntax is well spent.

In this case, my simple little "genealogy-family" search did the trick. After glancing at a few pages

of possibilities, with maybe five minutes of time invested, I had two sites for recommendation to Sherry.

So far, all searching had been only on words. Since genealogy is a popular interest, I next checked Yahoo, a search service which also organizes sites by their topic, almost like a card catalog or traditional index. Typing "genealogy" into a subject search at Yahoo produced another list of apparently useful sites for Sherry's consideration with time invested about 30 seconds.

So far, the experiment is a great success. In less than 15 minutes, in-

cluding time for fumbling around, using only basic search techniques, I found three sites with well over 100 useful links. I learned at least 10 things about genealogy I did not know, and Sherry has a starting point for following up on her interest.

The real proof will come when Sherry finds exactly what she was looking for and then uses it in a way she finds life-enhancing, but since search results were good I'll shamelessly declare victory.

Was this an example of a computer expert at work? Not even close! With just a little practice, any of On-

line's readers could do the same or better on thousands of possible topics.

<http://altavista.digital.com/>  
<http://www.yahoo.com/>  
<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/saw/genealogy.html>  
[http://www.yahoo.com/Social\\_sciences/History/Genealogy/](http://www.yahoo.com/Social_sciences/History/Genealogy/)  
<http://www.iren.net/cfpl/resources/genealogy/genealogy.html>

George Cottay is a Quad-Cities Online moderator. Questions and comments are welcome at [Online@qconline.com](mailto:Online@qconline.com) or by "snail mail" at Quad-Cities Online, 1720 5th Ave., Moline, Ill. 61265.



Todd Muzener / staff

Scott Naumann isn't an ax murderer but he will portray one in 'Chippiannock Cemetery: Epitaphs Brought To Life.' The annual tour, featuring actors portraying well-known people buried in Chippiannock, will be conducted from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Rock Island cemetery. Mr. Naumann will portray Henry Bastian, a Milan farmer reputed to have murdered three farmhands. Mr. Bastian, who was said to have fed two of the victims to his hogs, hung himself when authorities began to suspect he was the killer.

## Chippiannock tour lives in 'Epitaphs'

Fourteen characters, their experiences and times from Rock Island's past will be portrayed during "Epitaphs Brought to Life," 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Chippiannock Cemetery, 2901 12th St., Rock Island.

The third annual walking tour, directed by Mick Elliott, is sponsored by the Rock Island Preservation Society and Chippiannock Cemetery Association.

In addition to dramatic vignettes in which actors portray notable historical figures buried at the 141-year-old cemetery, the event will highlight its unique landscape and funerary art. The characters and grave markers will be different from those featured in the 1994 and 1995 tours.

The original script was written by Charles Oestreich of Rock Island. Characters to be portrayed, in costume, include: Ignatz Huber, Lemuel Andrews, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Joshua Vandruff, Henry Bastian, Dr. Samuel Plummer, George Platt, William Morrison, Charles Knox, Harriet Dimick, Ada Brackett Schwatka, Peter Fries, Capt. David Tipton and Mary Ann Harte.

Some are well-known, such as lumber baron Frederick Weyer-

haeuser and brewer Ignatz Huber. Others were interesting characters of the day, such as the Milan farmer who killed his hired hands and buried them behind the barn. Ada Brackett Schwatka was married to a famous explorer. Lemuel Andrews was sheriff during the 1940s.

The 90-minute guided tours will leave every 10 minutes. Admission is \$2 for adults, with children age 12 and under free. Proceeds benefit the Chippiannock Cemetery Endowment Fund and historic preservation activities in Rock Island.

The Rock Island Preservation Commission and Chippiannock Cemetery Association founded the event in 1994 to honor Chippiannock's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Chippiannock Cemetery, established in 1855, is the first cemetery in Illinois on the register. It was honored principally for its unique, historic landscape design.

The walking tour won the prestigious statewide Richard M. Driehaus Preservation Award for educational programs in 1995.

For more information, contact Greg Vogeles at 788-6622 or Jill Doak at 793-3442.

### Ziggy



# Your Family Tree

Going out on a limb can become a real obsession

By Karl Stegler  
Staff writer

Chris Fiedler's obsession began when she was antique shopping in Iowa. She picked up a copy of the 1949 "Who's Who in Iowa" and found two people with her name. Not knowing if she was related to them, she asked an aunt about the connection.

"From that moment I got stuck. It's really weird to find people you're related to, dead or alive," said Ms. Fiedler, the first vice president of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

When she was growing up she was told her grandfather was an only child. Ms. Fiedler later found out that after her grandfather's father died, his mother remarried and he had half-sisters. "Finding all these people is incredible," she said.

Scharlott Goettach Hiebins of Davenport, who has studied genealogy for 36 years, said tracing family trees is becoming more popular because of today's fast-paced, busy society.

"Families are not as close as they used to be and we lose those connections," she said. "It makes history much more exciting if you can relate your family to a certain time period and certain events."

The first step in tracing a family tree is to talk to all living relatives and get as much information from them as possible, especially names, dates, and places. Write down everything, even the things that might seem trivial because they may come in handy later. To organize the information, use forms like family group sheets and descendant charts, or special computer programs geared for genealogical work.

"When you look at it you see the gaps and that's when you start to search," said Pamela Langston, librarian of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

To be successful a genealogist should learn what kinds of written records are available, where to find them and what information will be revealed. There are two main types: primary records (the original copies, like a birth certificate or a will) and secondary records (such as indexes or other published records that are not the authentic sources). Primary records are more reliable than the secondary sources because they recorded the event when it happened.

Several kinds of written records provide helpful information. A birth certificate gives many leads because it lists the names of the parents, the mother's maiden name, where the parents were born and the date of birth. Cemeteries are also helpful, and many genealogical societies or local libraries have listings of who is buried. Wills sometimes give information on relations that were overlooked. "Sometimes there is a big squabble in the family and you might not know they (certain relations) existed before," Ms. Langston said.

Government census reports, cur-

PLEASE SEE **SEARCH, B5**



John F. Ebers / staff  
Pamela Langston of Rock Island uses modern technology to aid her in her search for her ancestors from long ago.

Tell us about your famous ancestors

Was one of your ancestors a famous person? If your genealogy search has proven that you are related to some famous person from the past, we'd like to hear from you. Contact the Life Department at 786-6441, ext. 274.

ONLINE WITH GEORGE COTTAY



Genealogy site search a good test of the Web

Among other things, the Internet is a vast and chaotic reference library with the Web its most easily used portion. Just how accessible is it?

As a service to Online readers, I conducted a modest experiment using myself as the guinea pig. It's true that rats are more often used as lab animals, but guinea pigs are a marginally better sound to it.

Here's the experiment: Beginning with almost complete ignorance of a subject, can one gain some basic working knowledge of it using only the World Wide Web?

Why is it always dirty runs or dogs? Why don't we hear about dirty opossums or kangaroos? Are marsupials all so prairie? What about the rotting eucalyptus smell of the koala? And why is providing adverse information raring someone out?

Any of those would have served as possible experimental questions, but Sherry Teggett provided a much better one.

Sherry works in the Life Department, often doing the layout for these pages. That makes her question an important one. When a person who can put my peppy words away below the fold on the left side of an even numbered page asks, this writer delivers. It's an assignment right up there with washing the editor's car every Saturday.

Sherry kind enough to wash her own car just asked for some good genealogy sites. Bingo, a perfect question.

About the only thing I know about the subject is how easily it can be spelled "genealogy." Move me beyond second cousins and severe head scratching results. I can begin the experiment starting from dead zero.

In case you want to skip the details and get on with reading Mary Wirth or the horoscope, I'll tell you now that the experiment was a resounding success. In less than 15 minutes, using simple search techniques, Sherry and I had enough high quality genealogy sites to keep us busy for the next month.

I started out the quick and stupid way using Alta Vista, my favorite quick and dirty search service, for a simple word search on "genealogy." Immediately I learned something. You and I are not the only orthographically challenged people in the world. A number of people who proudly present their family trees on the web are convinced they have done "genealogy" not genealogy.

After wasting about a minute being confused about spelling, back I went to Alta Vista to search on

PLEASE SEE **COTTAY, B5**

## Here's help for starting your search

**Need help or guidance in tracing your family tree?** Here are just a few of them:  
<http://www.Statist.com/iv/ai/one.html>

**GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES:** There are several libraries in the Quad-Cities that can help you get started tracing your family tree. They include: the Davenport Stake Branch Genealogy Library in Davenport, which is directed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4929 N. Wisconsin Ave., Davenport, 386-7547; the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, 822 11th Ave. Drive, Moline, 764-0590; and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, 3530 7th Ave., Rock Island, 784-7264.

**ON THE INTERNET:** There are several World Wide Web sites devoted to genealogy that provide information on how to start

tracing your family tree. Here are just a few of them:  
<http://www.Statist.com/iv/ai/one.html>

This site tells how to get past the "Stone Wall Syndrome," or when you are unable to trace a line back any further. It also tells which records to look up for information like age, birth date, divorce, etc.

[http://www.evertom.com/FAQ/FAQ\\_STARTING](http://www.evertom.com/FAQ/FAQ_STARTING)  
This site tells which types of records you should begin looking at and then which to move onto.

[http://www.evertom.com/GENEALOG\\_LDSFHLS](http://www.evertom.com/GENEALOG_LDSFHLS)  
The largest collection of

genealogical materials in the world is housed in the Family History Library in Utah. The Church of Latter-Day Saints is actively involved in collecting and storing past records and offer their resources and help to interested genealogists.

[http://www.evertom.com/GENEALOG\\_GENEALOG\\_RESEARCH](http://www.evertom.com/GENEALOG_GENEALOG_RESEARCH)  
This site offers a good run down on how to get started researching your family tree. It gives real life experiences of the author about his work, which makes for an interesting read.

For more genealogy sites on the Web, see today's online column by George Cottay, at the top right corner of this page.



James Mahlo with grandfather Ray Mahlo and father David Mahlo.

run-of-the mill type of venture, had it not been for his grandparents' intervention prior to his trip. Ray and Ruth Mahlo of Rock Island brought out their ancient family album — a red velour book — loaded with photos of their forebearers in starched white collars and woolen suits — the kind proper Germans wear.

After looking at all those faces of his relatives who had once populated Germany, James wanted to know more. He was especially fascinated by the stories about his great great grandparents, Carl and Henrietta Mahlo, who migrated to America in 1884. She came on a ship with two children and her husband on another. They lived first in Minnesota, then Kansas and finally got one of the last parcels of land in Oklahoma in a land race, according to Mr. Mahlo.

Now genealogy was in young James's blood. The first in his family to return to Germany in 110 years, he was anxious to know more about the family tree. He went to attend the University of Passau near the Austrian border of Bavaria. He found little of his family with the spelling of Mahlo, but

persisted, visiting the little Evangelical church and talking to the pastor who provided some information.

At the Institute of Genealogy conducted by the Church of Latter Day Saints in Davenport, he learned much more of the history of his family, even a different spelling, with a "W" added to the name. He then found more and more details, like the dates of births and deaths of his great great grandparents, who had been reared in the suburbs of Berlin.

The family album was passed from Carl Mahlo to his son, Max, who was the great grandfather to James. In the book he wrote: "After I am called off, this book belongs to Max." And now grandfather Ray promises that the book will one day pass to James, who already knows every face between its covers.

This year James is off to Melbourne, Australia, where he will attend the University of Latrobe on a Rotary Scholarship of \$22,000 provided by the Rock Island Rotary Club. He will return to Augustana to graduate in 1998.

The Mahlo family has been en-

gaged for several years in a student exchange program with a German family. Both James and his brother, John, have been hosted by the Oberle family in Zweibrücken. This summer Uli Oberle was a guest in the Mahlo home, the two students being the same age with similar interests.

James is the son of David and Beth Mahlo, 1825 30th St., Rock Island. His father is associated with Sears Manufacturing Co. and his mother is a violin maker. She is also the owner and operator of "Accent on Strings" a music store in Rock Island. She served on the Rock Island City Council for six years and is now a member of the Rock Island Housing Authority. James's brother, John, is a student at the University of Illinois in Chicago. A sister, Maggi, is a student at Alleman.

James D. Mahlo, 19, Rock Island, a student of international business at Augustana College, already speaks fluent German, and continues his interest in languages. While a student at Alleman High School he earned a scholarship — the Congress-Bundestag — which took him to Germany to study.

This might have been just the

### RUBES



Methuselah, frequent target of Old Testament tongue-wagging

ONE OF THE WAYS my family stays strong is through stories about its members. If a large familia is a small tribe, it needs its national literature — and that's what family stories are. And the funnier the stories, the better.

In our family, there are dozens of these stories. Tias I never knew who have made me feel kin to them because of the tales of their escapades. There was my great-grandmother Julia, whose father had married a first cousin with the same surname, Julia. So my great-grandmother's full name was Julia Julia Julia. (In Spanish, we use both our father's and our mother's surnames.) Toward the end of her life, the story goes, she was brought to New York for an operation. As the anesthetic was wearing off, the intensive care nurse began asking her questions to check on her recovery.

"What's your name?" the nurse began. "Julia Julia Julia," my great-grandmother whispered fiercely. "Delirious," the nurse wrote in her chart.

There's also the story of Mamayaya, who didn't speak very good English and went to a supper party at the embassy in Washington, D.C., and bragged that her grandson was in "jail" (the Spanish pronunciation of "Yale"). And then there was my grandmother, who was a great practical joker. Her death was my generation's first big loss. Toward the end of the solemn ceremony, the priest sprinkled holy water into the underground vault and asked God to receive Felicia, wife of Juan Tomas, mother of Manuel and Gustavo, etc., into heaven. Suddenly, a voice called out from the tomb, "I'm still down here!"

Mouths dropped until everyone realized it was the gravedigger!

# Obit page is interesting reading

It's not nearly as grim as Page One

By Murry Frymer

Somewhere around age 50 you discover a section of the newspaper you didn't know was there.

It's the obituary page. Oh, it sounds a little grim, but it is really not so depressing as Page One, where all the murders and plane crashes and other daily horrors are recorded.

Actually, the obituary page is far from grim. It is a page of biographies, summations, score-keeping and tributes. And it is a page of numbers.

Almost all obituaries and their headlines have numbers in them — the age of the deceased. That's a critical part of the scorekeeping.

And the easy part. How well or how poorly the deceased lived takes more information, often more information than the writer of the obituary has on hand, and on a busy day, is interested in exploring. So the newspaper prints the age of the deceased up near the beginning, because that, at least, it knows.

I said that interest in this page grows as you reach 50 or so. At that

point you begin to compare your own age to the ages in the obits. Are you older, younger? You can't read the obit page without being very aware of your own age.

The older you are, the more likely the obits will include a one-time friend or acquaintance. Or all those celebrities who were part of your world and are, to your amazement, leaving it.

It's curious what in our lives will

**The obituary page is far from grim. It is a page of biographies, summations, score-keeping and tributes. And it is a page of numbers.**

be remembered. Sometimes for the more famous it's a single action or phrase. For example, when Spiro Agnew died the other day, virtually every obituary referred to the Agnew speech wherein he called the press "those nattering nabobs of negativism."

Agnew didn't write that himself. Reports are that it was speech-writer (now columnist) William Safire. But the remark stuck to Agnew more than anything else for which he was known, including years of corruption.

I wonder if Agnew realized when he spoke of us nabobs that that was the way he would be forever remembered. Would he have preferred another memorial?

Most of us have no such quick handles. We are not "Wrong Way Corrigan" or, as in a story Tuesday, the woman who was once tethered to her daughter. We are a collection of so many events, successes and failures, misplaced hopes and occasional dreams-come-true. Obituaries are a tough story to tell and who has the time?

Instead, we get the scorekeeping. How many wives? How many kids? How many homes, degrees, from which college? What were our jobs? And, finally, of course, how did we die?

Even some of this can be fascinating. I shout over to Barb: "Hey, did you know that so-and-so had five wives?" And she makes her own summation: "He must have been a louse to live with." It doesn't say so

in the obit, but all those scores give us clues.

Still, few obits really get to the nitty gritty. I'd like to know the day on which the deceased was happiest and why? And before his heart tope, as there a day on which it was broken?

Who did the deceased love the most and did she marry him? And what did the deceased have to do to earn so much money and did it bother him?

Some national newspapers have obituary writers who interview men and women prior to their deaths.

I doubt that they get truly honest answers to sensitive questions. Why leave a lousy last impression? (Though it is flattering, of course, that it will be in the New York Times.)

I don't know that I would want to reveal anything painful or foolish to an obituary writer.

I think I would mention that I once shared some laughs with Lucille Ball and she thought I was very funny. Stuff like that.

Yeah, put that in the lead.

Murry Frymer is a columnist for the San Jose Mercury News.

## OPINION

# Personalized Obituary Service offers the best of all worlds

It's often been said that you can count on getting your name in the newspaper twice during your lifetime — when you're born and when you die.

How a person is remembered will, I believe, change for the good with the initiation of a new Personalized Obituary Service policy beginning with the Tuesday, Dec. 17 issue of The Argus and The Dispatch.

For as long as I've been at The Argus, we have treated obituaries as news items with their content dictated by the newsroom to include only that information we deemed essential.

This also helped us keep the amount of space that obituaries consumed in the paper to a reasonable length.

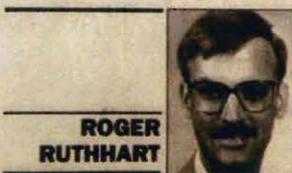
It also caused some bad feelings when we were occasionally forced to tell a grieving family member that we would not include some tidbit of information they wanted in a relative's obituary.

With the initiation of the new policy, we will both be able to have our way.

Under the new policy, basic obituaries of 25 lines will be published as news items for free. If families want expanded or non-traditional content in an obituary, they can add that for a fee.

Here is how the Personalized Obituary Service works.

Families are asked to follow the Obituary Form, which we provide, for the beginning portion of the



ROGER RUTHHART

obituary covering basic details about the deceased — name, address, funeral services. This is so that the obituary section of the paper has a consistency that serves the needs of readers.

Now, however, families also may choose to include personalized information and wording. Families will be asked to include the name of the funeral home in case readers have questions about the funeral services.

Up to 25 lines, including a half-column photo, can be published at no cost.

A fee of \$2 is charged for each line, full or partial, over 25 on the first printing. If the family wants multiple printings of the obituary, the \$2 rate applies to the full obituary in subsequent printings. There is no charge for Death Notices or for inclusion in the Deaths and Funerals Today lists.

So what does all of this mean? There are approximately seven lines per inch in our obituaries. Adding one inch of additional information that family members want included in the obituary would result in a minimal cost of \$14. Don't

forget, the first 25 lines are free. No one will ever be left out of the newspaper because family members can't afford the obituary as is the case in many other cities.

Families can pay the newspapers directly at the time of publication, or be billed at a local address by the newspapers. Major credit cards are accepted.

We believe this new service offers

**It's often been said that you can count on getting your name in the newspaper twice during your lifetime — when you're born and when you die.**

the best of all worlds. Family members get what they want, the funeral home escapes frequent conflicts between families and the newspaper over special-request obituary content, and the newspapers offset some of the cost of publishing longer obituaries.

## More Jobs & Money

Perhaps you noticed Friday that we have begun an improved and ex-

panded Jobs & Money Extra section in The Argus.

The changes aren't dramatic, but as we're prone to do here, we've been tinkering in an effort to provide our readers with a more useful section.

There will be some changes on other days of the week as well.

Our daily stock summaries will now feature reports on the Dow Jones Industrials and the Lipper Mutual Fund indexes.

Each day it will include the 10 most active and 10 leading gainers and losers.

The Stocks of Local Interest list will be expanded daily and we will continue to offer our Exclusive Bloomberg Quad-Cities Stock Index.

The most interesting of the industry comparisons which we have been featuring daily in Jobs & Money, will appear on Friday, while some others will be eliminated.

The section will feature more computer consumer news, more personal finance information and advice, and more workplace news. The popular Joan Lloyd column will also appear each Friday.

Friday will also feature expanded local business news and more personal finance and investment news.

Look for Jobs & Money Extra each Friday in The Argus.

Roger Ruthhart is managing editor of The Rock Island Argus.



Legion reunion in 1994

# Kinfolk

by Richard H. Schneider  
Guideposts Senior Staff Editor

When my family and I traveled to the Jones family reunion in southern Illinois two summers ago, I didn't expect to gain a helpful new insight in meeting people.

This get-together happens because back in 1880 James Jones, a young Illinois farmer, married Anne Smith. She died during the birth of her third child and James later married Melvina Billings. They had three additional children. Today, their progeny numbers well over one hundred, including my wife, Betty, our children and grandchildren.

The 1994 reunion was held in early August in a lakeside park near Effingham, Ill., where vistas of green tasseled corn waved even higher than an elephant's eye. When I stepped out of our car at the picnic grounds, I hesitated. Some 70 people had gathered, the women busily unpacking hampers of crisp fried chicken, corn on the cob, green beans with bacon, and other heartland specialties. They had come from all over the United States. I felt a bit apprehensive and shy about meeting so many strangers.

Then I remembered: All of us were from the same family. We were related. I relaxed. And, in the freedom of this assurance, I mingled easily with the Joneses, the Weidners, the Hanbaums, and all the others, reminiscing, sharing experiences, enjoying warm fellowship. When a hazy orange sun sank behind surrounding oak trees, the day had ended too soon.

As Betty and I drove back to our motel, an illumination struck me. Why can't we be this way with every new person we encounter? Meet him or her in the same confident expectation of goodwill with which we would greet a relative.

After all, Jesus said, "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:50, Revised Standard Version). Doesn't that make us kinfolk?

Blessed be the ties: Jones family reunion in 1994



# Erosion creates grave problems

By Kurt Allemeyer  
Staff writer

EAST MOLINE — The appearance of Harvey Vanorder's family is causing a stink — and it's not because the family has been dead nearly 100 years.

A 3-foot-high tombstone inscribed with the names of Vanorder, his wife Polly and an older relative Walter, along with birth and death dates, recently turned up in an East Moline ravine. It happened as Chuck Moody and Patricia DeKeyper were walking in the ravine behind their houses along 4th Street Court, examining an on-going erosion problem.

"(The erosion) has gotten worse in the last two years, so we were checking things out, and that is what set us up to find the tombstone," Ms. DeKeyper said last week. "I have been complaining about trees falling down here. (The city) needs to go down in the ravine to see how bad it has gotten."

Residents once could step or jump across the creek bed at the bottom of the ravine. Now, it is 12 feet wide in places and causing trouble, even as it lets residents discover some history.

After finding the tombstone, Mr. Moody resorted to some deft horror-movie descriptions when he addressed the city council about the problem earlier this month.

"I said the ravine was eroding and a tombstone was starting to wash up and, what are they waiting for, the bodies to wash down (the creek)," he said.



Chuck Thomas / staff

The tombstone of Harvey Vanorder, who died in 1900, lies in the bottom of a ravine behind a house in the 2700 block of 4th Street Court, East Moline, where it was washed by rain water flowing through the ravine. According to homeowners, the tombstones from an old cemetery were dumped in the ravine when the houses in their neighborhood were built in the 1950s.

## PEOPLE'S PULPIT

### Obituary policy adds to high cost of dying

Dear Editor, The Argus: The high cost of dying just went up. Your family now has to pay to tell their friends of your death. So much for respect that your community involvement, sharing, and caring has earned.

One of the reasons that I brought my family back from the Chicago area is a feeling that our community really cares, a feeling of togetherness. The papers of the Quad-Cities should reflect this. It should not be the commercial impersonal approach Chicago Tribune must use because of the community's size.

Here in the Quad-Cities, there are fewer people, so that you can keep

track of friends and their families. One can look in the paper for news of a death in their family. With this important notice, you can go to the wake, send a card, or bring them a meal. The area is small enough that hopefully we haven't lost that personal caring touch.

On Friday Dec. 13, you ran an "AD" selling obituaries. Selling to make obituaries more personal and longer.

At the same time, you informed your loyal readers that this source of local interest news took too much room so you were going to curtail them by selling space.

How crass. What a paradox. "Shades of Jessica Mitford." The Dispatch-Argus is going to cash in on the misfortunes of our family

tragedies. Boorishly charging, making a buck during a time of extreme family grief.

We all will die. There isn't a choice. There isn't much of choice for the families and your subscribers to inform the community of their grief except to place the news in the local paper.

Why then charge for this news? You don't charge the police for the news of arrests, the Little League for their scores, our companies for news of their fortunes, nor for the scores of our local sports teams.

Why not charge the commercial sports ventures for their latest game results and commentaries? Or charge the lottery for posting the winning numbers?

They make money off of you re-

porting the news, shouldn't they pay?

It is sad that the only recognition some persons get in a newspaper is their obituary. Why charge them for that little bit of final history?

**Cy Galley,  
Rock Island**

Editor's note: The new policy does not require families to pay anything to announce the death of a loved one. We offer enough free space (25 lines) for a basic obituary announcement. Families wishing to further memorialize their loved one may do so in their own words at a modest cost.

# ROOTED in SLAVERY

## Book chronicles woman's search for ancestors

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Legend has it that each year at Christmas, Jacob Booe would give the slaves on his Rowan County, N.C., plantation a vacation for as long as the yule log would burn: usually a day or so. The slaves, however, figured out that if they soaked the log in creek water, it would burn much longer.

It was an ingenious discovery, especially since they had to figure out just how long was long enough. If they soaked the log too long, it would just smoke.

The Booe family passed down this tale through its generations. About three years ago, Paul Griffith of Kannapolis, N.C., Booe's great-great-great-grandson, told it to Katie Brown Bennett of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Now Bennett has written a book titled "Soaking the Yule Log."

It's a chronicle of one woman's search for her slave ancestry, a search that led her to North Carolina and the descendants of those who bought and sold her forebears.

But Bennett's book isn't a mere remodeling of Alex Haley's famed "Roots" saga; it's intended as a guidebook for people who want to trace their heritage, especially African-Americans, who may become discouraged by the lack of information on slave families.

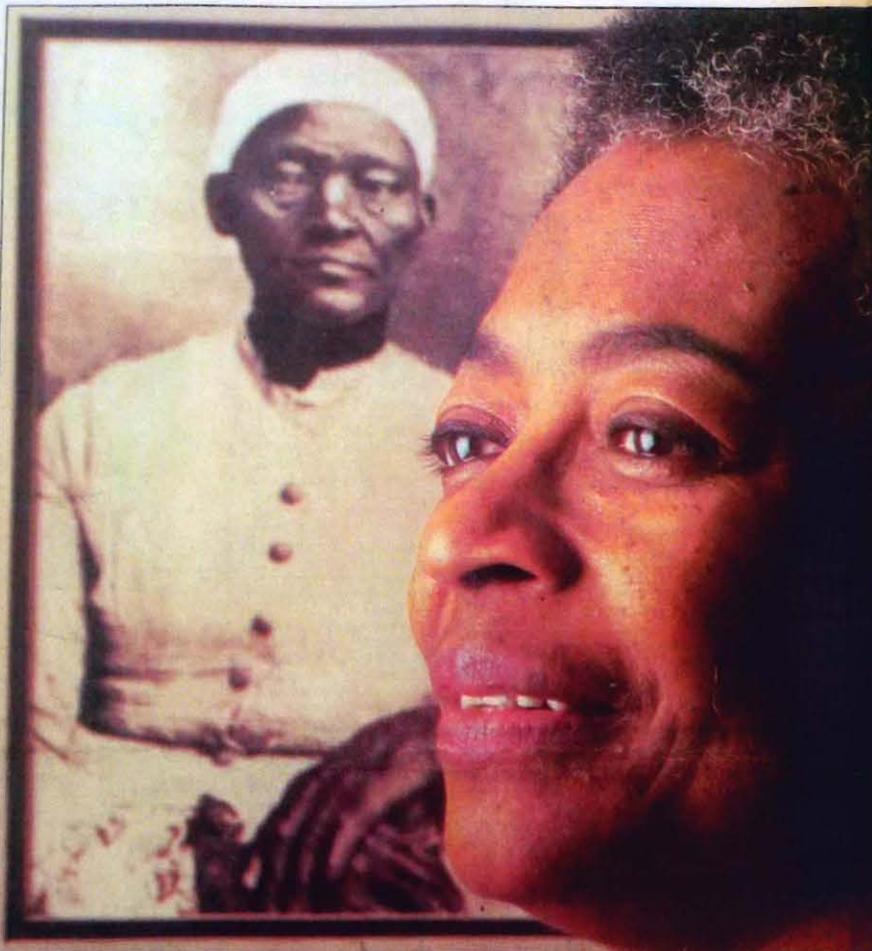
Tracing African-American lineages is a fairly systematic process until you get back to 1870, says Bennett. Marriage and birth records, land and property deeds and census records yield a wealth of information. But census reports didn't list African-Americans by surnames until 1870, she says.

"Things change when you get back to slavery," says Bennett, 56. "That's when many African-Americans throw up their hands and say, 'Forget it. I'm not going to find anything.'"

But Bennett, undaunted, simply changed her approach: "I realized that to find my slave families, I had to first identify their owners."

She assumed two things about her slave ancestors: that they took the surnames of their most recent owners, and that they continued to live in the same counties.

Once she identified the plantation owners whose names were the same as her former-slave ancestors, she asked herself: "What are the situations that would cause a slave owner to write down his slaves' names?"



Author Katie Brown Bennett stands by a photo of her great-great-grandmother, Annie, a slave on a Virginia plantation.

## Author offers tips to help you start your search

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

"Soaking the Yule Log," by Katie Brown Bennett, covers 10 generations of several European- and African-American families from North Carolina and Tennessee. For those wanting to attempt a similar genealogical search, Bennett offers the following tips:

■ Talk to older family members about what they remember.

■ Get as much information as possible from elderly friends of the family. They are often more open than family members.

■ Always try to find out the county or

city where ancestors lived.

■ Find a genealogy center or go to the library archives. Research census records. Try to find something that will get you back to at least 1920. That gets you close to grandchildren of former slaves. Their names may give you clues to the name of the plantation owner.

■ Search for marriage and birth records, land and property deeds, wills and estate settlements.

■ Make use of online services like genealogy bulletin boards.

■ Try to find living descendants, black and white, to learn anecdotes passed down through the generations.

Other resources include "Black Genealogy," by Charles Blockson, a reference handbook that tells how to research a family history; and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society in Washington.

Bennett wants to hear from anyone with information about her ancestors. To share information or order her book, "Soaking the Yule Log: Biographical Sketches of the Brown, Cheshier, Saxe and Allied Families, 1749-1965," write to Katie Brown Bennett, P.O. Box 49732, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9732. The book costs \$42, plus \$3.24 shipping and handling for each copy.

She pored over wills and estate settlements, where slaves were often mentioned by names and ages. This is how she traced her Cheshier lineage — her mother's family line — to her great-great-grandfather Squire, a freed slave who lived in Hardeman County, Tenn.

Bennett found Squire in the 1870 census. He had taken the surname Cheshier. She searched 1880 census records for plantation owners named Cheshier and found three. Because she knew Squire's age and the age of his wife and children from the 1870 census, she was able to match him with a description of slaves owned by Eve Cheshier. But she still had to verify the slave was indeed Squire.

In checking the 1890 census data on Eve Cheshier, Bennett learned that Cheshier's husband, Tension, had died in 1846. She found a copy of Tension Cheshier's will and estate inventory.

"There were something like 13 hogs, four cows, so many pigs and 12 slaves," recalls Bennett. "Then it names the 12 slaves, and there was Squire, 31 years old."

Bennett's screams shattered the hushed reading room at the Colorado Springs Family History Center. "Yes! Yes!"

She had been looking for Squire for about six weeks. He was the first ancestor she'd been able to trace to a specific plantation.

"I felt especially victorious because I had been advised not to get my hopes up," says Bennett. "I was told it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find references to my family as slaves."

Bennett discovered that Eve and Tension Cheshier had moved to Hardeman County from Rowan County, N.C. Eventually, she traced eight family lines to Rowan, Davie, Northampton, Wake, Franklin and Warren counties in North Carolina.

"North Carolina is filled with documented history for both black and white families," says Bennett, an Illinois native. "I found slave bills of sale, wills, estate settlements, antebellum plantation records and other data which helped me uncover my roots."

During her research on the Booe family, Bennett contacted the Rowan County Library. As chance would have it, she found a genealogist there who knew that Paul Griffith in Kannapolis had been researching the same family.

Bennett called Griffith, one of several white plantation

PLEASE SEE # ROOTS, 69

## ▶ ROOTS

FROM PAGE G1

descendants she'd been able to locate. As she had with the others, she approached the subject gently.

"I would try to introduce myself in a neutral way," she says. "When I would say I'm a descendant from one of the slaves on that plantation, they're excited about it."

Griffith had been researching his ancestry for several years and had found several other descendants. But Bennett was the only slave descendant he'd heard from.

"It was a little surprising, especially coming from someone out in Colorado," says Griffith, 79. "It's difficult for them to trace because the names frequently changed as they were sold. I admired her for being able to do this."

He shared with Bennett everything he knew about his maternal grandmother's family — the Booes — including the yule log legend.

"Folks up in Davie County passed it on down to me," he says.

It's important to find living descendants both white and black, says Bennett. "You don't find the anecdotes in court records."

Sometimes the descendants of plantation owners call Bennett. That's what Carol Melton of Burlington, N.C., did when she was working on a documentary about one of her ancestors, Maj. William Williams, who died in Warren County, N.C., in 1838. Two of Bennett's great-great-great-grandmothers, Grace and Penny, were slaves on Williams' Franklin County, N.C., plantation.

Melton's research involved tracing three families with the same surname — two black, one white — to see where they ended up and if they ended up together.

"I was looking for particular slaves," says Melton, 36. "I knew their names. I knew how old they were. But I had no idea who owned them. Katie was the one who knew the most about the Williams family. She had estate inventories with names and ages and the wills."

Melton, a history teacher at Elon College, has invited Bennett to speak to the students in her class on slavery.

Griffith has also extended an invitation to Bennett, whom he now calls "Cousin Katie."

"I told her if she would let me know, she could come to Salisbury and see where it all happened."

ding anniversary.

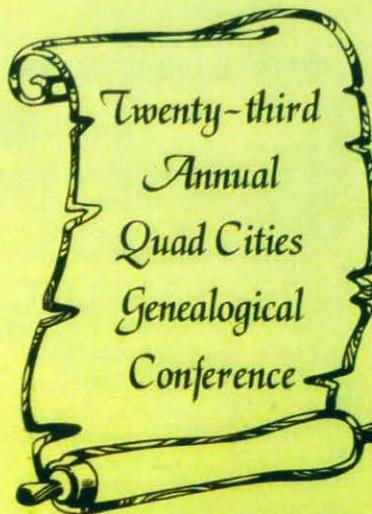
The former Betty Smith

Cook County courthouses are located in Chicago, Skokie, Rolling Meadows, Maywood.

**Blackhawk  
Genealogical  
Society**



**Annual Dinner Meeting  
November 12, 1996  
South Park Presbyterian Church  
Rock Island, Illinois**



Saturday  
April 19, 1997 from  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
at the  
Viking Club of Moline  
1450 - 41st Street  
Moline, Illinois



**TUESDAY - 1997**

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**, 7 p.m. at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island; program is a book share and social hour.

## **June Chuckle**

**Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.**

1997

**BLACKHAWK  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**



Serving  
Rock Island County  
and the surrounding area  
Since 1972

*Learn to research and preserve  
your family history. Join today!*

Welcome, Judy Rueckert

Invocation

Menu

Beef Stroganoff  
on Noodles  
Waldorf Salad  
Glazed Carrots  
Relish Tray/Rolls/Coffee  
Mandarin Orange Cake

Installation of 1997 Officers

Program

Benton McAdams on  
"The Rock Island Confederate Prison"

*Featured Speaker*

**Joan Kirchman Mitchell**

Joan Kirchman Mitchell is a speaker of national repute and associated with Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. She has headed the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference committee and is Vice President, Administration. Her home is in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Dr. Mitchell speaks on two underused aspects of census records, to give us better understanding of what we can find. She will also discuss two futuristic aspects of genealogy in this changing world.

In addition to a directorship with Samford's Institute, Dr. Mitchell holds memberships in the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) Genealogical Society, the Augusta (Georgia) Genealogical Society and the National Genealogical Society. She is a charter member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild plus membership in the Association of Professional Genealogists.

She holds a PhD, is a magna cum laude, biology and chemistry graduate of Radford College (Virginia), retired Assistant Dean, University of Alabama; and continues to teach anatomy and physiology, reproduction, heredity and honors biology.

*Sponsored by*

**Blackhawk Genealogical Society  
and  
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society**

*Program Schedule*

**Saturday, April 19, 1997**

- 8:00 - 8:50 am  
Registration and an opportunity for you to browse through the exhibits
- 8:50 - 9:00 am  
Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 - 10:05 am  
Dr. Mitchell: "An Overview of U.S. Federal Census Schedules: Population, Mortality, Agriculture, Manufacture, Social and Civil War Veterans."
- 10:05 - 10:25 am  
Coffee and Browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am  
Dr. Mitchell: "Putting Flesh on Your Ancestors Using the Agriculture, Manufacture, Mortality and Social Census Schedules."
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Lunch and Browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Dr. Mitchell: "The Importance of Knowing Your Family Health History and How to Compile It."
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm  
Coffee and Browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm  
Dr. Mitchell: "Umbilical Lines Research: Proving and Extending Your Family Lines Biologically As Well As Historically."
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm  
Closing Remarks

*Door prize drawings  
throughout the day!*

## Thousands use Mormon centers

By Kerry Duff-Weintraut  
Correspondent

DAVENPORT — People who don't know their family history may find the joy and excitement of discovering their ancestors at the Quad Cities Family History Center.

"The Davenport center is a branch of the world's largest genealogical library in Salt Lake City, Utah," says Bonnie Kerry, director. "It's sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which considers researching family history a religious obligation. But it's open to the public, and people of all religions are welcome here."

The Family History Center is located in a new wing of the Mormon church at 4929 N. Wisconsin Ave., Davenport. The center has been open to the public since 1984, and the church built the new wing in 1995 to accommodate the growing number of people that visit.

"Our center is one of more than 2,000 family-history centers throughout the world," Ms. Kerry said. "In 1993 over 4,000 people visited us here, and last year it was up to over 6,000 people. We were literally running out of room, but our new facility should take us well into the future."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints established its family-history library in Salt Lake City in 1894. It has become the largest of its kind in the world by collecting 1.5 million rolls of microfilm, 200,000 microfiche, more than 195,000 books, 8 million family-group record forms, and many other records.

Most of the microfilm was acquired through an extensive microfilming program that began in 1938. The originals are preserved in a vault in the mountains near Salt Lake City, but copies are



Clara Mortiboy and Mildred Hean, both of Davenport, get help with the Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers from Bonnie Kerry, director of the Quad Cities Family History Center in Davenport. The center is a branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which considers researching family history a religious obligation.

available at the Family History Library and family-history centers.

Ms. Kerry, director for 13 years, says family-history research involves five steps: identifying what you know about your family, deciding what you want to learn, selecting records to research, obtaining and searching the records, and using the information.

"The first step is recalling as much information about yourself and family members as you can," she said. "Record what you know on a pedigree chart and family-group record (available at the center), and estimate dates and places if necessary."

"A pedigree chart provides space to record information on

four generations — yourself, your parents, grandparents, and your great-grandparents," she explained. "A family-group record provides space to record information about parents and their children, which is what you need for each couple on the pedigree chart."

It's helpful if you've already done steps one and two before you come into the center, she added, but there are trained volunteers to assist persons who need help.

To gather information, the director suggests talking to relatives and looking for journals, scrapbooks, old letters, family Bibles, and copies of birth, marriage and death certificates, school and military records, obituaries, deeds and wills.

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"It's best to search compiled records first," Ms. Kerry said. "You can save a lot of time by seeing what information others have already found out about your family. Compiled records can usually be searched quickly and easily."

Records at the library are arranged by geographical area. The call number of the record tells where it is located in the library and whether it is a book, microfilm or microfiche. The center has 10 microfilm and eight microfiche readers, several photocopying machines and computers, plus complete instructions on how to use the equipment and conduct research.

Records on microfilm and microfiche not available at the Davenport center can be ordered from Salt Lake City. Orders will arrive in one to three weeks. Books, however, cannot be lent to family history centers. Although using the information is free, a small fee is charged to cover mailing costs from Utah.

Ms. Kerry said any information found should be added to the pedigree chart and family-group records. Computer programs are available to help organize the records.

"You can help make research easier and faster for yourself and others by sharing the results of your research," she said. "If you've written a family history, compiled an index, or created a data-base of genealogical information, it can be placed in the Family History Library to be preserved and used by others."

The Quad Cities Family History Center is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. For information, call 386-7547.

Kerry Duff-Weintraut / correspondent

# Searching for ancestors

## Thousands use Mormon centers

By Kerry Duff-Weintraut  
Correspondent

DAVENPORT — People who don't know their family history may find the joy and excitement of discovering their ancestors at the Quad Cities Family History Center.

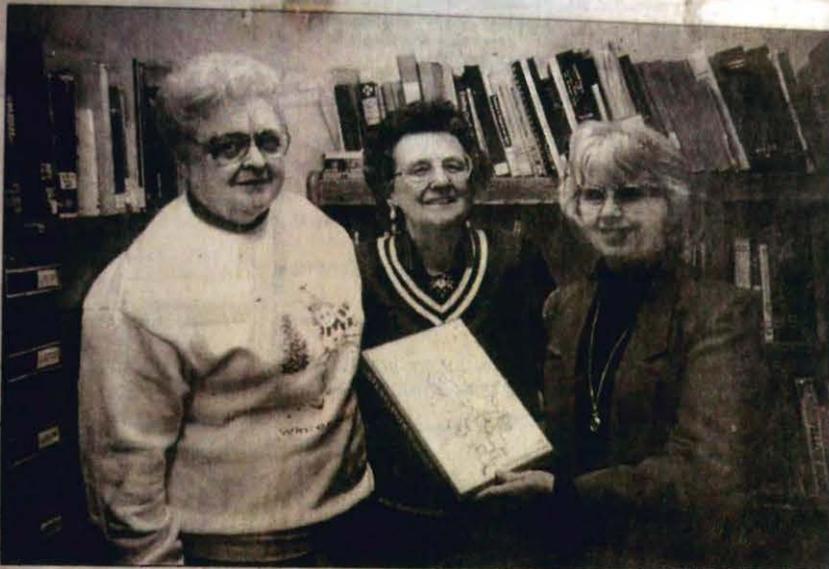
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To gather information, the director suggests talking to relatives and looking for journals, scrapbooks, old letters, family Bibles, and copies of birth, marriage and death certificates, school and military records, obituaries, deeds and wills.

After the first two steps are complete, researchers are encouraged to select one ancestor they want to learn more about, and then to select records to search.

"Begin with someone you already have some information on," Ms. Kerry said. "You will need at least their surname and some idea of when and where they lived. If possible, select an ancestor before 1920, because most of the library's records date from before 1920."

Most records in the Family History Library are described in the Family History Catalog, which lists books, microfilm and microfiche available in the library. Basic categories include compiled records (previous research on indi-

viduals and families already done by others); original records, created at the time of important events in your ancestors' lives, such as births, christenings or burials; and background information dealing with geographical, historical, or cultural information, such as local histories, maps, gazetteers, language directories and guidebooks.

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Lyal Swenson

**Mary Morrissey**

Mary Ellen Morrissey, 88, of Davenport, formerly of Moline, died Tuesday, April 29, 1997, at Samaritan North Medical Center, Clinton. Visitation will be today at Hall

**Mary Morrissey**

Mary E. Morrissey, 82, of Fenton, Ill., died Tuesday, April 29, 1997, at Samaritan North Medical Center, Clinton.



Services will be 11 a.m. Friday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Albany. Burial will be in Erie Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Thursday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. with a vigil service at 6 p.m. at the Gibson Funeral Home, Erie. A memorial fund has been established.

The former Mary Johnson was born Dec. 6, 1915, in Cordova, the daughter of Edmund and Emma Miller Johnson. She married Michael Morrissey May 27, 1936, in Geneseo. He died July 21, 1972. She retired from Swift and Company, Clinton, in 1972 after 15 years of service.

She was a member of the church. Survivors include daughters, Patricia Kennedy, Erie, Sandra Siefken, Gurney, Ill., Emma Jean Adkins, Clinton, Michaelene Miller, Albany, Glenda Walker, Maquoketa, Iowa, Cynthia Hill, Bellevue, Iowa, Linda Kay Schroeder, Lost Nation, Iowa, Mary Beth Carpenter, Clinton, and Betty Jean Matzen, Parkview, Iowa; sons, Donald, Leland and Thomas, all of Putnam, Ill., Robert, Chicago, John, Lakeland, Fla., Michael, Mahomet, Ill., and Rickey Joseph, Fenton, Ill.; 54 grandchildren; and 40 great-grandchildren.

*110 living descendants!*

**Marilou Morrissey**

Marilou S. Morrissey, 70, Kewanee, formerly of Peoria, died Sunday, May 4, 1997, at Kewanee Hospital.

Services are 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kewanee, where she was a member. Burial is in National Cemetery, Arsenal Island.

Visitation is 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Cavanaugh and Schueneman, Kewanee, with a wake service at 8:45. Memorials may be made to American Lung Association.

Marilou Schulte was born Jan. 23, 1927, in Mattoon, Ill., to Bernard and Mary Campbell Schulte. She married Paul F. Morrissey Aug. 30, 1952, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He died Dec. 17, 1987.

Survivors include daughters Julie Paker, East North Port, N.Y., and Kate Cannon, Hilton Head, S.C.; 14 grandchildren; sisters Bobby Wolf, Litchfield, Ill., and Jackie Lynxwiler, Cedar Rapids; and a brother, Dave Schulte.

Merly of Hillsdale, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997, at Hillcrest Home, Geneseo.



Services are 1:30 p.m. Monday at Gibson Funeral Home, Port Byron. Burial is in Zuma Cemetery. Visitation is 12:30 p.m. to service time.

She was born Dec. 31, 1895, to Daniel and Loretta Moody

Mumma. She was a graduate of the former Port Byron Academy. She was a member of the Genealogy Society, played the organ at several churches, and enjoyed researching history of the Upper Rock Island County area. Survivors include special friends Burdette and Marge Toppert, Sillis.

**Mary Morrissey**

By L. D. HEINTZ  
Dispatch Correspondent



The teapot was on the stove at Mary Morrissey's. It often is. The tea often is from the British Isles, carried back to Moline by Morrissey as she returns with the small group of people she has helped trace their antecedents.

She studied genealogy in Washington, D.C., and the British Isles is her specialty.

She studied genealogy in Washington, D.C., and the British Isles is her specialty. In Moline, she said, she had a special interest in the area. She said the injection method was 75 to 90 percent successful. Based on this and other studies showing that the injection method was 75 to 90 percent successful, he said. The chymopapain treated patients increased to 30 percent while the pain relief in the reporting pain relief from the placebo fell to 10 percent. However, a follow-up study revealed that over time the number of patients reporting pain relief from the placebo fell to 10 percent, he explained. However, a follow-up study revealed that over time the number of patients reporting pain relief from the placebo fell to 10 percent, he explained. However, a follow-up study revealed that over time the number of patients reporting pain relief from the placebo fell to 10 percent, he explained. However, a follow-up study revealed that over time the number of patients reporting pain relief from the placebo fell to 10 percent, he explained.

**FAMOUS**

FROM PAGE B1

"President Johnson was impeached," Ms. Fox says, recalling the president who followed Abraham Lincoln into office but was ousted before serving a full term. "So not a lot of people in the family I guess talked about him through the years. There was this old family Bible that had Johnson crossed out and Jackson written in, because he (Johnson) was impeached, and Andrew Jackson was famous."

As for John Alden and Priscilla Mullens, they are Ms. Fox's 13th great-grandparents, led to her by a great-grandmother.

No major skeletons dot Ms. Fox's family lines, save for a weird story about 16th century romance and a witch or two.

"A lot of families would intermarry back then, and I wound up being my own cousin," she says. "As funny as it sounds, it's true."

"There was also the first woman accused of witchcraft in Boston, who was excommunicated and kicked out," Ms. Fox says. "She wasn't burned at the stake or anything like that. In fact, she went on to found Portsmouth (Mass.)."

**Remembering the Alamo**

Many of these Quad-Citians with famous ancestors say family facts have been passed from generation to generation.

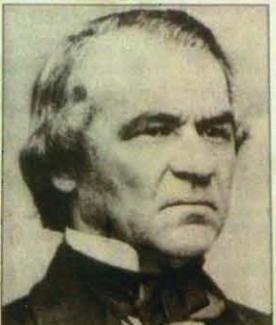
"My mother was big into genealogy," Ms. McMahon says, explaining how she learned of her relation to Davy Crockett, one of the greatest frontiersmen in American history. "We had a handbook chronicling everything, and all the relatives agreed with the references that we had."

A recent trip to Texas, to the Alamo, where Davy Crockett fought and died, reinforced what Ms. McMahon knew all these years.

"We were proud to be there and see what it was all about," she says. "Seeing the Alamo and knowing what we know made it a visit I'll never forget."

The Crockett connection made growing up a lot easier for Ms. McMahon.

"As a kid, and I'm a baby boomer, I related to Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone and the TV series,"



President Andrew Johnson

she says. "I had the coonskin hat and all the stuff."

"We had an old railroad line behind our house, and we pretended it was an Indian trail and played out there. We played it up like all kids would."

Ms. McMahon, proud of what appears to be a rich family heritage, says she has taken to making sure her accounts of having a famous ancestor are written down.

"My mother had primitive methods of saving things — a clunky typewriter and the notebook paper kept in a three-ring binder," she says. "It was a great deal of work for her, and I treasure that. But to make sure my daughter has it all, I decided to write a book and keep everything in form that way."

**A Washington connection**

Winnifred Farmer of Moline is an eighth-generation granddaughter of one of Ohio's greatest heroes, Col. William Crawford, a close friend of George Washington. As well as playing a starring role in the Revolutionary War, Col. Crawford crossed the Potomac with our country's first president.

"I learned about Col. Crawford from family members, with everything having been passed along for many generations," Ms. Farmer, an Ohio native, says. "It's meant more to me as an adult because I've learned the significance of his role in history, but I knew as a kid whenever we had the history books out that he was an ancestor of mine."

Ms. Farmer says it's great to

know you are related to someone so close to the father of our country.

"Col. Crawford had a distinguished career and was a major part of the Revolutionary War," Ms. Farmer says. "And being from Ohio, you learned a great deal about Col. Crawford. And it was special to learn we were related."

But Col. Crawford also suffered the tragedy of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, according to history.

After an Indian village was destroyed by some soldiers, Col. Crawford was captured by a group of Indians looking for revenge. Even though his troops were not guilty of the raid, Col. Crawford was a high-ranking Army official, so he paid the price.

Before being burned at the stake, he was tortured for several days. Accounts say the Indians shot him, poked and cut him with knives, tied him up like a dog on a leash and, after several days, finally burned him at the stake.

**A stand-up ancestor**

Corinne Berry of Rock Island is proud to relate that colonist Miles Standish, who came to America on the Mayflower, is her 11th-generation great-grandfather.

"It was something when I was young that I told people about with great pride," she says. "It was great as a kid to tell someone you had someone come over on the Mayflower."

Ms. Berry says the tracing of her family trail was started by an older aunt, who made sure the family was up to speed on ancestors — famous or otherwise.

"Unfortunately there were no kings of England (in her family tree)," laughs Ms. Berry. "But Miles Standish is pretty famous, and that will do."

Ms. Berry found out her famous ancestor was a stand-up sort. When he lost his first wife to a tough Eastern winter, he married her sister.

"I even think the wedding dress of his first wife is still around — in the Mercer County Museum in Aledo — but he loved his first wife so much he married her sister after she died," says Ms. Berry. "That was kind of interesting."

But then again, tracing one's ancestors — famous or otherwise — is interesting.

# Mary Morrissey

By L. D. HEINTZ  
Dispatch Correspondent

The teapot was on the stove at Mary Morrissey's. It often is. The tea often is from the British Isles, carried back to Moline by Morrissey as she returns with the small group of people she has helped trace their antecedents.

She studied genealogy in Washington, D.C., and the British Isles is her specialty.

She's still a student, too — piano lessons in Moline and voice lessons in Rock Island. She bought a piano in 1979 and began taking lessons soon after. Later in the morning that we talked, she was going with some fellow students to play at Oak Glen Home "for people who aren't as lucky as I am."

Later this month she begins her eighth year as a guide for Black Hawk College senior citizen tours. The first tour will visit several recently completed buildings in the Quad-Cities. "Each tour is an educational experience," avers Morrissey, whose career has been in education.

Morrissey was born and raised in Winterset, Iowa, a county seat town southwest of Des Moines. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in administration at the University of Iowa. As she taught over the years, she took additional courses at the Universities of Denver and Notre Dame.

In 1961, Morrissey arrived in the Quad-Cities to join the faculty of Moline Community College, the forerunner of Black Hawk College. She retired in 1975. Two of her former colleagues, Norma Maynard and Frances Leimkuehler, both of Moline, nominated her for Super Senior recognition.

Morrissey has lived in the same house the past two decades in what she terms "the best neighborhood in town. There are kids of all ages and now I'm the old grandma of the neighborhood." A special friend is a 2-year-old who toddles over from next door.

She belongs to an oral history group, tape recording the recollection of older residents of the area before the memories are gone.

She maintains her membership in the Iowa State Historical Society and is an avid reader of old newspapers from which she collects material she uses in speeches before different groups in the Quad-Cities.

Morrissey also is on the board of the Western Illinois Agency on Aging, an 11-county organization which helps allocate funding for social services.



—Dispatch photo by L. D. Heintz

Mary Morrissey of Moline dons a hat prior to visiting a nursing home where she'll play the piano, an instrument she learned to play after retiring from Black Hawk College. She's also beginning her eighth year as a tour guide for fellow senior citizens.

linois Agency on Aging, an 11-county organization which helps allocate funding for social services.

anking Army officials, as he paid

## Mary Morrissey *A Former Nurse*

Mary Ellen Morrissey, 88, of Davenport, formerly of Moline, died Tuesday, April 2, 1997, at The Kahl Home for the Aged and Infirm in Davenport.



Visitation will be today at Halligan-McCabe Funeral Home from 3 to 8 p.m. A rosary will be recited by the St. Mary's Church, Moline, Altar and Rosary Society at 4 p.m. and a prayer service will be held at 7

p.m.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Winterset, Iowa. Visitation will be Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall in Winterset, Iowa, with burial at St. Patrick's Irish Settlement Cemetery in Cumming, Iowa. Collins Funeral Home, Winterset, Iowa, is in charge of arrangements.

Miss Morrissey was born on Dec. 15, 1908, in Des Moines, Iowa, the daughter of Roger and Ella Tiernan Morrissey.

She was a life-time teacher, having started her career in Madison County, Iowa, in a one-room rural school. She received BA and MA degrees in education administration from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. She also earned a degree in librarianship and has a certificate in archival methods granted by the National Archives in Washington, D.C. She often lectured in genealogy. In 1972, she wrote a textbook on "Training of Librarians in Archival Methods." In line with her library work she had studied creative writing specializing in non-fiction and

In 1972, she wrote a textbook on "Training of Librarians in Archival Methods." In line with her library work she had studied creative writing specializing in non-fiction and editing. Mary won first prize in non-fiction writing for the Mississippi Valley Writers Association.

During the World War II years she served as a principal of the high school in Lone Tree, Iowa, and from there took a similar position in Tipton, Iowa, later going to South Bend, Ind., where she spent four years organizing the undergraduate library at St. Mary's College.

Miss Morrissey made it possible for many children to be schooled and had adopted 10 LaKota Sioux children in recent years, underwriting their schooling from grade one through eighth, always in belief that learning should never stop.

Miss Morrissey came to Moline when Blackhawk College was founded in 1961, which is an affiliate of the Illinois College and Universities System, and remained there until 1983 when she retired as professor emerita. She helped establish the library and archives and taught courses in library usage. Mary was a member of the National Oral History Society with specialty in "interviewing." Mary also served on the Board of Education of the Seton Catholic School System as well as the Peoria Diocesan School Board. In 1975, she was named Woman of the Year by Moline's Federation of Women's Clubs.

United States, Mary was decorated by King Baudouin of Belgium and given the title "Lady Morrissey." This ceremony was in 1976 and conferred upon Mary by the Minister of Belgian Culture who came to Moline from Brussels, Belgium, to honor her. Mary was the first person in this area not of Belgium descent to receive the Knights of King Leopold II award for her untiring efforts to preserve the heritage of the Belgian people who settled in Western Illinois following World War I. Miss Morrissey is responsible for the Belgian Historical Collection housed at Black Hawk College, and for the Belgian lace making exhibit.

Following her retirement she was archivist for the Center of Belgian Culture and coordinator for Blackhawk College Educational Tours, in addition to freelance writing in the non-fiction area. One article on Belgian Culture in the United States was included in "The Encyclopedia of Ethnic Groups."

The onset of ill health curtailed a project of research for the Herbert Hoover Museum and Library. Her work was investigating the years from 1914 to 1918 — the famine in Europe and the Herbert Hoover Relief Programs — her main aspect of the research was the present health of those who survived the famine and interviewing those who migrated to the United States in 1920.

Mary traveled throughout Europe and the British Isles for her historical research and made periodic visits to Ireland to visit relatives and the places of her grandparent's birth and chronicled her family's history in Ireland.

Her parents, two brothers and two sisters preceded her in death. She is survived by a sister, Adorine Smith, with whom she made her home in recent months, and a sister-in-law, Margaret (Mrs. John) Morrissey, both of Davenport. There are many nieces and nephews.



Susan McMahon of Moline holds her mother's picture near other photos of her family, which has been traced back to frontiersman Davy Crockett.

# FAME in the FAMILY

Famous folks found in  
some Q-C family albums

By John Marx  
Staff writer

Sue McMahon thought she was hot stuff as a kid, that she had something else on the rest of her classmates.

The Moline woman is the seventh cousin of famous frontiersman Davy Crockett.

Rock Island's Colleen Fox is a historical buff who has spent countless hours tracing her genealogical background. She's an eighth-generation cousin of President Andrew Johnson, is related in a round-about way to President Ulysses Grant and also boasts the bloodlines of Pilgrims John Alden and his wife, Priscilla Mullens Alden, who came to America on the Mayflower.

Ms. McMahon and Ms. Fox are two of several Quad-Citians who responded to a recent call by The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus for residents who claim to have famous ancestors.

## An impeached relative

"Depending on the season, I'll work 15 to 20 hours per week on tracing ancestral ties," says Ms. Fox, who adds that the Latter-Day Saints library, as well as the Rock Island and Davenport libraries, have been valuable resource centers. "In the summer it gets set aside, but after that I have more time to devote to it."

That research can help fill in holes in a family tree.



ABOVE: Colleen Fox of Rock Island holds her father's picture near other family photographs. Her family tree includes President Andrew Johnson and Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden. BELOW LEFT: Winifred Farmer of Moline holds a family document. One of her ancestors is Col. William Crawford, a close friend of George Washington. BELOW RIGHT: Corinne Berry, Rock Island, looks over documents that trace her family, including a direct connection to early settler Miles Standish.



PLEASE SEE FAMOUS, B3



Barbara Douglass, Davenport, will present the first Golden Scholars seminar of the year on

Feb. 13. Her subject is how to preserve family treasures.

Larry Fisher/QUAD-CITY TIME

## Learn-and-lunch seminars return

Golden Scholars, the name of the brand new seminars series for members of the Quad-City Times Plus 60 Club, begins its spring series on Thursday, Feb. 13.

itage," Douglass says.

To sign up for this seminar and to order a brochure, call Black Hawk College (309) 755-2200, ext. 219 or 236.

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The subject will be "Family Treasures From Your Heart," and the presenter will be Barbara Douglass, Davenport. This new series of seminars, alternated after the learn-and-lunch seminars that were co-

### Caleb Langston

Caleb B. Langston, 77, of 3713 24th St., Rock Island, died Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1997, at his home.



Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island. Burial will be in Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island. Visitation will be 2 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Is-

land, where a rosary will be recited at 5. Memorials may be made to the Rock Island Public Library Foundation or to the Rock Island County Humane Society, Milan.

Mr. Langston was born Sept. 6, 1920, in Matherville, Ill., the son of Thomas J. and Mary Jane Purvis Langston. He married Pamela M. Sanders Feb. 12, 1945, in Wellingborough, England.

He retired in 1985 from Glass Service Center, Rock Island, where he had been an upholsterer. In earlier years he had worked for the Rock Island Lines, managed the Thom McAn Shoe Store, Rock Island, and worked for State Farm Insurance.

He was a World War II Army veteran, having served in the Headquarters Division of the 8th Army Air Force in Germany and England.

He was a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island County Historical Society, Blackhawk Genealogical Society, Friends of the Rock Island Public Library, Moline American Legion Post 246, Rock Island Moose and the American Bowling Association.

He enjoyed bowling and was the Rock Island men's singles champion in 1961. He also enjoyed playing golf and had three holes in one during his lifetime, including one in September 1996.

Surviving are his wife; a daughter and son-in-law, Elaine and Joseph DeLorenzo, Franklin, N.C.; sons and daughters-in-law Bruce and Michelle Langston, Rock Island, and Gregory and Beverly Langston, Margate, Fla.; grandchildren Jason, Nicholas, Rachel, Joseph, Elizabeth and Kathryn Langston and Caleb, Melissa and Bethany DeLorenzo; sisters Jamesina Frantz, Davenport, Alice Fontenoy and Beverly White, both of Moline, Marilyn Hahn, of New Mexico, and Caroline Cline, Davenport; and brothers Eugene Langston, Quincy, Robert Langston, Albuquerque, N.M., David Langston, Dallas, and Howard Langston, Davenport. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard.

### Richard and Dorothy Darland

MEMBERS OF B.G.S.

Richard C. and Dorothy V. Darland, 1406 26th St., Rock Island, will be honored for their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner Aug. 2.

The former Dorothy V. Bailey and Mr. Darland, both of Ottumwa, Iowa, were married Aug. 2, 1947, in Rock Island.

Their children are Dennis Darland, Davenport; Kenneth Darland, Rock Island; and Shirley Wiklund,



Barbara Douglass, Davenport, will present the first Golden Scholars seminar of the year on

# Learn-and-lunch

Golden Scholars, the name of the brand new seminars series for members of the *Quad-City Times Plus 60 Club*, begins its spring series on Thursday, Feb. 13.

The subject will be "Family Treasures From Your Heart," and the presenter will be Barbara Douglass, Davenport.

This new series of seminars, patterned after the learn-and-lunch seminars that were co-sponsored by the Plus 60 Club and Teikyo Marycrest University, is being co-sponsored by Black Hawk College.

The first seminar in the series will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Holiday Inn, Bettendorf, with lunch at noon. The fee is \$17.75.

Barbara Douglass will tell her students how to create lasting memories by gathering and organizing family photos, clippings, recipes, certificates and other mementos into a memory book that tells a story.

"We aim to give our senior students food for thought by which future generations may come to know and understand their her-

itage," Douglass

To sign up for to order a brochure to order a brochure contact Black Hawk College (319) 219 or 236.

**For Saturday, October 4**

**SCRIPTURE READING—Deuteronomy 5:9-10**

*I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments (Deuteronomy 5:9-10).*

### **LOVE TO 1,000 GENERATIONS**

I have developed an interest in tracing my family's history. For those of us with uncommon family names like Couey, the task of searching out our ancestors is much easier than for those with very common family names like Smith or Jones. In the process of collecting information, I was delighted to hear that my first ancestor to immigrate to the United States was an elder in the Presbyterian church in the 1700s. While I have not been able to document my family's past before they arrived in the United States, some of my distant cousins say our ancestors were Irish. However, my own branch of the family maintained a different oral tradition. My father's sisters said that their grandfather told them that our ancestors were French Huguenots who fled from France to Ireland to the United States to escape persecution for their faith.

Of all the precious things that can be passed down through generations, the most valuable is a Christian heritage. A sighted man can choose to close his eyes and walk in darkness, but he cannot erase the memories of what he has seen. The love of God continues to speak through the childhood memories of the light experienced in a Christian home long after parents' voices are silenced by the grave.

—Raymond L. Couey

**SING TO THE LORD:**

*For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth, and friends above.*

—Folliott S. Pierpoint

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"**

No. 776

**MOMENTS WITH OUR MISSIONARIES:**

**Birthdays**—Mr. Dan Psaute, *European Nazarene Bible College*  
Rev. Duane Srader, *Portugal*

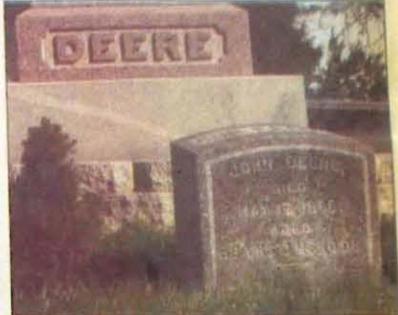
**Prayer Request**—Pray for the American servicemen and women who attend the Nazarene church on the Pacific island of Guam.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:**

**The love we owe is the measure of the love we should show.**



**LEFT:** The terraces at Moline's Riverside Cemetery — shown in this view looking northeast from the bluff — were built in horse-and-wagon days. **BELOW:** The grave of Deere & Co. founder John Deere is one of several Deere family gravesites in the historic cemetery.



# Riverside takes a historic view

## Landmark status sought for cemetery

By Jonathan Turner  
Staff writer

**MOLINE** — The terraced hillside and striking river views at Moline's Riverside Cemetery may be as notable as the bucolic beauty of Rock Island's Chippawmuck Cemetery.

There are two reasons local historic preservationists will use to pursue a coveted designation for Riverside on the National Register of Historic Places. Chippawmuck is the only Quad-Cities cemetery with that status, and just one of three in Illinois.

"It's definitely an honor and a reward for a cemetery to receive that," Chippawmuck superintendent Greg Vogele said last week. "Cemeteries generally don't qualify. What takes precedence over that is someone's home, birthplace, some other monument to them. So cemeteries are usually eliminated for that reason," he said. "There has to be something unique in order to qualify."

Moline Ald. Chuck Davis, D-at large, recently suggested Riverside be designated a local or national landmark. Barb Sandberg of the Moline Preservation Society and Moline planner Jeff Anderson presented information on the process at the last meeting of the park board, which oversees the cemetery.

The park board agreed to pursue either designation. National recognition will be harder to get than local, but more valuable, Mr. Anderson said.

"It's potentially more meaningful in the sense that it requires a greater degree of effort to make your case that you have something worthy of national register status," he said.

The national register "carries a certain level of prestige that outweighs a local landmark — which is not to say a local landmark shouldn't carry significance," Mr. Anderson said.

Local designation — which actually has more restrictions than national — will be sought first. Any changes for a city landmark must be approved by the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee and the city planning department. A national-eligible property only needs approval from



Photos: Tony Herbig / Staff; digital

Obelisks and fenced-off family plots along the terraced hillsides lend Riverside Cemetery its special 19th-century flavor.

the state for changes involving state or federal funds, Mr. Anderson said.

In Riverside's case, since it's city-owned, the city would have more flexibility in approving alterations.

Chippawmuck, which is privately owned, in 1994 became the first Illinois cemetery to be listed. It did not seek local protection, in part because the cemetery board didn't want to lose control to a strict city ordinance.

Chippawmuck was designated because of its landscaping. The grounds were de-

signed in 1855 by a master landscape architect of the day. It also was cited for its park-like setting and atmosphere, a Gothic Revival sexton's building, and extensive examples of 19th- and 20th-century funerary art in its monuments.

Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Sandberg said the national designation will draw visitors to the area, since history-oriented tourism is popular.

"Chippawmuck generally gets quite a few tourists to the cemetery, but I don't know if that's because of (the) national

register," Mr. Vogele said. "We're in a lot of tourist materials for the area. It's always been a local landmark."

"We've hoped that others might apply for the national register, he added. "Riverside is a unique cemetery. You can tell that just by driving down the one-way and looking at it."

"I'm real positive about it," Riverside supervisor Todd Slater said. "I'm definitely for anything that is good for Riverside Cemetery. It would help in public awareness of the cemetery. I think you just have

a little more respect."

He noted Riverside and Chippawmuck are regular on Metro Link trolley tours, which Deere historian Dickman also has requested Riverside brochures, since Deere & Co. founder John Deere is buried at the cemetery.

In addition to Deere family members, others buried at Riverside include inventor and industrial giant Willard Velle, national baseball commissioner Warren Giles, and Frances Dickens, son of Charles Dickens.

The oldest part of Riverside, between 4th and 5th avenues around 28th Street, dates back to 1851. The section on the bluff was developed in 1875. The 1904 Stuppers mausoleum, just inside the newer cemetery, is a reproduction of the Nike Apteros on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

Riverside cannot rely on its famous residents for national designation. Rock Island planner Jill Doak said.

"Cemeteries are so different," she said, noting the National Park Service has specific criteria for them. "Typing it to a person is something that's rarely done."

Nor are other structures in the community related to historically significant people, such as the John Deere House and Velle Mansion in Moline, factored into the decision on national designation.

"It won't be easy," Mr. Slater said. He noted Riverside's unusual terracing may help it. "You're talking prior to the automobile. That's horse-drawn equipment to build those. It's amazing."

The only Moline site on the national register is the 1922 LeClaire Hotel, which received landmark status in 1984. It was sought primarily so its developer could get tax credits to help fund its renovation into apartments.

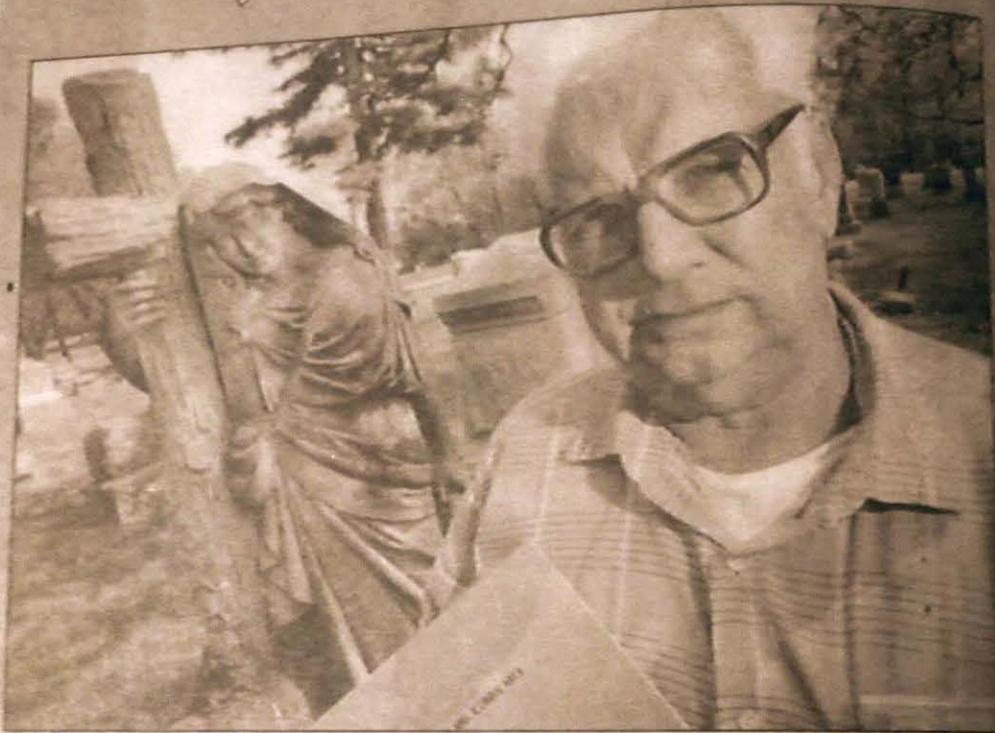
Mrs. Sandberg will apply for national designation for the Deere House — being restored by a Sterling accountants as a bed-and-breakfast — for the same reason.

While Chippawmuck hired a consultant to assemble the long, complex national-register application, Mr. Slater said that won't be done for Riverside. "I don't see sense in spending money when we don't have enough to cover our own budget."

The next step for Riverside is to add requirements for cemeteries to the local ordinance for city designation, Mrs. Sandberg said. Now it only refers to individual structures or sites, so Riverside would be landmarked in sections, she said.

Research for local landmarking will help in preparing the national application, which must be approved by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Mrs. Sandberg said.

# The man of 100,000 OBITITS



## Rock Islander collects obituaries to trace history

By Lisa Mohr  
Staff writer

A Memorial Day some years ago inspired Dwight Mohlenbruck of Rock Island to search for his family's story through county records and obituaries in old newspapers.

He became so fascinated with what he found out about his own family that he went on to collect hundreds of obits of other people, many from Drury Township in lower Rock Island County. He recently had the obituaries bound in eight volumes.

"It all started back about five years ago when I decided to attend a 50th birthday party for my father's cousin," said Mr. Mohlenbruck, who is originally from rural Cass County, Illinois. "This was a relative I hadn't seen in 50 years. I looked around at the people at the party — all relatives of mine — and I realized I only knew four of them. It made me think."

He began tracing his father's family tree, a quest that took him to the old Cass County cemeteries and to its courthouse, where he found family documents on file. "I found that my great-grandfather immigrated from Germany in 1848 and I found his citizenship papers, including his renunciation of allegiance to the King of Hanover."



Dwight Mohlenbruck of Rock Island poses in Chippinook Cemetery, Rock Island, with a volume of the obituaries he has compiled.

Mr. Mohlenbruck then turned to the Cass County census records for further information. "The Cass County census from years back listed my relatives living in their various households. One of them included a listing for 'housekeeper' — I discovered this housekeeper moved in after my grandmother died

and eventually became pregnant by my grandfather. He married her and they had several more children. I later found out through old obituaries that sanitation was actually quite common with widowers in those days."

The following year Mr. Mohlenbruck made a Memorial Day visit to the old Drury Township cemetery located near Illinois City in south Rock Island County to pay respects at the graves of two of his children. "This is one of those abandoned old rural cemeteries that are long out of use. I found my children's graves — they died very young in the 1940s — and then I began wondering about all the other people buried there."

He wrote down all the names he could read on the headstones, alphabetized them and turned in obituaries in the region's old weekly newspapers for further information. "It's so hard for relatives still living on family farms to help reconstructing the life stories of some of these people."

He found that daughters tend to remember family history but sons do not. "Daughters are the best sources of information," he said.

"The girls were what really fascinat-

PLEASE SEE 3 OBITITS, B6

Celebrate Rock Island's Colorful History!



Above: The cast of "Epitaphs Brought to Life," 1996

## Chippiannock Cemetery: Epitaphs Brought to Life

A walking tour of Chippiannock Cemetery featuring dramatic vignettes taken from the lives of Rock Island's memorable citizens

Original script by  
Charles Oestreich

Directed by  
Mick Elliott

Saturday, Sept. 6, 1997  
2901 12th St., Rock Island  
Time 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$2 ea.  
Children 12 & under free  
Refreshments Available

Tours will leave every 10 minutes from the cemetery entrance

"Epitaphs" is Sponsored by:  
The Rock Island Preservation Commission &  
The Chippiannock Cemetery Association

Chippiannock Cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places



Gary Krambeck / Staff

### Stories from the grave

Actor Bob Hanske portrays Philip W. Dinglein during the annual walking tour of historic Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island Saturday. Mr. Dinglein was a local resident, farmer and wineyard owner, who raised cattle and supplied beef to the railroad. In all, 14 actors presented vignettes on the lives of the characters they were portraying in a tour called 'Epitaphs Brought to Life.'

## OBITS

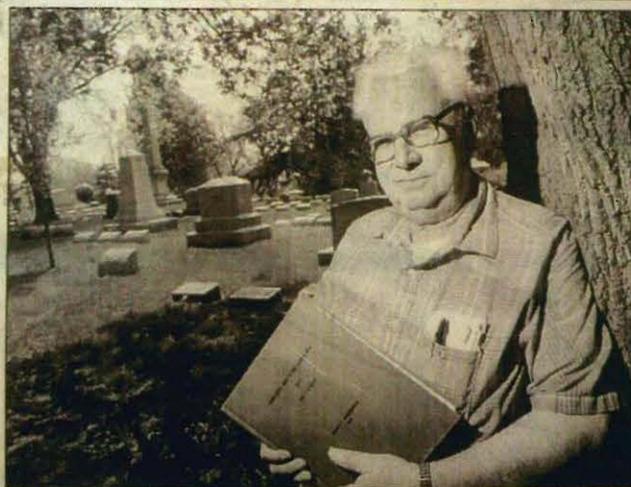
FROM PAGE B1

ed me," he added, noting that he has read approximately 100,000 of them in the past 20 years. "Anyone trying to trace their family through old obits will find they can be as confusing as they are helpful. Often you'll need to find further documentation to understand and support your obituary searches."

For instance, he discovered that obituaries originally were only read at funeral services, and only the obituaries of prominent people were printed in newspapers. Around 1880, some small weekly newspapers began publishing obituaries for the general public. At one time, The Times Record of Aledo referred to obituaries as "obsequies," Mr. Mohlenbruck said.

Old obituaries ranged from a few lines to two newspaper columns, and the content also varied. "Before 1970, most women were listed as 'Mrs. So and So,' and her actual name was never mentioned. In those cases, it is necessary to check the husband's obituary to ascertain who he married. Another possible check was to find the names of her brothers in her obit," Mr. Mohlenbruck said.

At times he found it difficult to determine who the subject of an obituary was. "For instance, The Reynolds Press ran an obit on May 22, 1908, stating, 'Grandma Brayton,



Todd Mizener / staff

Dwight Mohlenbruck holds a volume of obituaries. While researching his family's history he became fascinated by the information he found in obits, and he went on to collect hundreds of them. He estimates that he has read 100,000 of them in the past 20 years.

as she was generally called, died at the home of her son Stephen. It never gave her name nor that of her husband, who, the obit stated, had died a number of years ago. It mentioned she had five sons and two daughters but only Stephen was named. It did give the full names of the pallbearers, however."

Many people went by their mid-

dle names, making it difficult to even find their obituaries, Mr. Mohlenbruck said. "Some people only used nicknames. And many people Americanized their names after immigrating to this country, especially German immigrants during World War I."

It was common for names like Wilhelm to become William and

Wilhelmina to become Minnie. "And last names are all over the place. In one family you can find names spelled DeClercq, DeClerq, DeClerck and DeClerk, or Hendrichs, Hendriks, Hendricks and Hendrix. Some shortened their names, such as Akerberg to Aker or to just Berg. This makes those family members very hard to trace."

The dates people died were rarely listed in obituaries until recent times. "My father's sister died in 1918 of the flu, and the paper ran, 'The following people died last week,' and then listed the deceased with no dates," Mr. Mohlenbruck said.

"You can't rely completely on obit information and you need to verify almost everything," he added. "This is not always easy. My mother, in her own handwriting, signed her marriage license spelling her middle name as 'May' in one place and as 'Mae' in another. Thus, courthouse records are not also correct. You need to check birth certificates or baptismal records whenever possible."

Mr. Mohlenbruck said he has run across some interesting anecdotes in obituaries he has collected. "One obit for Drury Township stated that there were 75 horse-drawn vehicles in the funeral procession. Sometimes obits contain some unique comments. One (recent obit) read, 'She loved 95 percent of the people she ever met, the other 5 percent know who they are.'

# Longtime librarian part of R.I. history

By Carol Lovetz  
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — No one is expected to break Ellen Gale's record.

Historians say Rock Island's first librarian held the job longer than anyone in the nation. Ms. Gale began her job in 1868 at age 15, when she became librarian for the Young Men's Library Association.

Four years later, when the city council organized the Rock Island Public Library, aldermen hired her to oversee the library for \$35 a month, but soon raised the salary to \$50 a month. She directed the library for 55 years.

Retired librarian Pamela Langston never met Ms. Gale, who lived in a nursing home when Ms. Langston started in 1946. Two years later, though, when Ms. Gale died at age 95, Ms. Langston attended her funeral.

"That day, I remember making a little sign to hang on the door, saying the library was closed," Ms. Langston said recently. "I remember we all walked over to Hodgson's Funeral Home. It was a sunny, summer day. Then, we walked back for the rest of the day."

Before Ms. Gale died at the Happy Haven rest home in Silvis, the library stored her possessions in its

basement.

"All her stuff was down there in boxes," Ms. Langston said. "I recall two or three times they came and got her best dress — a dark silk — to take to the cleaners because they thought it was just a matter of time before she died."

**'She was very, very straight-laced. Any book that had anything in it she didn't think the public should see was put in a room in the back of the library.'**

Pamela Langston,  
retired librarian



Pamela Langston



Ellen Gale directed the Rock Island Public Library for 65 years.

While Ms. Gale did not defy tradition, she did a good job and commanded respect, Ms. Langston said. If she had married, the community would have expected her to leave her job.

Ms. Langston fell victim to similar old-fashioned ideas herself. About a year after she started, she became pregnant and was forced to work out of public view.

"As a great concession, they let me stay," she said. "I certainly wouldn't have been allowed to keep

my job under Ellen Gale. I was stuck in the basement, where her dresses were hanging."

Ms. Gale never would have allowed librarians to wear slacks, either, Ms. Langston said. They had to wear dresses and hose.

Checking out books was different then, too. Each morning, librarians used tweezers to pick up rubber numbers to change their date-due stamps. They wrote a borrower's library number on a card, then stamped the book and the card. At the end of the

day, librarians filed the cards.

When Ms. Langston started, she said the people saw the library as a white establishment created for the educated upper class.

"A few black children came in, but very few black adults," she said. In the early 1960s, the library opened a branch at the Martin Luther King Center to attract more people. It has since closed.

"Everybody keeps talking about books becoming extinct with all the new technology, but you can't curl up in a chair with a cup of coffee and a computer," Ms. Langston said.

"I love books and bought some for historical reasons and others for sentimental reasons," she said. "You can't have sentimental memories over a computer."

Although librarians chose their careers because they liked to read, Ms. Langston and her co-workers became infuriated when people envied their jobs for the time it seemed they had for reading.

"I never had a minute to read books at work," she said. "I had to take them home like everyone else."

She did not get to read the best-sellers first, either. The library prohibited staff from hiding them and required at least one borrower to take them home first.

Historical accounts do not mention whether Ms. Gale was an avid reader.

"I don't think Ellen kept a diary," Ms. Langston said. "If she had, it would have surfaced long ago."

## Rules of the past

Rock Island Public Library rules in 1872:

- Weekday hours: 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Open Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Every Rock Island resident age 16 and older is entitled to use the library. Those younger may be admitted if they agree to obey the rules.
- No periodicals or reference books may be removed from the library.
- No one may borrow more than one volume and no family may borrow more than three volumes at one time.
- Checkout is 14 days.
- Overdue fines are 2 cents a day.
- Borrowers must "pay for books they lose or injure beyond reasonable wear."
- People who owe the library money cannot borrow books.
- The librarian collects fines.
- Anyone who is not quiet may be denied admission.
- The librarian is authorized to decide who may be admitted.
- No one but the librarian may take books from the shelves.

Source: The Rock Island Weekly Argus, Feb. 20, 1872

## Riverside Cemetery hosts walk

By Jonathan Turner  
Staff writer

MOLINE — The Moline Preservation Society and the Moline Park and Recreation Department are holding their third annual historic walk at Riverside Cemetery on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The event — which costs \$2 per person for those 12 and older — begins at 1 p.m. at the Riverside Park Mausoleum, 2900 6th Ave. Transportation to the cemetery will be provided by Metro Link trolleys until 3:30 p.m.

The walk lasts approximately one hour and gives a glimpse into the lives of notable Moline citizens throughout the city's history. This year, eight of these former residents will be portrayed.

"Each character, in period costume, will share events in their lives and help recreate the history of Moline," event chairman Kathleen Seusy said. Actors and actresses are given whatever research is available and then write their own five-minute monologues.

"What a lot of people don't realize is we had this much history," Ms. Seusy said. "I go into junior highs, and the students say, 'We didn't know this existed.' We live in a rootless age."

"It's important to remember a place is made by people, by the community," she said. "It's only from the workings of the community that we have what we have."

Ms. Seusy will portray Elizabeth Manley (1836-1885), an Irish immigrant who ran a boarding house to help augment her husband's salary. She said that in the cases of Mrs.

**'I have always held out a walk should show all walks of life... Even big names like Deere came from the same lowly roots.'**

Kathleen Seusy,  
event chairman

Manley and Margaret Sheley (1849-1939), a pioneer wife who helped her husband run a meat market, they were "neither influential nor leading citizens of Moline." But their lives were reconstructed by assembling family records compiled by their descendants, Ms. Seusy said.

"I have always held out a walk should show all walks of life," she said. "They happen to have led quite interesting lives. Even big names like Deere came from the same lowly roots. It's just these people didn't become big names."

This year's walk does feature some very prominent citizens, who were influential in both local and national affairs.

The two most famous are Warren Crandall Giles, former president of baseball's National League, and Francis J. Dickens, third son of the English writer Charles Dickens.

Mr. Giles (1888-1979) got his start in baseball when he agreed in 1919, "almost on a dare," to manage a semi-professional Moline team, Ms. Seusy said. Mr. Giles spent 50 years in baseball, including 18 as National League president, from 1951 to

Seusy said. Mr. Giles spent 50 years in baseball, including 18 as National League president, from 1951 to 1969.

He returned to Moline upon his retirement, and a few weeks after his death, Mr. Giles was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Mr. Dickens (1844-1886) came to Moline in 1886 as a guest of a local doctor, after he had resigned from a nine-year stint with the Canadian Mounted Police, Ms. Seusy said.

Mr. Dickens planned to embark on a lecture tour recounting his experience with the Mounties, and "Moline was to be a trial balloon," she said. Instead, he was visiting a friend on Arsenal Island when he suddenly dropped dead.

At his family's request, he was buried at Riverside.

Other characters to be portrayed are:

■ Minnie Stephens Allen (1859-1933), social activist and philanthropist;

■ Daniel L. Wheelock (1822-1893), the first mayor of Moline;

■ The Rev. Olof Olsson (1841-1900), a professor and the third president of Augustana College;

■ William A. Meese (1856-1920), an attorney and founder of the Rock Island County Historical Society.

Ms. Seusy hopes that greater awareness of the cemetery and its history will lead to greater protection of the grounds.

"One of the things we will be remarking on is some of the problems with the cemetery, like vandalism and erosion," she said. "The more we make the cemetery part of people's lives, the more chance we have of cleaning it up."

# Genealogy volunteers connect

By Kay Yadon  
Staff writer

**ALEDO** — Word of mouth — and now Internet technology — keeps drawing people from all over the country to find their Mercer County roots through Aledo's Essley Noble Museum.

People from Alaska, New York, California, Canada and many other faraway spots have inquired about and found their family ancestry through the museum's expansive genealogy department, according to

Alicia Ives, Mercer County Historical Society secretary.

"People come here because this is where the information is," museum genealogy department volunteer Ruth Giffin said recently. "Some of the headstones, some of the cemeteries we've charted are no longer in existence."

Among hundreds of inquiries successfully researched over the years, Mrs. Giffin recently linked a man in Washington to another in Maine. Both had asked the museum

for family information. They ended up being distantly related.

"They were delighted," she said. Mrs. Giffin's long-held interest in history — and her own rich memory as a founding museum board member — contributes to the genealogy department's continued growth and success.

The 82-year-old Aledo woman was one of three women who volunteered to join the planning group that opened the museum around 1989. She also later served as muse-

um curator in 1974 to 1983.

Although she museum's staff still puts in man toer in the gen along with muse Crawford and Si Kinnamon.

She remembe chapter of the American Re through ceme charting detail

## TODAY IN HISTOR

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 2, the 245th day of 1997. There are 120 days left in the year.

**1872 — 125 years ago:** Senator Trumbull, speaking in behalf of Horace Greeley's campaign for president, packed the courthouse lawn with Tri-City people interested in the Liberal Republican-Democratic ticket. Music was by the Rock Island Brass band and a Moline band.

**1897 — 100 years ago:** The biggest attraction of the season at Watch Tower Park will be Chief Black Hawk, 89, a nephew of the great Black Hawk, and his band of 20 braves, squaws, and poposes, who will give exhibitions during the Labor day weekend.

**1922 — 75**  
Howard a tor of Cie Church.

**1947 — 50**  
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**1972 — 25**  
\$10 mill by Congy by the R; Engineer is \$2.5 h help built of the riv

## PAST

FROM PAGE C1

However, some information can't be found at the museum because of prohibiting state statutes. All birth and death certificates, probate and land records must be found at the Mercer County Courthouse and only can be purchased by relatives.

Although the museum has many early marriage records, the information became private after 1916.

The press has access to the names and hometowns of brides and grooms, but the practice of allowing anyone to see the entire detailed ap

plication was discontinued. This has hindered some genealogists, who relied upon these records to pinpoint the couple's parents and lineage, Mrs. Giffin said.

Library and private donations have landed the museum many original newspapers from long ago, which include marriage and death announcements. The genealogy department volunteers painstakingly have handwritten the information into files, which help current staff link relatives, Mrs. Giffin said.

"It takes a long time," Mrs. Giffin said. "We're finished with 1990, and still working on 1904. But we have

the papers on microfilm through 1896."

Mrs. Giffin receives at least one inquiry a week, but often many more pour in to the museum and her home.

"People are interested in where they come from," Mrs. Giffin said.

She keeps a file under her bed of all the letters sent to her, and the dates she responds. This information, which she has been organizing, has helped her connect several relatives over the years, she said.

The old inquiry letters also have helped Mrs. Giffin find relatives of her own in a country from a man in

### Emil Westensee

Services for Emil J. Westensee, 82, of Rock Island, will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at First Lutheran Church, Rock Island. Burial will be in Chippannock Cemetery, Rock Island.



Visitation will be 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island, where a Masonic service will be conducted at 4:30 p.m. by Fraternal Lodge 221 AF & AM, Davenport. Memorials may be made to

the church.

Mr. Westensee died Thursday, Dec. 18, 1997, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.

He was born April 29, 1915, in Davenport, the son of Emil F. and Nora Brush Westensee. He married Betty R. Ferong April 8, 1939, in Davenport.

Mr. Westensee retired as plant superintendent in 1977 from the former Uehardt Metal Products Co., Davenport, where he worked for 40 years.

He was a member of First Lutheran Church, Rock Island, where he was a member of the Property Committee and had served as an usher. He was a member of the Fraternal Lodge 221 AF & AM, Davenport; the Davenport Consistory; the KAABA Shrine, Davenport; the HI-12 International; the Jackson County Shrine Club, Buffalo Bill Shrine Club, and the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 28, Davenport. He had served as a volunteer driver for the KAABA Shrine, driving crippled children to the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago.

Mr. Westensee was a member and past president of the American Field Service Exchange Program. He had been a volunteer with Junior Achievement and the Boy Scouts. He was a super grandfather, attending all his grandchildren's activities. He also was a great fix-it man and spent many hours volunteering at his church.

Surviving are his wife, daughters, A. Christine Westensee, Davenport, and Carol Westensee, Moscow, Idaho; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Colette Westensee, Rock Island; and grandchildren, Jay, Erin and Laura Westensee, all of Rock Island. He was preceded in death by a sister, Phyllis

Canada about his uncle James Saunders startled her at first because Mr. Saunders is her grandfather. Now she has "scads of information" about Canada through her newly discovered cousin, she said.

"I just work at it," she said. "I stay at it just a couple hours, or I do it all day if the notion strikes me."

The museum — which currently is accepting donations for its expansion — is open 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, April through October.

"When you start doing your genealogy, you get hooked," Mrs. Ives said. "It's very addictive."

## Stanley and Beverly Francque

Stanley E. and Beverly C. Francque, Moline, will be honored Nov. 8 at a reception in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Relatives and friends are invited to call from 1 to 4 p.m. in Christ the King Catholic Church Parish Hall, Moline.

The former Beverly C. Newell and Mr. Francque were married Nov. 8, 1947, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Moline.

They are the parents of Craig Francque, Derby, Kan.; Gary Francque, Moline; Tamara Ryker, Milford, Iowa, and Diane Kohrs, Moline. There are nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Francque was employed for 31 years by Bakers' Dairy, Moline, as a route salesman and foreman. He also retired from employment with the Moline School District, at Butterworth School. Mrs. Francque retired from employment in the office at the Target Store, Moline. The couple were active in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Moline, where Mrs. Francque served in the Mother's Club, the Altar and Rosary Society, and as a Cub Scout Den Mother. Mr. Francque served in the Holy Name Society, the Dad's Club as a baseball coach, and with Boy Scout Troop 344.

They are members of Christ the King Catholic Church, Moline, and also serve on the boards of Friends of the Moline Public Library, the Black Hawk Genealogical Society, and the Rock Island County Historical Society.



# She's in a basement full of information

Rock Island Argus April 21, 1997

Rock Island Co. Court House • Doretta

786-4451 ext. 326

## Records clerk tracks years of facts

By Katie Schallert  
Staff writer

Doretta Ramser spends her days in a dim environment surrounded by volumes of information.

For two years, Ms. Ramser has worked with files in the Rock Island County Courthouse basement. Seven windowless rooms and a long hallway are stuffed with filing cabinets, boxes and drawers full of old court files, some dating back 100 years.

Electrical wires, water and heating pipes and air conditioning ducts snake along the ceiling everywhere, often dipping low enough to make tall visitors duck. The hot, heavy air announces the building's steam heating system.

Ms. Ramser sits in a room with 45 filing cabinets, most filled with traffic tickets.

"I'm like a reference librarian," she says.

She spends most of her time digging through thousands of files to find information for other people. Requests come from probation officers and state's attorneys wanting old conviction records. Some people need documents on their divorces, and others seek bits of history.

"This woman had a relative who was charged and acquitted of attempted murder in 1859," Mr. Ramser says.

The woman found mention of the incident during genealogical research and called asking to see the file. Ms. Ramser also found a 1869 file where someone else was



Doretta Ramser checks old court records in the basement of Rock Island County Courthouse.

Notuko Oyabu / Staff

ON  
THE JOB

KATIE  
SCHALLERT



charged with trying to kill the relative.

Others have visited the basement looking for records about the John Deere mansion in Moline and the Effie Afton lawsuit

with Abraham Lincoln as an attorney.

Ms. Ramser scrunches her nose when asked what it is like working without windows. Former windows, now covered and sealed, peak out behind stacks of files in some rooms.

She would like to see out, but knows the windows were sealed for courthouse security.

"That's just the way it is," Ms. Ramser says, adding that she is used to sunless days. A wrist watch and clock radio tell her the

time. When she first arrived, there were no timepieces in the basement.

"So I didn't know when to go home," Ms. Ramser says, smiling.

## On the Job

■ Name: Doretta Ramser

■ Job: Filing clerk in the basement of the Rock Island County Courthouse

■ Pay: \$16,000 a year, gross

**What she thinks about:**

■ Finding old records: People have to know the name and have a good idea of the year. "You have to do that first, or it's like looking for a needle in a haystack."

■ Benefits of basement work: "All year long, it's warm here."

■ Number of parking tickets so far this year: 8,000

■ What that means: "It's what you call job security."

Despite the physical conditions, Ms. Ramser likes her work.

"This job, I guess, really is perfect for me," she says. She likes to stay busy and enjoys helping people with their research.

Files active in the last few years are listed in a court computer system and can be searched from several public terminals in the courthouse. Files copied to microfilm also are being computer indexed.

However, other records still have to be looked up by hand. Dozens of huge case books, each four or five inches thick, hold lists of files decades long.

"When I first started here, the place was a mess," Ms. Ramser says in a whisper.

"Whenever anybody asked me for something, I had to start over looking through everything," she says of her arrival.

Court files in 23 categories come to the basement when departments higher up in the building run out of room.

Since her arrival, Ms. Ramser has brought some sense to the system. The room full of 1980's divorce cases spills over into a room full of felonies from the last 15 years and some from before the turn of the century.

Felony files continue into boxes on top of file cabinets in the hall, and the hall's probate files continue into another room. That room has a mound of boxes nearly as tall as Ms. Ramser, all of them full of recently microfilmed cases.

After the film is returned and checked for quality, the paper documents will be destroyed. The quality of the microfilm copies is very important to Ms. Ramser.

"This is the product I'm in charge of, and I want to make sure it's good," she says. "I'm a stickler for that."

In one room, she points out old books of immigration records and shelves of other obviously antique books with unknown contents.

"I haven't found every thing yet," Ms. Ramser says. "I don't have time to just snoop."

In a small room at the end of the hall, two women copy old documents onto microfilm.

"We are always prepping. We are always filming, and we are always archiving," Ms. Ramser says.

Off that room is a nook full of unpaid traffic tickets dating back to the '60s. People sometimes call about the tickets they ignored after a state refuses to give them a driver's license.

"I have people call and say, 'Don't you have a statute of limitations?'" Ms. Ramser says. "People think we might forget about this stuff, but we don't."

# History and ancestry found in obituaries

## BY STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

A Rock Island man's obsession in reading obituaries led him to discover more about his family in Cass County.

For Dwight Mohlenbruck it's become a daily habit to search through county records and newspaper obituaries.

It began when he went to visit a Rock Island cemetery where two of his children are buried. While there, "I thought, who are all these other people buried here. I then tried to reconstruct an obituary for each of them," said Mr. Mohlenbruck, a retired school teacher.

Through his obituary studies, he has found several relatives in Cass County that he didn't know about, as well as Schuyler County, and Jacksonville, he said. He was even able to locate two great-aunts in Cass County, and spoke to one of them over the phone.

Mr. Mohlenbruck found through old census records that there were often household listings that included "housekeepers." But these were housekeepers with special duties.

"I discovered a housekeeper moved in after my grandmother died and eventually became pregnant by my grandfather. He married her, and they had several more children. I later found out through old obituaries this situation was actually quite common with widowers in those days," he said.

He also found record that great-grandparents of his immigrated from Germany and were regular members of a Lutheran church in Beardstown. "I found that my great-grandfather immigrated from Germany in 1849, and I found his citizen papers, including his renouncement of allegiance to the King of Hanover."

**"Sometimes obits contain some unique comments. One (recent obit) read 'She loved 95 percent of the people she met, the other 5 percent know who they are.'"**

—Dwight Mohlenbruck  
obituary collector

However, Mr. Mohlenbruck has had some difficulties throughout his research. Up until the 1970s, for example, obituaries never gave a woman's first name nor her maiden name. Before that, most women were listed as "Mrs. So and So." In those cases, it is necessary to check the husband's obituary to ascertain who he married, Mr. Mohlenbruck said.

In addition, a lot of people did strange things with the spellings of their names when they first came to this country. For instance, one great, great-grandmother of his changed her first name from Loisa to Louise,

"to sound less German," around the time of World War II, said Mr. Mohlenbruck.

Another interesting thing he has found in his research is that some brothers and sisters did not spell their last name the same. People who were uneducated may have misspelled their names, or changed them for some unknown reason.

"A lot of people just shortened a name. It sounded too long so they just knocked off about half of it," he said.

Mr. Mohlenbruck has read approximately 100,000 obits in the past 20 years. "Obits were what really fascinated me," he said. "Anyone trying to trace their family through old obits will find they can be as confusing as they are helpful. Often you'll need to find further documentation to understand and support your obituary searches."

For instance, he discovered that obituaries originally were only read at funeral services, and only the obituaries of prominent people were printed in newspapers. Around 1880, some small weekly newspapers began publishing obituaries for the general public. Mr. Mohlenbruck has bound, and sold, eight volumes of obits for easy reference, covering Drury Township in lower Rock Island County.

"Sometimes obits contain some unique comments. One (recent obit) read, 'She loved 95 percent of the people she ever met, the other 5 percent know who they are,'" said Mr. Mohlenbruck.

Jacksonville Journal-Courier 7-21-97

tournament.

Sunday, Aug. 10, 1997 Rock Island Argus Sect. D1

# Iowa addresses create headaches for residents

By Kay Yadon  
Staff writer

ELIZA — Alberta and Bill Schrock have lived in the same Mercer County home 35 years, but everyone seems to think they live in Iowa.

The couple has fought both Iowa and Illinois state governments to secure Illinois driver's licenses and license-plate stickers, income-tax statements and college scholarships for their son.

Special-delivery packages continually are misdirected, and the Schrocks worry emergency health personnel could get lost finding them. Such confusion is caused, not only because they live on a gravel road deep in rural Eliza Township, but because they and their neighbors have Muscatine, Iowa, mailing addresses.

"I guess we're so used to it, we don't think much about it," Mrs. Schrock said recently at their house, nestled among thick trees along a country road.

"We've come to the place where we usually put Mercer County, Ill., after our address on everything," she said.

The U.S. Postal Service directed Muscatine workers to carry mail for a small portion of Mercer and Rock Island counties in Illinois soon after World War II.

State boundaries do not matter to the postal service, a branch of the federal government, especially when the change saves money, Muscatine postmaster Dyann Roby said.

"It's just cheaper — we're the closest office," she said.

Some Eliza Township residents would have to drive about 10 miles to reach the closest Illinois post office, but only five miles to reach Muscatine. When traveling beat-up rural roads, the drive can seem even longer, she added.

The area had been bounced between Illinois City and New Boston postal services after Eliza's post office closed in the early 1900s.



Kay Yadon / staff

Lytle and Velma Lambert stand in front of their mailbox at their Mercer County home, which holds mail addressed to Muscatine, Iowa.

## Mercer readers travel to Iowa

By Kay Yadon  
Staff writer

ALEDO — After New Boston's small family library closed a few years ago, some wondered how area residents would get to another.

After relying upon the use of a small library housed in an area mobile home, the Mercer County township was left with nothing after financial hardships shut that library's doors.

However, township officials tapped into their nearby Iowa source by landing an agreement

with Muscatine to allow its Illinois residents to use the Musser Public Library, New Boston Township supervisor Lela Bieri said.

"They now have access to the Internet, and they can use any Iowa library source," she said.

New Boston Township residents need only bring proof of their residency, such as a driver's license, when securing a card at the Muscatine library. The township pays a yearly fee for the service, Ms. Bieri said.

A shoebox full of old postcards dated as far back as 1904, sent to descendants of Lytle and Velma Lambert of rural Eliza Township, holds notes decorated with an array of addresses — all for the same farm.

Many homes were assigned various box numbers, rural routes and towns until Muscatine began bringing the mail directly to their homes, Mrs. Lambert, a former teacher and

local historian, said.

"There's some resentment," she added.

Illinois customers had the option to change their postal service and addresses about two years ago, but they decided to stay with Muscatine because they like the reliable service, Ms. Roby said.

PLEASE SEE ADDRESS, D2

## ADDRESS

FROM PAGE D1

The Iowa delivery system may be economical, but many residents say it's a headache.

Although people along the Mississippi River border conduct most of their business on the Iowa side, many say they feel their lives are in limbo.

They constantly are questioned about where they live, forcing some to carry official form letters explaining the situation. The process is a hassle, and sometimes misunderstandings stem from the addresses.

For instance, when Mrs. Lambert tried to apply for a disabled parking permit for her mother-in-law, Illinois state officials would not cooperate immediately.

"How do you convince these people that someone at an Iowa address should be getting an Illinois anything?" Mrs. Lambert said.

1998

for Computer [HTTP://WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~ILRDCS/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilrdocs/)  
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U.S. GEN. WEB

BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1998 MEETINGS

(7:00 p.m. Fourth Tuesday Monthly at South Park Pres. Church,  
1501 30th Street, R. I., except 3rd Tuesday in November for  
Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers, and no December meeting.)

January 27 - Program "BGS Web Site", Bob Graves, or Bill  
Burrows, Speaker

February 24 - Program "Book Share". Please bring  
genealogical books and/or materials you have found to  
be of help in your research.

March 24 - Al and Joan Loete, "Belgium Research"

April 28 - German Research for Those Who Can't Go To  
Germany", by Shar Blevins

May 26 - Hopefully, a Heritage Quest Show. We're trying to  
set it up.

Anne 'Kitty' Pierce

Anne Catharine "Kitty" Pierce, 91,  
Friendship Manor and formerly Knox-  
ville Road, Milan, died Monday, Feb.  
23, 1998, at Trinity West Hospital.



Memorial ser-  
vices are 2 p.m.  
Friday at Friend-  
ship Manor  
Chapel, Rock Is-  
land, Rev. Louie  
Cheek officiating.  
The body was cre-  
mated. The cre-  
mains will be in-  
terred in a niche  
at the Chippl-  
annock Cemetery.

She was born Sept. 19, 1906, in the  
county of Cumbria, England, the  
daughter of Joseph B. and Mary Eliza-  
beth Nicholson Hodgson. She came,  
with her parents, to the United States  
through Ellis Island in 1908 and set-  
tled in Chicago. She married Harold  
Pierce Dec. 31, 1926.

She came to Rock Island in 1938 and  
was employed at the Rock Island Arse-  
nal until 1966 when she retired from  
Supply Division as a cataloger. Kitty  
was the first woman national vice  
president of the National Federation  
of Federal Employees. She held the of-  
fices of president of Local 51 and the  
Illinois State Federation of NFFE. In  
1966, she was selected as Federal Em-  
ployee Contributing Most to Federal  
Civil Service in that year. She was a  
charter member of the Blackhawk Ge-  
nealogical Society, a member of Mc-  
Donough County and Fulton County  
Genealogical Societies. Kitty also be-  
longed to the Cumbria, England His-  
tory Society, the Rock Island County  
Historical Society, the Rock Island  
Conservation Club, Chapter 331 Na-  
tional Association of Retired Federal  
Employees, the Surratt Society, and  
the Friends of the Rock Island Public  
Library. She was a member of the Mi-  
lan Christian Church.

She served as a GreyLady with the  
Red Cross during World War II.

Memorial gifts may be given to the  
Rock Island Public Library or the  
Riverbend Library in Coal Valley.

She was preceded in death by her  
husband of 72 years.

She is survived by her son, Richard  
Pierce, Moline, and her daughter,  
Barbara A. Jensen, Milan; seven  
grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren;  
and two great-great-grandchildren.

## AGLL/Heritage Quest Road Show

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

\$2 Registration

6:00-10:00 pm

South Park Presbyterian Church  
1501 30th Street  
Rock Island, Illinois

Sponsored by

*Blackhawk Genealogical Society*

*Heritage Quest Magazine will present*

*Armchair Genealogy*

&

*Finding Births, Marriages and Deaths  
prior to 1910*

They will also have a unique display of books, supplies, forms and  
computer programs available for purchase at the seminar  
allowing you to see before you buy! And *door prizes*  
will be given away during the evening.

Mail reservations and \$2 for each person listed to: Blackhawk Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 3912

Rock Island, IL 61204-3912

For further information call: Dorothy Darland 786-3058

## ROCK ISLAND

### M. Lorraine Baker

Graveside services for M. Lorraine Baker, 90, Rock Island, are 10:30 a.m. Monday at Memorial Park Cemetery, Rock Island.



Visitation is 9 to 10 a.m. Monday at Knox-Larson Funeral Home, Rock Island. Memorials may be made to South Park Presbyterian Church, Pyramid Temple 10 Daughters of the Nile Convalescent Relief Fund or the Golden K. Kiwanis Memorial Fund.

Mrs. Baker died Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1986, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Rock Island.

She was born May 31, 1907, in Rock Island, the daughter of Peter and Carrie Colburn Simmon. She married J. Kenneth Baker Oct. 26, 1929, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He died May 15, 1988.

Lorraine worked as an office manager at Schocker Paper Co., Rock Island, retiring in the early 1970s after several years. She volunteered at Trinity Medical Centers, East and West Campuses. She was past matron with Order of Eastern Star, Rock Island; member of Pyramid Temple 10 Daughters of the Nile, Davenport; Golden K Kiwanis at Friendship Manor, Fort Armstrong Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, High-12 Club and charter member of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, S. Ann and John Hunter, Iowa City; granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Sabrina and Doug Alberhasky, Iowa City; and a cousin, Dorothy Williams, Rock Island.

## Chippiannock cemetery full of meaning

# 24

ROCK ISLAND — Greg Vogeles and his family live on the west side of Rock Island with about

23,000 dead people in their backyard.

As superintendent of Chippiannock Cemetery — the Quad-Cities' oldest — Mr. Vogeles is responsible for 55 acres of trees, granite, hills and prominent local legends.

Mr. Vogeles grew up in the superintendent's house at the corner of 12th Street and 29th Avenue because his father managed the grounds until he took over in 1977. However, he said his life is nothing like 'Halloween,' 'Pet Sematary' or any other horror movie that gives burial grounds their bad reputation.

"All the years I've lived here, I've never seen anything supernatural," Mr. Vogeles said. "My wife and I



John J. Kim / Staff

A statue of D.J. Dimick's dog rests in front of the family headstone in Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island. The dog was a faithful visitor to the graves of Eddie and Josie Dimick, who died of diphtheria when they were young. When the dog died, the family built the statue in honor of his loyalty.

have watched every scary movie ever made, and real life isn't like that."

Nearly 150 years of real life are buried at Chippiannock, founded in 1855 by prominent citizens who thought the growing town needed an official cemetery.

Chippiannock's winding, paved roads lead past the gravesites of historic Quad-Citians, from longtime Rock Island Mayor Bailey Davenport and the inventor of America's first easy chair, to Rock Island's first African-American landowner.

One of the cemetery's best known gravesites belongs to two children who didn't live long enough to become famous. Eddie and Josie Dimick died of diphtheria on the same day, at ages 5 and 9.

A statue of a dog rests next to the children's gravestones in honor of the family dog, who accompanied the family when they visited. Eventually, the dog started going to the grave by himself every morning and leaving at sundown. The children's parents had the statue built to commemorate his loyalty.

Early burials at the cemetery pieced together, bit by bit, a "village of the dead" — the meaning of the Indian word "Chippiannock." Bailey Davenport's mother, Susan Lewis, suggested the name.

Even with these winding trails of family histories, there's room for many more people to be buried at Chippiannock, where about 100 people are buried each year. Mr. Vogeles said the cemetery will not reach its capacity for about 400 years.

"That number could increase because of the crematory and mausoleums," he said. "There's no telling what people are going to do 400 years from now. They may be squeezed into cubes this big," he said, holding up two fingers pinched together.

Mr. Vogeles opened the crematory in 1979 when the cemetery board built the offices across from his house. They also included a flower shop and bronze and granite memorial service — "one-stop shopping," he calls it. Family members can also buy memorial trees or bird feeders at Chippiannock.

Running these businesses also adds variety to Mr. Vogeles' job. He and his family manage the forest land at the northeast corner of the cemetery, which is harvested every 10 years and sold to the highest bidder.

"There are all kinds of things you

## Chippiannock facts

Chippiannock was the third Illinois cemetery to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Famous people buried at Chippiannock Cemetery:

- Philander Cabie, president of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.
- William Morrison, first African-American landowner in Rock Island.
- Col. George Davenport, Indian trader murdered in his Arsenal Island home in 1845.
- Bailey Davenport, long-time Rock Island mayor, Col. Davenport's son, wealthy landowner.
- Minnie Potter, publisher of The Rock Island Argus for 22 years after her husband, John, died in 1898.
- C.C. Kneil, inventor of America's first easy chair.

can do here," Mr. Vogeles said. "It isn't just burying the dead."

However, when other people think of skeletons and ghosts, Mr. Vogeles' daughter, Jill Vogeles, 18, said classmates teased her about living at the cemetery when she was younger.

"They always asked if I dug up dead bodies," she said. "When I was in grade school, I told everyone I was dead and that's why I live here."

The Vogeles manage much more than just burials. They also do community education and activism. They regularly submit grant proposals to fund projects such as a slide show on Victorian symbols in cemeteries and a cemetery photography competition that took place during the early 1990s.

In 1994, the cemetery association launched its most popular event, the annual Epitaphs Brought to Life tour. On walking tours, visitors hear Quad-Cities actors portraying famous people buried at the cemetery.

The epitaphs tour was organized in 1994 to commemorate Chippiannock's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Selected for its artistically and historically superb landscape design, it was the third Illinois cemetery to be listed.

However, even as the cemetery plunges into the past, it moves toward a future that relies on new-fangled technology to keep track of the people buried there.

Mr. Vogeles said one of Chippiannock's most important years was 1996, when he installed the most up-to-date genealogical computer soft-

ware available. With a click of the keyboard, he can call up historical records for anybody buried at Chippiannock.

Even without the computer system, Mr. Vogeles remembers much of Chippiannock's history. Driving slowly around the cemetery on a sunny day, he pointed to small details of the gravesites: a small indentation in a statue of a cradle, the diameter of the world's largest granite sphere.

"It's the little things that people pass over," Mr. Vogeles said. "Everything has meaning."

—By Laura Oppenheimer



Todd Mizener / staff

The American flag flies over the hundreds of graves of confederate soldiers buried in the Confederate Cemetery on Arsenal Island. The soldiers were prisoners of war who died while in captivity on the island. The island housed prisoners for 20 months, starting in December of 1863.

history. He said it has a fascination for the 50,000 people who visit the site each year.

"The romance of the Confederacy has been, even for northerners, a rather persistent thing," Mr. Whiteman said. "Americans love the underdog. It's interesting to walk through, but it is all the same. That's part of the drama of it, of course."

The white marble gravestones, in rows of 100, contain only the soldier's name, regiment and grave number. Unlike the rounded stones in the National Cemetery down the road, the tops are pointed. Mr. Whiteman isn't sure why.

The story among (Confederates) was it was to keep the Yankees from taking their ease" atop the gravestones, Mr. Whiteman said.

The camp wasn't operating long before a cemetery was needed. The winter of 1863 was exceptionally cold, something Southern soldiers weren't accustomed to.

To make matters worse, prisoners on the first train were infected with smallpox, pneumonia and dysentery. Ninety-eight died within the month. Before spring, the Confederate cemetery held more than 900 graves. Nearly 30 Union guards also died.

The first prisoners to die were quickly buried adjacent to the prison grounds. Not long after, in February 1864, the bodies were moved to the present site to im-

prove sanitary conditions and end the plague. The prisoner death rate then dropped considerably.

In June, the Secretary of War ordered prisoner rations cut in response to conditions Union soldiers faced in the infamous prisoner of war camp at Andersonville, Georgia.

Malnutrition contributed to the scurvy deaths of at least 12 prisoners, and while it remained a problem, the subsequent drop in the death rate belied rumors of starvation.

After the war, prison buildings were razed. Ornate stone officers' quarters were erected along what is now Terrace Drive.

In following years, the camp gained an allegedly unearned reputation as a place of suffering, torture and death. Many referred to it as the "Andersonville of the North." The myth was fed by articles written by Confederate veterans and published in Confederate magazines.

In her epic Civil War novel, "Gone with the Wind," author Margaret Mitchell noted these accounts in a paragraph which claims "at no place were conditions worse than at Rock Island." The fictional character Ashley Wilkes was said to have been held at Rock Island, in the "hellhole of the north."

Although camp conditions certainly were not pleasant, many of those "memories" were proven

false. "The death rate here was not extraordinary," Mr. Whiteman said, "compared to what the soldiers would have faced in the field."

While nearly 2,000 Confederate soldiers died at Rock Island, more than 13,700 Union soldiers died in Andersonville.

The Union kept fairly good records of prisoners who came through the camp, which Mr. Whiteman said he refers to often, particularly when he's contacted by prisoners' ancestors, trying to trace their genealogy.

Sometimes, he can't help them, he said. "They want to know if (their relative) was married, what was his wife's name," information that isn't in the records, he said.

Over the years, families of about a dozen of the dead Confederates moved their relatives' bodies from the cemetery to family plots. Most however, remain in the cemetery. On Memorial Day, a Confederate flag is placed at every grave and "Taps" is played.

Through it all, the American flag flies. For the Confederates, it's perhaps an insult to forever lie in the shadow of the flag they defied. However, Mr. Whiteman said it is there to claim them as our own, although they died swearing allegiance to another banner.

He said the men are honored as Americans who gave their lives for a cause they deemed sacred.

— By Marcy Norton

## Dean's tombstone stolen again

FAIRMOUNT, Ind. (AP)— James Dean's tombstone has been stolen from his hometown cemetery — again.

Police Chief Jim Grindle said the theft was discovered Tuesday by Payton.

Mr. Payton, 31, 1511 Co. ter Road, Milan, Mr. V. Mr. Weimer each face tv. wearing of first-degree murder several hundred pounds, had been mounted on a base and secured by metal bars and glue.

"They really worked at it," Grindle said. "You can see the pry marks."

The original tombstone was stolen in April 1983, recovered the next month, then stolen again that August. The missing tombstone replaced the original. The "Rebel Without a Cause" star was killed in a car crash in California in 1955 at age 24. His gravesite draws thousands of visitors.

"They leave messages and Marlboro packs, notes and flowers,"

## NO KIDDING?

### Most popular cemetery names in America\*

- Evergreen — 57 cemeteries
- Greenwood — 66 cemeteries
- Oak Hill — 63 cemeteries
- Oakwood — 59 cemeteries
- Woodlawn — 59 cemeteries
- Riverside — 57 cemeteries
- Union — 57 cemeteries

\*Religious names; most popular religious name is "Catholic" (144)

Source: The Political Graveyard ([www.politice.com/cgi/vindex.html](http://www.politice.com/cgi/vindex.html))

# Being Belgian is Beautiful

The Center for Belgian Culture  
invites you to the March meeting of the  
Blackhawk Genealogical Society,  
Tuesday evening, March 24, 1998

at 7:00 p.m. at the

Center for Belgian Culture

712 - 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Moline

Program to be presented by Al & Joann Loete



The Center for Belgian Culture was organized October 28, 1963. It was founded to perpetuate the Belgian heritage in this area and to awaken people to knowing and enjoying the values of the Belgian culture.

The Center is open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 and is staffed by volunteers. A monthly newsletter keeps our members informed of Center activities and news about local Belgians.

The Center houses a museum of Belgian artifacts and a gift shop and research library. On the first Saturday of each month we serve Belgian Waffles to the public for the small cost of \$3.50.

The research area has grown considerably in recent years and has an extensive collection of death memorial cards and obituaries. We also have books with immigration records and other information about Belgian immigrants.

**NEIGHBOR OF THE WEEK**

RI Argus Mon Feb 2, 1998



John Greenwood / staff  
Joe VanHoutte, center, with his neighbors, Leon and Lois Larson.

A weekly profile of Quad-Citians who were nominated for the Great Neighbor of the Year award by their neighbors.

**NAME:** Joe VanHoutte.

**ADDRESS:** 2210 11th Ave., Moline.

**NOMINATED BY:** Leon and Lois Larson, 2200 11th Ave., Moline.

**WHAT MAKES THIS NEIGHBOR GREAT:** Mr. Larson writes: "Joe is a retired Moline schoolteacher, but he has not retired from being a good neighbor. As a second career, Joe has become a tree trimmer, going out after storms to help people with tree problems. He also

helps neighbors mow their lawns, including ours and several others.

"In the fall, Joe is busy blowing leaves off the lawns of several neighbors so that city crews can remove them. This year, we were unable to remove the leaves from our gutters of our home so Joe (without being asked) brought his tall ladders and cleaned out our gutters.

"During the winter, Joe is often the first one out after a snow storm, removing the white stuff from sidewalks and driveways around the neighborhood.

"He is active in our Neighborhood Watch, distributing small maps around the area to new neighbors. He shares the bounty

of his vegetable garden with us. He is friendly to everyone he meets, and ready to help anyone in need. We have lived here for only three years, but Joe has been there for us all the time."

**GREAT NEIGHBOR'S COMMENTS:**

"It's a nice neighborhood and a great place to live," says Mr. VanHoutte. "I've lived here for 31 years, second on the block in length of time. I've seen a lot of changes over the years, but one thing that's remained the same is everyone around here is easy to get along with.

"As for helping out, it's really nothing. I just like getting outside and doing things. I'm the one who feels pretty lucky about where I live."

**Twenty-fourth Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference**

Saturday  
April 25, 1998 from  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
at the  
Viking Club of Moline  
1450 - 41st Street  
Moline, Illinois

**Genealogical Confab scheduled for April 25**  
MOLINE — The 24th annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference will be held April 25 at the Viking Club, Moline.  
Sponsors are the Blackhawk Genealogical Society and the Scott County Genealogical Society. Henry Z. Jones, actor and author, will lecture.  
Registration fee is \$20 and includes a buffet lunch.  
For reservations, write Quad Cities Genealogical Conference, P.O. Box 0843, Moline, Ill. 61206.  
For information, call Don Southwood, 555-8404, or Judy Rueckert, 789-0051.

Q. Why do people have cousins?  
A. Cousins are almost as natural as brothers and sisters. In fact, without brothers and sisters, cousins wouldn't exist. Say a parent's brother or sister has children. They're your cousins, or first cousins. Or say a grandparent's brother or sister had grandchildren, too. They would be your second cousins.



Jan Hoefle / staff

The Trinity Medical Center Auxiliary recently dedicated a bronze sculpture at the 7th Street Campus designed by Donna Young, a designer for Isabel Bloom. Attending the annual luncheon Monday were, from left, Lorraine Hathaway Taylor Ridge, Ms. Young, Davenport, and Marge Dale, Rock Island. Ms. Young holds a similar piece created for sale as a memorial of the dedication. Members of the auxiliary raised \$100,000 for the sculpture, which was cast in Kalona, Iowa. At the luncheon, Ms. Young showed a video of the process of the piece. Mrs. Hathaway and Mrs. Dale were co-chairmen of the event which drew a sellout crowd to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. The duplicate sculpture is selling for \$95.

**Some headstones will need Y2K fix**

Cor News Service

Families have long purchased headstones in advance, paying engravers to etch the century date in the stones, with the last two numbers carved after death.

But because so many people are now living longer than anticipated — and will likely pass the millennium mark in good health — local memorial companies say they'll have their hands full correcting the "19" on the headstones to "20" after Jan. 1, 2000.

Fixing the stones won't be cheap. The process involves mixing epoxy with granite to fill the numbers and then recarving the stone. Carving just the year can cost about \$100. More is charged for full dates with month and day.

**BRIEFS**

MAY 26, 1998

**Seminar will target genealogy topics**

ROCK ISLAND — Heritage Quest Magazine will present a Road Show for the Blackhawk Genealogical Society from 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island.

Subjects of the seminar will be Armchair Genealogy and Finding Birds, Marriages and Deaths prior to 1910. Fee is \$2.

**Carl Ritter**

Carl Ritter, 79, Rock Island, died Friday, Oct. 16, 1998, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Esterdahl Mortuary, Ltd., Moline. Burial is at National Cemetery, Rock Island, where military graveside services will be conducted by Moline American Legion Post 246.

Visitation is 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, Rock Island.

Mr. Ritter was born Jan. 29, 1919, in Dunn County, N.D. He married T. Darlene Thompson Quist Aug. 29, 1968, in East Moline.

He was a Navy veteran of WWII. He worked in the maintenance department for Alcoa for 30 years retiring July 1, 1983.

Survivors include his wife, stepdaughters and their husbands, Linda and Larry Guile and Peggy and Roy Simpson, all of St. Louis, Mo., and Sally and Jerry Caffery and Sue and Bob Schuch, all of Moline, a stepson and his wife, Jim and Nancy Sylvester, Rockford; 12 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; sisters, Lydia Weber, Sun Prairie, Wis., Appalona Torgerson, Tacoma, Wash., and Augustine Ochaner and Helen Benson, both of Fargo, N.D., and a brother, Emil Ritter, Aneta, N.D.

Sunday Feb. 1, 1998  
Argus

PROGRESS '98

## Genealogies a lifelong pursuit

82

ALEDO — One man lives in Massachusetts, the other in Washington. Neither has ever seen the Quad-Cities area.

Yet the distant cousins found each other through the small Aleo museum they both contacted in search of their Mercer County family roots. An Internet website and newsletter about the Essley-Noble Museum's expansive genealogy department caught their attention.

Now 80-year-old Larry West of Kirkland, Wash., and 30-year-old Chris Baer of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., correspond through letters. They have exchanged family tree data with each other and the museum, hoping the information will help someone else searching. Mr. West said by telephone recently.

"When I retired, I got involved in genealogy," Mr. West said, "which is a dangerous thing, let me tell you.

"It sort of becomes like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. You turn up a name here, and that throws you into another hole."

Thousands of people like these have traced their Mercer County ancestors through the Aleo museum, which is well-known for holding exclusive records.

The genealogy department preserves obituaries from as far back as 1857, including the detailed burial records of all Mercer County cemeteries collected in the 1960s. Old census records and numerous plat books dating back to 1875, which include biographies and pictures, also are housed there.

Library and private donations have allowed the museum to acquire many original newspapers from long ago, which include marriage and death announcements. This information, vital to genealogy, became private except to the press after 1916, volunteer researcher Ruth Giffin said.

Museum staff painstakingly hand-write the newspaper information into files which will help future researchers link relatives. The group recently finished filing data from 1990 and is working on recording 1991.



File  
Volunteer researcher Ruth Giffin offers help to those seeking their family's Mercer County roots. The Essley-Noble Museum in Aleo maintains records prized by genealogists and others who want to learn more about their families.

"but we have the papers on microfilm through 1996," Mrs. Giffin said.

The department receives at least one genealogy inquiry a week, but often many more pour into the museum and Mrs. Giffin's home. She charges \$7.50 an hour to hunt family lineage and many times has found living relatives. Fees by other volunteers vary.

"Ruth was a wonderful resource," said Mr. Baer of Massachusetts, who has researched genealogy since he was 12 but didn't know he had a cousin in Washington. "That was a great find."

Mrs. Giffin's long-held interest in history — and her own rich memory as a founding museum board member — contributes to the genealogy department's continued growth and success.

The 82-year-old was one of three women who volunteered to join the planning group that opened the museum around 1959. She also served as museum curator in 1971, 1972, and from 1974 to 1993.

"I think it's wonderful the records have been preserved as well as they have," Mr. West said, "and enterprising people like Mrs. Giffin dig them out."

The museum, which is accepting donations for a recent expansion, is open 1-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, April through October. For information, call 582-2280 or Mrs. Giffin at 582-7463.

Another popular genealogy source is the Rock Island County Historical Society Research Library in Moline. People from all over the country write letters or visit the library in search of their Rock Island County roots.

The library, at 822 11th Ave., holds family data reaching back to the 1830s, including marriage and death information. Many people have used the resource to trace their family trees or gather county history, volunteer Lucille Sampson said.

### Carl Huber

Carl G. Huber, 80, Coal Valley, died Wednesday, April 22, 1998, at Oak Glen Nursing Home, Coal Valley.

Services are 10 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rock Island. Reverend Jerry Logan officiating. Burial is in National Cemetery, Rock Island. Visitation is 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Hodgson Funeral Home Ltd., Rock Island, and from 8 a.m. until service time on Monday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rock Island. A prayer service by Reverend Jerry Logan will be held 6:30 p.m. Sunday at Hodgson Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to St. Joseph's Parish of Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Huber was born Sept. 12, 1917, in Hillsboro, Ill., the son of George Huber and Elta Huber Huber. He married Kathleen Slagel Nov. 29, 1941, in LaClaire, Mo. She died in 1988.

He was a longtime resident of Rock Island. He retired from N.J. Miller Construction Inc. He was initiated into the Laborers Local 309 on September of 1946 and the Teamsters Local 371 in October of 1961 until his retirement in July of 1977. He remained a member of the Teamsters Local 371 until 1985. Prior to that, he had worked for Greenleaf Construction for many years.

He was an Army Tec 4 veteran of Guadalcanal during World War II. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He enjoyed gardening. Survivors include a daughter, Karen Masana, Neenah, Wis.; sons, Steven Huber, Rock Island, and Gilbert Huber, Moline; sisters, Ruth Hall, Hillsboro, Geraldine Slagel, Hillsboro, Emma Thull, Ramsey, Ill.; a brother, Louis Huber, Hillsboro; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded by his wife, Kathleen Slagel, in 1988; his parents; four brothers; and a sister.



### Sylvia Young

Sylvia B. Young, 85, formerly of 1150 41st St., Moline, and currently of River Park Nursing Center, Rock Island, died Sunday, March 15, 1998, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Esterdahl Mortuary Ltd., Moline. Burial will be at Greenview Memorial Gardens.

Visitation is one hour prior to service time. Memorials may be made to Home-wood Evangelical Free Church, Moline, where she was a member.

Sylvia B. Halterman was born April 30, 1912, in Collins, Iowa, daughter of Henry and Edna Ridgeway Halterman. She married Floyd Peterson May 6, 1929, in Des Moines. He died in 1939. She married Leo Young July 8, 1955, in Davenport. He died March 18, 1967.

She was an office worker and bookkeeper for various businesses all her adult life, retiring from Moline Glass Co. in December 1970. She was a charter member of Black Hawk Genealogy Society.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Barb Peterson, Port Byron; six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded by a daughter, Juanita Frey, Aug. 28, 1950, in an auto accident, and a son, Larry Peterson, in February 1998.



### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Robert and Barbara Scott

MEMBER OF BLACKHAWK GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Robert G. and Barbara Scott, 216 Blackhawk Ave., Milan, will be honored Oct. 11 at a reception in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Relatives and friends are invited to call from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Milan Community Center, Camden Park and Route 67, Milan.

The former Barbara Sample and Mr. Scott were married Oct. 16, 1948, in Ascension Chapel of Augustana College, Rock Island.

They are the parents of William S. Scott, Rock Island; Robert E. Scott, Milan, and Daniel R. Scott, Colorado Springs, Colo. There are four grandchildren.

Mr. Scott is a member of the law firm of Schoede, Scott, Panousis, Campbell & Barrick, Rock Island. Mrs. Scott was employed as school teacher at Hoffman School, East Moline, retiring in 1950.

They are members of the First Presbyterian Church, Milan.



## Blackhawk Genealogical Society

Schedule for July - December 1998

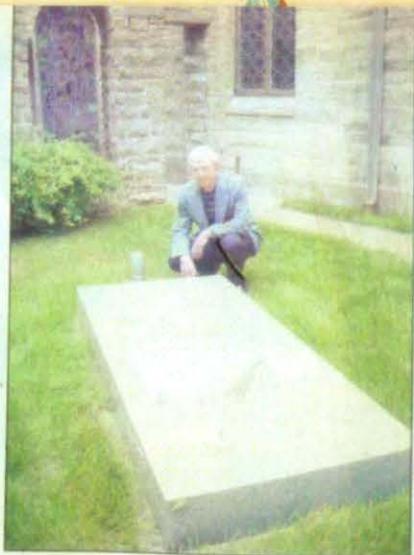
Unless otherwise specified all meetings are 7:00 p.m. at Southpark Presbyterian Church 1501 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island

- July 28 Program: Analyzing Your Research Project  
Presenter: Scharlott Blevins
- Aug. 25 Program: Researching in the Special Collections Room at the Davenport Library  
Presenter: Amy Groskopf
- Sept. 22 Researching at the Illinois Regional Archives Depositories (IRAD)  
Presenter: Karl Moore
- Oct. 27 Report on the FGS/OHS Conference
- Nov. 17 Annual Dinner & Installation of Officers, program to be announced  
Doors open at 5:30, Dinner starts at 6:00 pm
- December There is no meeting in December.

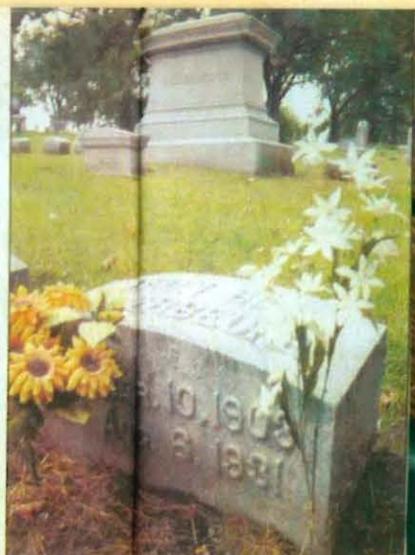
Blackhawk Genealogical Society  
— 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, South Park Presbyterian Church, 1501 30th St., Rock Island. Program: Analyzing Your Research Project by Scharlott Blevins. Information: Dorothy Darland, (309) 786-3058. July 23, 1998



Riverside Cemetery, between 4th and 5th avenues in Moline, is one of the largest cemeteries in the Quad-Cities. It includes the graves of some well-known residents, including John Deere.



St. Anne's Catholic Church, East Moline, has a one-person cemetery. Buried near the rectory is Monsignor William J. Cleary, the first pastor. Here, Joe Roels, church historian, shows the grave.



Big Beiderbecke, the jazz cornetist memorialized annually at the Big Fest in Davenport, is buried in Davenport's Oakdale Cemetery, which includes the graves of several prominent residents.

# Digging into Q-C CEMETERIES

They're filled with interesting histories and notable names

By John Marx and Kate Woodburn

What's in a cemetery? Remains of the dearly departed in the obvious manner. Headstones, some good-looking landscapes, a few fables, a myth or two, and lots of grief.

But do we know these places? Who is buried in them and for what reason?

Each final resting place has a story in life and in death. Each tells a tale, whether it be simple or exotic.

But do we know why certain plots of land were set aside and designated as final resting places?

Take Rock Island's Chippewa Cemetery. Known for its style and space, Chippewa is regarded as much for its beauty as for those who lie there. The cemetery, located on the Rock Island 1900 Avenue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It's difficult for a cemetery to get on the National Register of Historic Places because they give preference to the birthplace," said Greg Vogel, second-generation superintendent of Chippewa. Chippewa is only the third cemetery in Illinois to be listed on the register, and the first to be recognized for landscape design and architecture.

Moline's Riverside Cemetery is another place of splendor, and local preservationists are lobbying to add it, too, to the historic register.

"When a young husband wanted a community burial spot, the Moline Cemetery Association was created on five acres of land between 4th and 5th avenues. This has since grown to be one of the largest cemeteries in the Quad-Cities area."

In 1873, the cemetery was taken over by the city about 130 acres were added and its name changed to Riverside. Since then, 80 of those acres have become Riverside Park. "Riverside is really interesting, even just the landscaping," said cemetery official Todd Sauer. "The earth services are extremely unique, maybe even one of a kind, but they are very hard to care for."

Davenport Memorial, also noted for its graceful, green landscape, was started in 1927 during a nationwide movement to design cemeteries like parks. "The setting is derived from the garden or park-like atmosphere," said Jeff Maroff, general manager at Davenport Memorial. "As a relatively young cemetery, we'll really try to preserve or enhance it."

do have a good cross-section of the community."

Since 1943, Davenport Memorial has provided an impressive Christmas display one that sets itself apart from other displays around the area. "United Airlines used to re-route their planes coming into the Quad-Cities so their passengers could see the display," said Mr. Maroff.

"The display features 15,000 to 17,000 lights in the trees and placards that tell the Christ Child's story beginning with the Old Testament prophecies," Mr. Maroff said.

## Famous residents

Quad-Cities cemeteries are, obviously, the final resting places of many of the notable people in local history.

Davenport's Oakdale Cemetery is home to Big Beiderbecke and Dr. James W. Crowder. Dr. Crowder was the president of the Scott County Medical Society, probably the first woman in the country to serve in a post of that nature. Mr. Beiderbecke, famous for his musical exploits and death at age 20, is recognized each year by a local jazz festival. Oakdale also contains family plots of well-known Scott County residents such as the Davenport, Bertendurfs and Von Maurs.

Among the more notable names at Chippewa is Col. George Davenport, the Quad-Cities founding father, who was moved there from his original burial place on Arsenal Island by his son.

Moline's Riverside Cemetery has its fair share of well-known residents, some of whom are also recognized outside of the area. John Deere is probably the most well-known person buried there. Also at Riverside is the grave of Warren G. Bowers, member of the Baseball Hall of Fame and president of the National League from 1951 to 1960. Francis Jeffrey Dickson, the fourth son of famed novelist Charles Dickens, is also buried there. Mr. Dickson died June 11, 1886, at the home Moline's Hanson Kennels.

## Long overdue burial

The story behind the Dickson or Packer Cemetery at Rock Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island, is one of the more interesting ones regarding final resting spots.

Legend has it that the cemetery was the first non-familial burial place in Rock Island, and a strange



The William Carr Cemetery, Rock Island, is the exclusive resting place of William Carr's descendants, their families and family friends.



Davenport's Oakdale Cemetery contains family plots of many well-known Scott County residents.



The grave markers in many Quad-Cities cemeteries are more than just simple stones. This tomb is in Moline's Riverside.



Francis Jeffrey Dickson, the fourth son of famed novelist Charles Dickens, is buried at Moline's Riverside Cemetery.

# Here are several suggestions for tracing your family tree

De Witt Dykes Jr., an associate professor of history at Oakland University, teaches a course on family history and helps people trace their ancestry.

His suggestions for doing genealogical research include:

- **Begin with yourself.** Write down what you know about yourself and as much as you know about other relatives. Critical information includes names, dates of events

- (such as birth, marriage, death), places where people live and have lived, and relationships to one another.
- **Check home sources,** including family bibles, military certificates, birth and death certificates, scrapbooks, photo albums and baby books.
- **Visit or write to relatives** who know. It's better to visit older relatives, who're likely to be able to tell you more in person than they could write down or tell you over the

- phone. Tape-record or videotape those conversations.
- **Find out if other distant relatives** have already done some of the research. Advertise your family interest in national, regional or local genealogical magazines, available in public libraries.
- **Visit state, regional and local institutions** that have access to U.S. census records and genealogical collections. It's especially helpful to become familiar with finding information from U.S. census records.

- **Join genealogical societies.** Members are often eager to help each other and provide guidance as well as encouragement.
- **Besides the census,** other helpful records include birth, marriage and death records, deeds and wills, church records and federal records, particularly records available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The National Archives have D.C. records of military service, for example. For a free pamphlet of what's available called "Genealogical

- Records in the National Archives," write National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408.
- Other records worth checking include the Social Security Death Index and city directories (old directories can be found in some public libraries).
- **Learn about the history of an area** — not just the people. Consult books or county histories on places your relatives lived.

- For example, some places have changed names or been combined over the years. That's helpful information if you're trying to find someone in an area that has a new name.
- **For the computer-savvy,** there are now several computer programs to assist with and direct research.
- **Consult helpful genealogy books,** check with your public library about what's currently on the shelves.

## GRAVES

Head buried back place on the grounds. John Long, one of the killers hanged for the murder of Col. Davenport, was finally laid to rest there in the 1970s, more than a century after his hanging.

Apparently Mr. Long's remains were moved from place to place in the years following his hanging in October of 1841. His bones were displayed in the flea-bait park museum until about 1910, but place to bury the skeleton included one unexpected task, getting the county recorder to issue a death certificate to prove Mr. Long was legally dead.

Although Mr. Long's body may not have always been treated with respect, it was put to rest properly. "He got a pretty good burial, I think. He had two ministers. It wasn't too bad for the accused that he was," said Mr. Vopale of Chippinawack Cemetery.

Mr. Long's grave is currently unmarked.



Davenport's large Oakdale Cemetery is the resting place of members of many area families, including the Olcotts, above, and the Davenport, at right.

**Impressive markers**

Some former residents have made a statement with their final resting spots.

The Shepley family mausoleum was built in 1941 at Riverside Cemetery. The mausoleum is an exact replica of the Villa Appiano on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

Several of the graves at Riverside are topped with huge granite balls, and while they are too heavy for any person to move, they are not completely stationary. Because of the rotation of the earth and gravity, these spheres have moved (at least a few inches) since they were placed there.

Chippinawack features obelisk markers that look more like works of art than headstones. The Cable and features a large bronze statue from Brussels, Belgium. The Don Vink plot is topped by a large granite pyramid. The grave of Edward "Reddy" J. J. marked by a white obelisk. Baseball captain A.J. Whitney's grave features the best stone that has stood the test of time.

Chippinawack also is the site of the Hartberg family tomb, where a stained glass shell took place 22 years ago. The stained glass panel, which topped the family tomb, has more than 20 years. It was recovered recently after an FBI investigation, and is currently in use as a Quad-Cities bank sign. The tomb's construction is still a subject of debate.



St. Mary's Cemetery in East Moline, opened in 1906, once was called the Catholic cemetery. It has since been opened to non-Catholic burials. "We're predominantly Catholic, but it's open to the public," said Richard Peterson, cemetery manager.

**Religious resting places**

St. Mary's Cemetery in East Moline, opened in 1906, once was called the Catholic cemetery. It has since been opened to non-Catholic burials. "We're predominantly Catholic, but it's open to the public," said Richard Peterson, cemetery manager.

"If the people buried there, the most well-known is Charlie Carpenter, a native East Moline and former Illinois secretary of state.

Across the Avenue in Rock Island, at the top of the hill across from Chippinawack sits Calvary Cemetery, originally called St. Mary's Cemetery, the first Catholic

cemetery in Rock Island.

"In theory it started the same year as Chippinawack," Mr. Vopale said. At that time, the area was part of the Diocese of Chicago and "the bishop of Chicago petitioned Chippinawack for five acres.

The name was changed from St. Mary's Cemetery to Calvary "about the turn of the century, when all the

Catholic churches in Rock Island thought they should have a cemetery together," Mr. Vopale said.

The Hebrew Cemetery in Rock Island is specifically for those of the Jewish faith. Located behind the Tri-City Jewish Center, 2715 30th St., Rock Island, it was opened in 1919 when "a group of old guys decided we needed a cemetery," said Marvin Anshin, cemetery official.

There was a Jewish cemetery in Davenport and that had an argument with the people here, and they thought they'd better have their own in Rock Island.

Mr. Anshin said this cemetery is different from others in the area because it is reserved for a specific group of people. "We are exclusively a religious cemetery," he said.

"Unlike other cemeteries, there is no charge to be buried here. If you're a member, you're entitled to burial.

Religious requirements also set it apart. "Men and women are segregated, that's part of the religious practice," Mr. Anshin said. "Our faith does not allow sustained bodies, and since cremation falls under the category of mutilation, no ashes are buried at the Hebrew cemetery."

**Oldest cemetery**

Rock Island Memorial Park, 30th Street and Blackhawk Road, Rock Island, likely is the oldest burial place in the area still in full operation. A bench in the cemetery marks a large Indian mound, dating the grounds to the time well before formal cemeteries were constructed.

Memorial Park was officially opened in 1926 by the Cleveland family of Rock Island, but it was not in their possession very long. "I don't know who, but a few years later they turned it over to a not-for-profit group," said George Huggins, manager of Rock Island Memorial Park.

Mr. Huggins said that representatives from Augustana College have studied the Indian mound, but he said the site has not been, and will not be, disturbed.

**An angel for pastors**

The Immanuel Lutheran congregation from Augustana College first discussed starting its own cemetery in 1956, but the group didn't have enough money to buy the land. But by early 1970 the church was able to buy the land. Church member Lois Schrage said the cemetery — at 24th Street and 2nd Avenue in Rock Island — was in the beginning "way outside of the city limits."

At Schrage's, the cemetery is very similar to others that were started around the same time. Other unique features of the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery is "a large

angel under which former pastors were to be buried," she said.

**Just for veterans**

National Cemetery on Arsenal Island honors those who have served this country in the military. The cemetery is the resting place of more than 15,000 American veterans.

The first soldiers laid to rest there were Union guards who died while stationed on the island during the Civil War and Confederate Army members who later joined the Union. The cemetery also includes the graves of veterans of every war since the Civil War.

The Confederate Cemetery on Arsenal Island has 2,000 Confederate graves. Those soldiers died while they were being held as prisoners of war on the island.

**Private grounds**

The Quad-Cities also has a few private cemeteries, including the William Carr Cemetery, located at 42nd Street and 44th Avenue in Rock Island. This plot is the exclusive resting place of William Carr's descendants, their families and family friends.

The Carr family is best noted for owning the land that today is Sankle Golf Course, as well as the "Stone House" that sits on the 18-hole public course. Richard Welch, the man noted for turning Sankle over to the city of Rock Island, was the last family member buried in the Carr cemetery. He died in 1979.

The William Carr Cemetery is closed to visitors.

**Not a moneymaker**

Some Quad-Cities tried to make the cemetery business a business, but they failed. Moline's Valhalla Cemetery was started in 1928 by "a group of investors that got together to start a cemetery as an investment," said Mr. Slater of Riverside Cemetery. "But the group never made much money in this venture."

By the 1950s the upkeep of the cemetery had become such a burden that the lot owners petitioned the city of Moline and the state to change the laws so that the cemetery could be taken over. Moline took charge of the cemetery and changed the name to Moline Memorial Park.

**Mystery cemetery**

Not much is known about Resthaven, across from East Moline's Northland Park, but it is the resting place of patients who died at the former state hospital in East Moline and who had no families to claim their remains.

Resthaven is maintained by the state, and visitors are not allowed.



Larry Fisher/QUAD-CITY TIMES

## Knowing when to come in ...

Dwight Mohlanbruck guards an apple cart while staying in the garage and out of the rain Friday at his daughter-in-law's garage sale on Middle Road in Bettendorf. The weather won't be con-

ducive to garage sales today, either, with mostly cloudy skies and a 70 percent chance of rain predicted, especially in the morning. The high today should reach the lower 50s.

GUSTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1998

### EFS

#### Eulalia Garrett is nominated for honor

The Illinois State Genealogical Society held its annual fall conference in Countryside. Special awards are presented to those who have contributed to genealogical programs or projects.

Eulalia Garrett of New Windsor was nominated for honor by the Black Hawk Genealogical Society based on her work on Mercer County projects.

She proposed the organization of the Genealogical Division of the Mercer County Historical Society, has computerized more than 30,000 Mercer County cemetery inscriptions and abstracted obituary data from the Times Record with several volunteers. She computerized and published 1860, 1870 and 1900 census from film and cooperated with the ISGS Marriage Project for Mercer and Henry counties.

### THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

Well, the Lyn King just can't help himself. The man is so incapable of telling the truth, it's positively pathological! Here's the latest:

It seems the president recently said that his grandmother's grandmother was Cherokee. Actually, the exact quote was "My grandmother was 1/4 Cherokee." This was said in response to criticism from some Indians that Clinton had ignored them with his "initiatives on race relations." Thus, he came up with the, "Hey, I'm one of you," defense.

### HOLD ON A MINUTE

Hold on a minute though, says Cherokee Heritage Center genealogist Tom Mooney. "If you lived in Arkansas...give it up, because the roots of the tribe are Oklahoma, Texas, and North Carolina-based.

"Worse, the White House didn't find his kin's name to compare against the official Cherokee rolls."

### FAMILY CIRCUS



3-20

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"This is the first time I've been to a real live cemetery!"

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

**Saturday, April 17, 1999**

Viking Club Moline, Illinois

Jim & Paula Warren on:

1. Ancestors Hanging on Your Family Tree:  
Using Court & Institutional Records.
2. The WPA Era - What it Created for Genealogists.
3. Untrodden Ground: Sources You May Not Have Encountered.
4. The Mid-Life Crisis of the Family Historian:  
How Did I Get Into This & Where Do I Go From Here?

25th Anniversary Celebration

**Friday, April 16, 1999**

Bethel Wesley Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Jim & Paula Warren on

"Did You Marry Me For My Family History?"

Quad-Cities Conference Chairman

Lorraine Hathaway 787-1826

Welcome, Dorothy Darland

Invocation

Menu --

Baked Chicken

Scalloped Potatoes

Green Beans

Tossed Salad

Relish Tray/Rolls/Coffee

Angel Food Cake with Cherry Topping

Installation of 1999 Officers

Program --

"George"

A review based on the life of

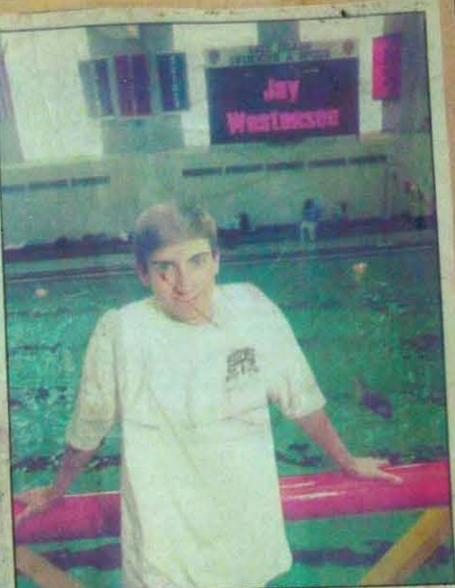
Col. George Davenport presented by local thespians.

Blackhawk  
Genealogical  
Society



Annual Dinner Meeting  
November 17, 1998  
South Park Presbyterian Church  
Rock Island, Illinois

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Chuck Thomas / staff

Rock Island's Jay Westensee has made a name for himself in the pool, clocking Quad-Cities season bests in four events.

## For Westensee, it's in the genes

By Mike Ronkos

Staff sports writer

Like father, like son. A solid three-sport athlete, Rock Island's Jay Westensee has always regarded swimming as his favorite sport, although he professed he didn't really know why.

That's just the way it was. Well, maybe it's in the genes. His father, John Westensee, was also a standout swimmer for Rock Island High School and went on to swim collegiately at Iowa State University.

"My dad was an exceptional swimmer," said Westensee, this week's Rock Island Argus Metro Pacesetter who owns the area's top times in the 100-, 200- and 500-yard freestyle events. "He was a two-time All-American at Iowa State."

"He's kind of kept that hidden that from me. I know he was a swimmer in school, but it's only recently that I've started to learn just how good he was."

Involved with swimming from the youth level on up, the younger Westensee never felt

### METRO PACESETTER

#### Jay Westensee

- Favorite food: Grandma's homemade bread.
- Favorite movie: Hunt for Red October.
- Favorite TV show: Drew Carey Show.
- Favorite school subject: Desktop Publishing.
- Favorite college: UMass.
- Favorite athlete: Mark O'Meara.
- Hobbies: Golf.
- Parents: John and Colette Westensee, Rock Island.

pressure from his parents (including mother Colette) to excel, which has helped keep the sport — in fact all of his sports, he also competes in golf and tennis for the Rocks — enjoyable for him.

PLEASE SEE METRO, D4

### METRO

FROM PAGE D1

"We've tried to do the exact opposite of some parents in terms of his athletics," John Westensee said. "We support him in all the different things that he wants to do because he enjoys all of them."

"When I was his age, I was a one-sport athlete, swimming was all I ever did. By the time I got done with college, I didn't care if I ever swam again."

A four-year member of the Rocky varsity, Jay Westensee has come a long way since being that skinny little kid coach Alan Dassow threw into the freestyle distance races because he didn't look strong enough to be competitive in the sprints.

Last week in a dual with Moline, Westensee clocked a season-best time of a minute and 50.75 to win the 100 free and 1:50.96 to take the 200 free.

His best time of the season in the 500 free is a 5:06.48.

"Jay's been our best distance guy ever since he got here, so he's really had to push himself on his own," Dassow said. "The one thing he has really worked hard on, is building up his speed because the endurance has always been there."

"He saw that at state last year, that's where he needed to improve if he hoped to go back and be competitive."

Last year's state meet definitely was an eye-opener for Westensee, who qualified in the 500 free but didn't even come close to advancing out of preliminaries after his 5:01.88 ranked him 33rd in a field which advanced the top 12 times to finals.

If he should advance to state in the 500 free again, he would probably have to clock close to 4:48 to advance.

"Last year's trip to state was kind of an experimental stage," he said. "I was not real happy with how I did, didn't even better my sectional time."

including bowling, volleyball and tennis. As an avid Chicago Bulls fan, she rarely missed a game on television and her Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan memorabilia are quite prominent throughout the home.

Her compassion for others, laughter, sense of humor and gentle spirit will be missed by all. Her leadership at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library also will be missed.

Survivors (and spouses) include her husband, James R. Sampson; daughters, Karen and Janice "J.J." Sampson, both of Parker, Colo.; Cindy (Bill) Walker, Rock Island, and Maryanne (Mark) Sherman, Lawrenceville, N.J.; a sister, Ciara Falk, Port Byron; a brother, Ray Sadoris, Galt, Ill.; and grandchildren, Bill and Alex Walker. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Wilson and Robert.

"Because he is performing so much better in the shorter races, his top 100 time of the year is just a off the state qualifying standard, neither Westensee or Dassow are certain which two events he will swim in the postseason."

The IHSA postseason opens in two weeks when Rock Island hosts its own sectional. The state meet is a week later at New Trier High School in Winnetka.

"It will probably come down to how my seed times stack up against the rest of the state," he said. "I would have originally thought, it would be the 200 and 500 free. That's something we'll decide after the Big Six meet next week."

Now one question still begs to be asked, how close is Jay to being as good a swimmer as his father.

"You have to take into consideration Jay's more of a distance swimmer," said John Westensee, "so he's got a lot more endurance."

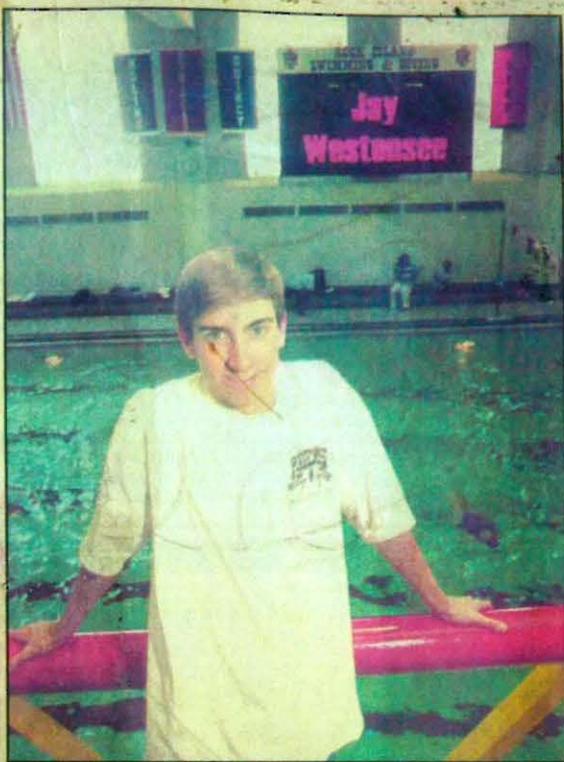
"But he's getting faster. He's definitely not a skinny little kid anymore."

Watch out dad, your son is gaining on you.

### Thanks to ancestors

"I've never gotten into that genealogy of searching for princes and horse thieves among my ancestors. As far as I know, I'm Irish, Swedish, Scotch and Cherokee. I would like to send out a special thank you to two groups of my ancestors. One to the Cherokees, for giving me the strength to endure hardship and to perform fantastic feats. And most of all to the Irish, for giving me the great gift of gab."





Chuck Thomas / staff

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PLEASE SEE ► METRO, D4

by DENNIS McCAFFERTY

### Norma Sampson

Services for Norma Lucille Sampson, 80, Rock Island, are 1:30 p.m. Friday at First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, the Rev. Dr. T.J. Johnson officiating. Burial is in National Cemetery, Arsenal Island.



Visitation is from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday at Hodgson Funeral Home Ltd., Rock Island, and from 12:30 p.m. until service time Friday at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rock Island

County Historical Society Library.

Mrs. Sampson died Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1998, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island.

She was the fifth of six children, born June 19, 1918, in Coe Township, Port Byron, to Thurman Sadoris and Annie May Berry Sadoris. She married James R. Sampson Nov. 15, 1942, in Coe Township, Port Byron.

After having lived in Hanover, Savanna and New Lenox, Ill., they moved to Rock Island in 1961.

She graduated from Rock Island Business College.

She had volunteered at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library as an archivist for 25 years. She also volunteered for shut-ins and various other groups.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Rock Island. She was a member of the Rock Island County Historical Society and several other genealogy and historical society organizations. Among the numerous awards she received was the Illinois State Historical Society's Superior Achievement in the category of Friend of History in 1990. She dedicated herself to her family, history, genealogy, books, gardening and volunteer work. She enjoyed her grandchildren.

Lucille's persistent research resulted in many binders of facts and stories about the Sadoris family. She and husband, Jim, published the book "Ancestors of Marie Andersen and Michael (Srugles) Sampson and Descendants."

Lucille also was on the publication committee for the book "Rock Island — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," published in 1988.

Lucille and Jim spearheaded the effort to build a new library building for the Rock Island Historical Society, completed in 1992.

Lucille was a sports enthusiast, including bowling, volleyball and tennis. As an avid Chicago Bulls fan, she rarely missed a game on television and her Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan memorabilia are quite prominent throughout the home.

Her compassion for others, laughter, sense of humor and gentle spirit will be missed by all. Her leadership at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library also will be missed.

Survivors (and spouses) include her husband, James R. Sampson; daughters, Karen and Janice "J.J." Sampson, both of Parker, Colo.; Cindy (Bill) Walker, Rock Island, and Maryanne (Mark) Sherman, Lawrenceville, N.J.; a sister, Clara Falk, Port Byron; a brother, Ray Sadoris, Galt, Ill.; and grandchildren, Bill and Alex Walker. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Wilson and Robert

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Because he is performing

### ► METRO

FROM PAGE D1

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*Delora Moore*

*Twenty-fourth Annual*  
**Quad Cities**  
**Genealogical Conference**

Saturday, April 25, 1998, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Viking Club of Moline, 1450 41st Street, Moline, Illinois.



*Sarah Hillman Jones (1858-1921)  
& children*

*Sponsored by*

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**SCOTT COUNTY IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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## THANK YOU

The conference committee appreciates your support and cooperation. If we did not have the attendance that we've enjoyed the past few years, a conference of this stature would not be possible. Your attendance is more than adequate compensation for the time and effort devoted to this conference by the conference committee.

Your suggestions for future conferences are always appreciated.

Everett Geurink, Chairman

*Featured Speaker*

## Henry Z Jones

Henry Z ("Hank") Jones, Jr. is one of genealogy's most active, energetic, and visible speakers. After his graduation from Stanford University, Hank had a twenty-year career as an actor, appearing in eight Walt Disney films and many television shows.

After discovering a 1709 immigrant ancestor to Ireland from Iggleheim in the Pfalz region of Germany, his interest in the Palatine was born.

Along with countless articles in major genealogical periodicals, he has authored several books, including *The Palatine Families of New York - 1710* (winner of the Jacobus Award as "Best Genealogical Book of the Year"); *The Palatine Families of Ireland; Westerwald to America*; and his best seller, *Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy*. This last book led to an appearance on NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries," and prompted a deluge of mail and calls. The great response led to his newest book, *More Psychic Roots: Further Adventures in Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy*.

Mr. Jones recently received the Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society "in recognition of distinguished work in genealogy."



*Isaac Hillman  
1797-1879*

*Program Schedule*

Saturday, April 25, 1998



No taping during conference, please.

- 8:00 - 8:50 am  
Registration and an opportunity for you to browse through the exhibits
- 8:50 - 9:00 am  
Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 - 10:05 am  
Henry Z Jones: "When the Sources are Wrong." ✓
- 10:05 - 10:25 am  
Coffee and Browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am  
Mr. Jones: "Tracing the Origins of Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century German Palatine Emigrants." ✓
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Lunch and Browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Mr. Jones: "Saints, Sinners and an Occasional Horsethief: Some Emigrant Stories." ✓
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm  
Coffee and Browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm  
Mr. Jones: "How *Psychic Roots* Became an 'Unsolved Mystery'."
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm  
Closing Remarks



# Preserving the Past

By Lisa Mohr  
Staff writer

There is a resource of historical documents, books, memorabilia and museum displays available to local residents that many people are unaware of: the Rock Island County Historical Society.

The organization has a library and two museums at 822 11th Ave., Moine. If you're one of those who have never been there, however, don't let the word "society" give you the wrong impression.

"There's a big misconception in the community that the Rock Island County Historical Society is a social group, but in fact it is a group of people organized to preserve history in Rock Island County," said Sue Ann McMaster, the society's newly appointed director/archivist.



Sue Ann McMaster

The RICHS is a nonprofit, educational organization funded by membership dues, an endowment fund, special donations, memorials and bequests. It is not run by any county government organization or party but is governed by a board of directors.

"There are three divisions of the society — the library-archives, the house museum, and the carriage house with its clothes loft museum," said Ms. McMaster. "The board of directors determined a need to unite the three into a single unit under the direction of a professionally educated director."

On Aug. 5, 1966, the state of Illinois certified the society as a legally organized, private corporation.

"In the early part of the century, it was common for people united in some common interest to form a learned society to pursue some definite line of research," said Ms. McMaster. "Literary societies, historical societies and societies associated with museums and art museums were commonplace. 'Society' then had a very different meaning than it does today. RICHS was formed to promote three goals."

Those goals are collecting and preserving historically valuable materials relating to Rock Island County, promoting the study of Rock Island County, and providing educational opportunities for the enrichment of all residents and others interested in the history of our area.

### All kinds of records

The library-archives is open year-round from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It is also open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays from the third Sunday in May through the first Sunday in December.

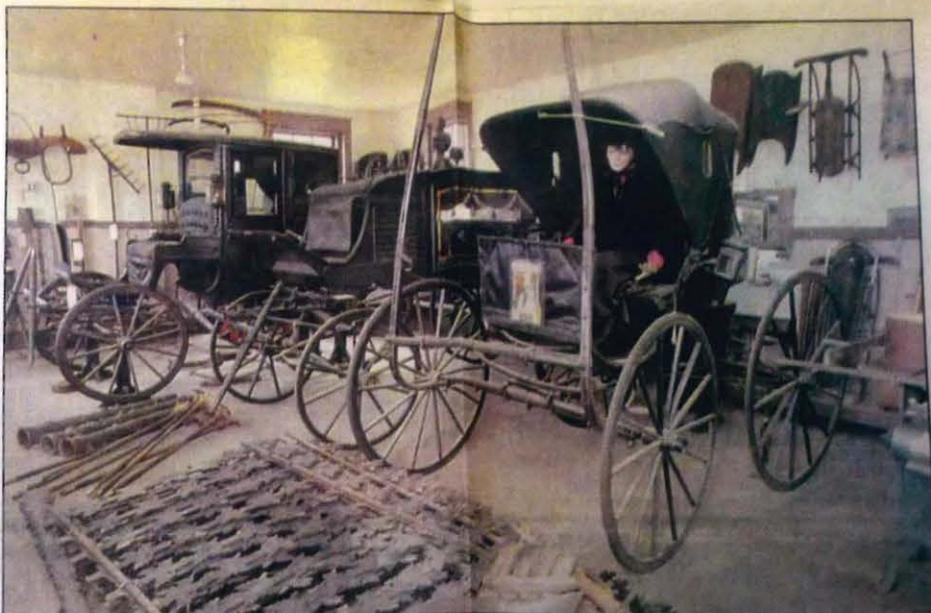
"The library-archives houses a collection of books and vertical files of historical information; legal documents such as some deeds, abstract of titles, land grants, obituaries; and the Belgian book collection," said Ms. McMaster.

A collection of various newspapers dates from 1839 to 1961.

Also available are photographs, postcards, interviews, oral-history audiotapes, family genealogical histories, videotapes, maps, city directories, census records, municipal and police records, birth and death records, county histories, state historical publications, manuscript collections and archival records.

"We've already begun computerizing some records, such as the picture collections and obituaries," said Ms. McMaster. "I'm looking forward to continuing this computerization of data and extending it to the museum, carriage house and loft materials."

Traditionally, archival collections are assimilated as



photos / Chuck Thomas / staff

The Rock Island County Historical Society is a resource for historical documents, memorabilia and more. Below left is the society's house museum, which is furnished in the manner of the 19th century. It was built as a home for Edmund Atkinson in 1878. Also on the grounds is the carriage house, where buggies, above, and miking equipment, top left, are among the many historical items on display.



Jennifer Webster / staff

The Rock Island County Historical Society is not a social group, but an organization dedicated to collecting county history

## ▶ HISTORY

FROM PAGE G1

they were arranged by the donor, Ms. McMaster said. "A researcher does not have direct access to archival materials. A librarian or archivist must get requested materials for the researcher to look at."

The library has two different types of archival materials. "The first is personal manuscripts, such as collections, diaries, journals, written correspondence, photo collections and clippings that have historical merit to Rock Island County," Ms. McMaster said.

The second type of archival materials are the official records, including minutes, official records of businesses and some civil records.

### History on display

The museum, carriage house and clothes loft are open for tours from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays from May 17 through Dec. 6. The museum was constructed for Edmund Atkinson as his home in 1878. Burton F. Peek

**'I'm depending upon professional and practicing historians, history teachers and lovers of history to alert us to what is historically viable in the area and to make us aware of it.'**

Sue Ann McMaster  
RICHS archivist/director

purchased the house in 1904. In 1962, Mrs. Charles Deere Wiman bought the house from the Peek estate and presented it to the society.

"The house museum is furnished in the manner of the 19th century," said Ms. McMaster. "Besides the parlor with its Moline organ, the sun porch, dining room, kitchen and pantry, and an 1840s bedroom, there are specialty rooms showing an early doctor's office, a 1912 dentist's office, a one-room school house, and a room with Indian artifacts."

In the carriage house are horse-drawn buggles of the late 1800s, a hearse, tools, children's sleds, an early milk delivery system and bootlegging equipment from the Prohibition era, to name a few items. "Coordinators of the carriage house are busy creating a partial replica of a trolley car to display



These are some of the clothes on display at the clothes loft of the Rock Island County Historical Society in Moline.

this summer," said Ms. McMaster.

The clothes loft contains an incredible collection of vintage clothing and accessories dating from the 1800s. Included are gowns, hats, scarves, purses, beads and many other articles.

### Anyone can join

"Any person is welcome to join the society," Ms. McMaster said. "Volunteers help with such duties as answering the phone and helping patrons find information. Artists, carpenters, book repairers, card filers and those willing to do the many other jobs are welcomed heartily. We consider our volunteers some of our greatest riches."

Membership fees are \$5 for students, \$15 for individuals and \$25

for families. To join or for more information, call 764-8590.

Ms. McMaster is a graduate of the archival education division of the College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland at College Park. Lucille Sampson, who has served as archivist since July 1982, is now the society's archivist emerita.

"One of my goals is to focus on the local historical evidence of the last five decades," Ms. McMaster said. "I want to continue to identify, collect and preserve the valuable historical records and artifacts of Rock Island County. I'm depending upon professional and practicing historians, history teachers and lovers of history to alert the library to what is historically viable in the area and to make us aware of it."

# MELUNGEON

## Mystery in the Mountains

In the hills of Appalachia, traces of a lost society — or is it wishful thinking?

By Ted Anthony

**NASH HOME PLACE, Va.**

**H**e always believed them. No punier set in Kentucky was his name, and of course Scotch-Irish was his background — a self-reliant lineage straight back to the cool hills of western Europe, people who took to Appalachia's ridges with vigor and even forged institutions.

But this time, this thing that descended to consume his body and hijack his control — well, it just didn't fit. Not at all. An odd malady common in Melungeon and Middle Eastern people? How did it invade him, of all people?

No time to worry about it, though. Other things were more pressing. The unbearable agony in his bones. The lunge that couldn't grab enough air. The grotesquely swollen legs. The panic. The will and poise wane.

Explosions he demanded. He resigned himself to those moments of ineffectual treatment and pain. He thought he might die.

Then he got better, and curiously began obsessing. Middle Eastern, Mediterranean — did that have some connection to the unexplained olive skin, swarthy features and bright blue eyes that his family and others up on Coopers and Stone mountains had exhibited for generations? To the fact that his brother, inexplicably, was a blond ringer for Britanny Howard?

Maybe, he mused. It was part of a bigger story. He began asking questions. About his own ancestry. About those who, supposedly, spoke with striking eyes, who came out of the white row and flash. About an old word he'd stumbled across. About history. About race. About community.

The questions brought him here, to a mountaintop-growth? (Did that have some connection to the unexplained olive skin, swarthy features and bright blue eyes that his family and others up on Coopers and Stone mountains had exhibited for generations?)

It was the beginning of his new calling — and of something far more.

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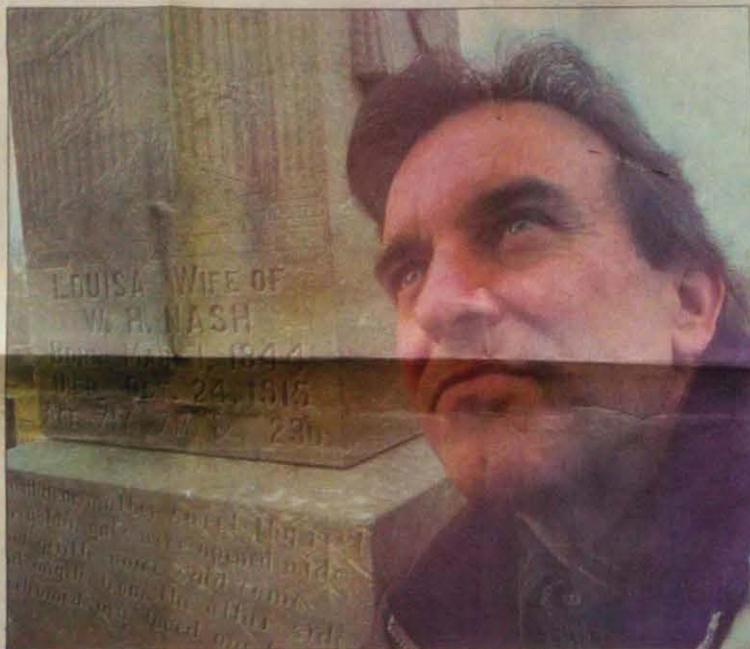
One word. One loose word. An obscure word. A powerful word, uttered over the centuries in confusion, derision and, most recently, pride.

Melungeon.

One word. And behind it a tapestry of truth and possibility of people wanting to be what they're not and not wanting to be what they are. Of understanding your life by owning a chunk of your past. Basic things. Complicated things.

For 300 years, racial, social and cultural stigmas made second-class citizens of anyone in this region who was branded with that one word. Scattered in pockets through the mountains, they sat at the bottom of the white-trail pile — discriminated against, demeaned, denied voting rights, branded "colored" by the government in the days when that was a fighting word.

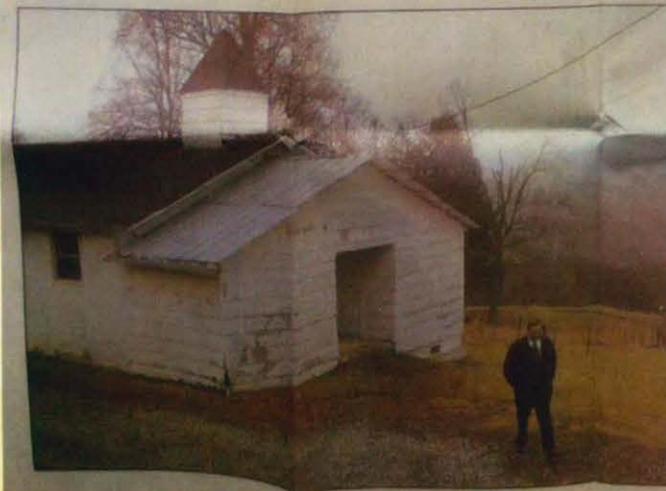
But why? What was — what is — a Melungeon?



**Above:** Brent Kennedy of Wise, Va., poses by the grave of his great-grandmother, Louisa Hall Nash, in the Nash family cemetery in Wise. Although he grew up believing he was Scotch-Irish, Kennedy began to question the unexplained olive skin, swarthy features and bright blue eyes that his family had exhibited for generations. He has spent the last decade researching the people called Melungeons.

**At top:** The sun sets over the Appalachians in a view from Stone Mountain, Va. The Melungeons have lived here for 300 years.

PLEASE SEE **MYSTERY**, 66



**Above:** Carolyn Adkins and her daughter Amanda, 13, inside their home. The Adkins are getting involved in Second Union, a meeting of Melungeons set for next month. Melungeons are concentrated in southwestern Virginia, eastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee, where they have long been discriminated against, but no one is certain of their ethnic origin.

**At left:** Scott Collins walks from the Goings Chapel Baptist Church on Newman's Ridge in Greepole, Tenn. Collins has spent 25 years walking Newman's Ridge and researching his Melungeon ancestry.

**MYSTERY**

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The short answer: Nobody's quite sure.

This much is known about the people called Melungeons (rhymes with dungeons). Today many are concentrated in southwestern Virginia, eastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee. They have been derided for where they live (the hills), how they live (often poorly), how they are named (Mullins, Collins, Goins, Roberson, etc.).

And then there's this: Unusually, politically incorrect even, but here it is: Though they fit our nation's modern definition of white, many with Melungeon ancestry just plain look different from the majority of white folks around here. Long, regal noses, dusky faces, jet-black hair, shining blue eyes. One glimpse can evoke foreign lands, strange tongues.

Were they originally Spanish? There has long been talk — some of it bolstered by fact, some rampant speculation — that survivors of Santa Elena, a Spanish colony on the South Carolina coast in the 1500s, forged inland and settled in the hills.

Were they Turkish or North African? Both the Turkish "melun can" and the Arabic "malun jinn" mean "outcast" or "accursed soul." Were Turkish slaves from Spanish ships abandoned on the coast to work their way to Appalachia?

Or were they Portuguese? Early Melungeons, discovered by Scotch-Irish settlers in the mid-18th century, reportedly spoke broken Elizabethan English and described themselves simply as "Portygee."

The prevailing academic theory offers an equally slapdash, though less romantic, origin. It suggests Melungeons are descended from "tri-racial isolates," a mixture of whites, blacks and American Indians who historians say interbred along Appalachia's ridges during the 16th century.

The tantalizing speculations go on, culled from old documents and stories passed down: Spaniards living in a mining community in the southern Alleghenies in 1654; Hints of Catholicism, Judaism, even Islam. Refugees from Sir Francis Drake's ship, *Moorea*, and the Spanish Inquisition. American Indian words that inexplicably mirror Turkish words.

So many clues. So little incontrovertible evidence. Pieces, interlock-

ing, but no puzzle picture yet.

Today, myth and fact are often inseparable. Abraham Lincoln, it's suggested, was a Melungeon through his mother, Nancy Hanks. And Elvis Presley — look at those dark, poor-boy features. Classic Melungeons, some like to speculate.

In Wise County, along the cloud-shrouded ridges of Stone and Coeburn mountains in southwestern Virginia, such notions have always been whispered or left unsaid. After all, in the pre-civil rights era, you didn't want to be related to Melungeons, to the "Black Nashes" or "Black Ira" or "Spotted Dave." You didn't want to be pushed around in school by townies, just living on the mountain was stigma enough without being tagged a Melungeon.

And you certainly didn't want a surname that caught W.A. Plecker's attention. Two generations ago, the Virginia state official compiled a list of common names that he deemed Melungeon (like Mullins, or Collins), then instructed local officials to stull out these "mixed families" and prevent them from claiming American Indian ancestry as an "aid to intermarriage into the white race."

You didn't even want to poke into your own background, who knew that might turn up? Connie Clark, who teaches in the Wise schools and counts herself as a Melungeon, remembers in eighth grade being assisted to trace her family history — but to stop with her grandparents.

"I said, 'What if we can go back farther?'" she recalls. "And they said, 'No — some people might not like what they find.'"

Now here's the odd part. Today, though there remains passionately angry resistance, more and more people who believe they are Melungeons are going back farther.

But now they like what they find.

**Researching the M-word**

"Want to feel my bump?" Brent Kennedy asks.

It is on the back of his head, and it is, he proposes, classically Central Asian — proof, along with a ridge behind his upper teeth, that such genes reside within his 47-year-old body, that he's not Scotch-Irish.

A stretch? Even Kennedy acknowledges that possibility. But it speaks directly to what he's spent the 1990s trying to do: create, uncover, prove — use whatever verb you wish — similarities between people.



Associated Press

This is a photograph of Will Collins, great-great-uncle of Brent Kennedy of Wise, Va. Kennedy has spent years researching his family's connections to a people called Melungeons.

Find shared history, common ground.

Kennedy's ailments — sarcoidosis and suspected familial Mediterranean fever — halted his life. He gave up a big-time Atlanta PR job and moved back to Wise, his hometown, to become a college student. Like many who fall gravely ill, he shuffled priorities.

What emerged from his crucible of pain and curiosity was a deep, abiding desire to learn why his family would never discuss being Melungeon, why his mother's people were called the "Black Nashes," why the M-word still made many of his contemporaries bristle.

So he went onto Stone Mountain and poked. He went onto Coeburn Mountain and pried. He alienated family members with questions, some even destroyed photos to prevent him from getting them. Burn in hell, one cousin told him.

He found kindred spirits like Darlene Wilson, a gregarious doctoral student in history and the main Melungeon voice on the World Wide Web. Like Chester DePratter, an archaeologist excavating the Santa Elena ruins who — first tentatively, then enthusiastically — became part of the Melungeon investigation. Like Scott Collins, a Sneedville, Tenn., court official who has spent 25 years walking Newman's Ridge in eastern Tennessee and researching his Melungeon ancestry.

Kennedy kept at it. He net-worked. He wrote letters; he got let-

ters back — emotional letters, thank-you letters, hate letters, death threats. He helped form a committee (as college administrators do) composed of historians, anthropologists, geneticists, regular folks. A Spanish researcher, a Portuguese researcher, a Turkish re-

searcher. "Brent is running the whole gamut — from oral history to 'real history' and into the realm of science," DePratter says. "I do find myself having to caution him from time to time, but if he had been totally out there on the fringe, I never would have gotten involved."

Then Kennedy wrote *The Book*. "The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People" resonated in all corners of Melungendom. It left people on the two mountains aghast, Melungendon simply wasn't a word they discussed. In academia, Kennedy was either welcomed as a provocative kindred spirit or dismissed as a loose cannon who made conclusions, then sought facts.

"It was not written as history," Kennedy insists. "The book is a manifesto."

Not good enough for some. David Henige, an oral-history expert at the University of Wisconsin, dismantled Kennedy's book in a recent critique. A believer in the "tri-racial isolate" theory, Henige attributes the Melungendon movement to people feeling inadequate and creating a "mass attitude."

"It's an attempt — an unsuccessful one — to create history. Instead, it's created a myth," Henige says. "This says something about human nature: It's nice to believe. That's what keeps religion going, isn't it?" he says. "This is like religion — faith with no proof."

Proof or not, the faith is accelerating. This is what it has caused.

The mayor of Cesme, Turkey, and his entourage have visited Wise County, endorsed the curiosity and promised help in exploring links between Melungens and the possible Turkish "melun can" of so long ago. Even the Turkish World Research Foundation has gotten involved.

This is what it has caused: Last year, a meeting of Melungens called "First Union" was expected to draw 200, maybe 300 people. Nearly 1,000 showed up, jamming hotels. Second Union is set for next month.

This, arguably, is what it has caused: A backlash against racial purity arguments, a grass-roots movement in a nation where almost all of the "natives" aren't natives.

"History has been sacrificed for much worse," says Roger Lyle Brown, who wrote about southern nativist movements in his book, "Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit."

what's inside of me, and what's inside me is all things," Brown says. "It's as if the Melungens contain the world."

And this is what it has caused: Curiosity, anger, understanding. Friendships among people who never knew of each other. Families reunited, other families outraged at the temerity of upstaging something they worked so hard to bury. Neighbors talking to neighbors. Neighbors ignoring neighbors.

Things that happen in a community.

**It's about belonging**

"We are here! We are here! We are here! We are here!" — the microscopic residents of Whoville in Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who," yelling in unison to persuade his regular-sized universe that their word exists upon a dust speck.

■■■

Brent Kennedy's great-grandmother was a strong woman, a woman who could deal. To the day she died in October 1915, Louisa Hall Nash was known on Coeburn Mountain as two things — hospitable and tough. The smattering of houses called Nash Home Place is named for her people. She was, her descendants say, Melungendon.

Today her great-grandson comes to her grave for contemplation — as he has since he was four, when his mother first brought him to the monument-dappled hillside. "Even then," he recalls, "there was a sadness."

Now, though Kennedy's shoes crunch through the same graveyard's grass, the ground he treads is different. Those who preceded him may have felt they were islands in an ocean of disdain, but now tens have become hundreds have become thousands — Sextons, Gipsons, Collinses, Robersons, Kennedys, random people who have heard of what's happening. People who want to belong.

Carolyn Adkins, a young mother from Stone Mountain still hesitant about her Melungendon background, is getting involved, with her 13-year-old daughter Amanda, in Second Union. "To all you people who ever put me down — I'm not as low as you thought I was," she says.

And Connie Clark is teaching a new generation about the Melungens. She looks at her pale hands and vows her own little push for progress. "When that census comes around the next time," she says, "I'm not going to put down 'white.' I'll put down 'other.'"

Kennedy wants to be buried here, though not just yet. He can imagine nothing more fitting than to come to an end alongside the people he is

He's glad he got sick, thankful his wife let him spend their life's savings on an obsession.

History, Race Community. A nascent extended family in which belief, not genetics, gets you through the front door. Yes, like a religion. And below it all, the pernicious questions that faith always raises: How do you tell a story without all the facts? And without all the facts, should you ignore the story?

Kennedy didn't. Wilson didn't. Collins didn't. And today, in the mountains of southwestern Virginia, eastern Tennessee and eastern Kentucky, almost everyone who wants to be a Melungendon can find a reason, and the paucity of hard facts makes it almost impossible to exclude anyone. The pegs whittle themselves to fit the hole.

And why not? You could say this lesson — what Darlene Wilson calls the "incredible mosaic" — is a fitting development for an America Brent Kennedy envisions is a new kind of ethnicity — one based not upon race or color or background but upon shared experience and history. Or, his critics would say, upon shoddy methodology and wishful thinking.

"I don't care who we are. I just believe that we need to KNOW who we are," Kennedy says.

"However they did it, they got here. And their genes are here," he says. "So when someone says to me, 'Without doubt you're Scotch-Irish, and I'm sitting here with all these physical traits and all these clues and this illness — well, don't tell me that. Somehow the genes are here.'"

Maybe the blurriness isn't a shortcoming, perhaps it's exactly the point. Something unusual happened here long ago, but the truth may be eternally elusive. History may have washed it away and, implacably, left behind only the clues for a vast genetic-anthropological Easter egg hunt. It may be that questions, not answers, are what matter most.

And still there are these people. Call them what you will, they exist — abundant pockets of dark features and shining eyes and sad lineages and unanswered questions. And even if they lack a common past, they are forging a common present.

A new race? Perhaps, perhaps not. A new history? Hard to say; many more facts are needed.

But a new community? You'd be hard-pressed to say otherwise. Because, conclude what you will about their origins, today some of them are shouting together. And the shouts are being heard. The Melungens, whatever, whoever they may be, are here. They are loudly, passionately, indisputably, irre-

# THE ROCK ISLAND ARGUS

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 1998, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

\$1.50

## Minority history fading fast

### Drive is on to record oral histories

- Black veterans buried at Chippiannock deserve death with dignity. **PAGE A4**
- Memorial to black Civil War veterans dedicated in Washington, D.C. **PAGE A12**

By Roger Ruthhart  
Managing editor

ROCK ISLAND — Jackson Beardsley was a mountain of a man and a leader in the black community in mid-1800s Rock Island. He fought for his country during the Civil War.

Today he lies in an unmarked grave at Chippiannock Cemetery.

Born in Kentucky in 1831, he was brought north in 1862 by Ezra Beardsley. A year later, he returned to the South where he served in the Union army until he was discharged in Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 2, 1864, and returned to Rock Island.

At the time of his death in 1885, Mr. Beardsley was described by The Rock Island Argus as a man who "exerted considerable influence among his race hereabouts, and whatever Jack said was law."

"He was a man of powerful build," The Argus said. "In his younger days, he was a hard man to handle in a hand-to-hand encounter, and yet he was quiet and peaceable when not imposed upon."

After the war, Mr. Beardsley drove a mail hack from Rock Island to Andalusia for J.Z. Thompson, who contracted to carry mail from Rock Island to Aledo. He also did whitewashing and other small jobs around town. He lived above W.H. Lundy's Store and when he died at age 53, after a



John Greenwood / staff

Chippiannock Cemetery superintendent Greg Vogeie shows the tombstone of black Civil War veteran George Kelly. Nine black veterans are buried in the area near Mr. Kelly, but there are no gravestones and the exact burial sites are unknown.

painful six-month illness, he was survived by his wife and 2-year-old daughter.

Like others, whose families couldn't afford a headstone, he was buried in an unmarked grave in the "colored" section of Chippiannock, one of the few cemeteries that buried non-whites at the time.

Mr. Beardsley is one of nine known black Civil War veterans buried in unmarked graves at Chippiannock. Today, the federal government's Department of Veterans Affairs will provide free headstones for deceased veterans if enough documentation can be provided to prove the person was a veteran.

Chippiannock Cemetery and the staff of The Rock Island Argus and The Dispatch are working to produce enough information on the nine to secure headstones to mark their graves. But digging through history, clouded by more than a century of forgotten or undocumented information, can be a tedious task.

The Department of Veteran's Affairs probably has the information. After all, it's their job to keep records on veterans, said Greg Vogeie, superintendent of Chippiannock Cemetery. In 1996, the Department of Veteran's Af-

PLEASE SEE **HISTORY, A2**

## HISTORY

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fairs acknowledged that it might have the needed information, but told Mr. Vogele and U.S. Rep. Lane Evans' office its staff did not have the time to look for it.

While that answer apparently was acceptable to the congressman's office, it wasn't to Mr. Vogele. The project stewed for a couple of years in the back of his mind before he decided to seek the newspapers' help.

When it comes to history on local minorities, little has been written down and cataloged, according to Mr. Vogele, who also is president of the Rock Island County Historical Society.

Chippiannock's efforts to preserve Quad-Cities history include keeping genealogical records on those buried at the cemetery and conducting walking tours and Epitaphs events where the lives of cemetery "residents" are portrayed, as well as giving school tours and slide and video programs.

"One area that we have always had difficulty in obtaining historical information has been on local black families," said Mr. Vogele. "Our forefathers were not very diligent in recording this aspect of history. This is a problem that must be fixed before it is too late."

The historical society, aided by The Argus and Dispatch and some local black leaders, is hoping to fill in some of the gaps.

The historical society has offered to record oral histories from local minority families that are willing to participate. The oral histories eventually will be transcribed, cataloged and housed as part of the historical society's genealogy resource library.

"Much of the history that does exist is oral, passed from one generation to the next but not written down where it can be accessed by researchers," Mr. Vogele said. While the project began out of an interest in gathering information on some of the individuals in Chippiannock Cemetery, family histories seldom are contained within city boundaries. So any minority family in Rock Island County is encouraged to participate in this project.

The guidelines are simple. The

### Sharing history

The Rock Island County Historical Society is looking for information on early minority settlers and their families. Those residents:

- Must be a racial minority.
- Must have been in Rock Island County prior to 1940.
- Should contact Greg Vogele at Chippiannock Cemetery, 788-6622, to participate.

society is looking for the family histories of minority residents prior to 1940. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mr. Vogele at Chippiannock Cemetery, 788-6622.

At Chippiannock, many of the family names are readily visible on markers, but little or nothing is known about them. Who were Charles Washington (1845-1920), Payton Coleman (died 1929) or Samuel Overton (1896-1938)? What about Joseph Overton, who died at age 18 (1921-1939), and Sarah Dagerfield, who died at age 89 (1852-1941)? Does anyone know anything about Otto Vaughn (1875-1940) or Abraham (1878-1942) and Bertie Miller (1887-1938)?

Others are not so memorable, lying in the many unmarked grave sites in this portion of the cemetery. What role do names like Hattie Clay, John Travis, Spencer Houston, Florence Pettifond, Alexander Burris and Jesse and Nellie Kelley play in the history of Rock Island?

"It is our hope that we will be able to record and preserve some of this important history before it is lost forever," Mr. Vogele said. "And the cemetery would like to include more black and minority representation in its walking tours and other programs. Who was the first black teacher? Black doctor? Who were the first black businessmen? Who were the key people in our local families?"

"The average school group that visits the cemetery is composed of a much more diverse group than our tours cover. For the black student, where are the role models in our local history?"

1999

## ***Blackhawk Genealogical Society***

***1999 program schedule***

***Meetings will be held at Southpark Presbyterian Church  
1501-30th Street, Rock Island  
4th Tuesday---7 p.m.***

***NOTE-- June, July and August meetings will be elsewhere***

- Jan. 26 DAR Lineage Requirements for Membership - Lorraine Hathaway
- Feb. 23 Society reports on the present and the future - Members roundtable
- Mar. 23 R. I. Co. Court House Records
- Apr. 27 Swedish-American Immigrant Women---Christina Johansson
- May 25 Genes and Heredity - Dwight Mohlenbruch
- Jun. 22 Meet at Rock Island Public Library-Community Room
- Jul. 27 Meet at Rock Island Co. Historical Library
- Aug.24 Meet at Family History Library
- Sep. 28 TBA
- Oct. 26 Scharlott Blevins
- Nov. 16 Annual dinner-- Pioneer Skit--Mary and Merlin Nelson

*Silver Anniversary*  
**25th**

**Annual  
Quad Cities  
Genealogical  
Conference**

**Saturday**

**April 17, 1999**

**8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**at the**

**Viking Club of Moline**

**1450 - 41st Street**

**Moline, Illinois**



**QUAD CITIES USA**

# Roots,

## with a twist

These two Southerners discover a common bond: their family history.

BY DENNIS MCQUERTY

### Black History Month brings out tales of America's past

For historians, the American family in black and white is merely American and what is merely American is a vast, unexplored territory. It is a vast, unexplored territory of one of the most important aspects of our heritage.

IN THE CHILL of a recent winter afternoon, Will and Dean Harrison explore the burned-out remains of a once-grand Virginia plantation. They scuffle down an overgrown fence, carefully sidestepping rusty barbed wire and rusted western wire. The two men scour the heavily ground for the green stones of their ancestors.

But one thing makes this family scavenger hunt extraordinary — and uniquely American: Dean Harrison is black; Will Harrison is white. They are descendants of a plantation family and its slaves who adopted the family name, a common practice of the time.

Will and Dean, both 37, are among the tens of thousands of searching descendants of the Harrison clan. The Harrison empire is believed to have owned as many as 10,000 slaves scattered among 40 plantations in three states. Will and Dean learned of their common history from Henry Winrock, a writer who spent eight years combing courthouse records and university archives, visiting plantations and interviewing scores of family members in Virginia, North Carolina and Mississippi. The family is the subject of his new book, *The Harrison for American Family*, in Black and White.

Today, the Harrisons are a vast coalition of black and white Americans just now discovering their common roots. Some, like Will and Dean Harrison, are using their new understanding of their divisive past to forge new bonds.

Dean, a police lieutenant from Danville, Va., took photos of the old Harrison plantation's sprawling mansion when it burned to the ground in 1988. Will, a groundskeeping supervisor who lives 200 miles away in Harrisonburg, Va., was the plantation's last resident. After hearing through Winrock about Dean's desire to find his ancestors' graves there, Will decided to make the trip to help him. "I don't know if it reconciles my past with respect to my ancestors," says Will, who also maintains a fascination with his heritage.

"But it seems like the right thing to do." Strangers when the day began, the two men can find each other's sentences within hours of meeting.

### Neighbors have lived side by side, never knowing they were related.

"This house was for the house servants," Will says of a former slave quarters with black brick walls and traces of what was a wooden floor, a prefabricated room to the common dirt floors. "They'd cook for the kids and the family, so they'd make the house nicer than for the field hands."

"They were also the labor-division slaves, usually," Dean interjects. "They were treated better. If you had a wooden floor in the house, it was practically a sign of aristocracy."

When Winrock says he is amazed at family members' exposure to his region and recollections about their common roots in the Mississippi town of Clarksford, for example, white and black neighbors have crossed side by side for generations, never knowing they were genetically related until Winrock said them. Winrock says his recollections were greeted warmly by both black and white family members who have shared gathered to exchange photos and stories passed down through the generations.

Dean and Will's search is another opportunity. As the last resident of the plantation, Will took throughout an 1,067-acre estate with a history. "Usually when I go down roads like this," Dean jokes in reply, "I get up, coughing the 'paddy grounds' as the police say. 'I find a body.' This day, they don't find the graves. Dean wanted to find. But they find the graves again."

"We're trying to make a connection," Dean says. "In a way, they already have." □



Over time, Will and Dean Harrison use the ruins of their common ancestor's home, as the plantation near Danville, Va., had burned in 1988.

### MOJINE

**Albert Loebe**, 76, of 1811 S. Ave. A, MoLine, died Sunday, Oct. 10, 1990, at his home with his wife and children around him.



Services will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at DeFoe Funeral Home, MoLine, and 10 a.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church, MoLine. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, East MoLine.

Visitation will be 3 to 7 p.m. day at the funeral home, with a Christian wake service at 6:30 p.m. Memorials may be made to Center for Belgian Culture at the church.

He was born April 25, 1917, in MoLine, to Albert A. and Leta Sutter Loebe. He lived in MoLine his entire life. He married Joan Walter Sept. 28, 1960. They had two children, **GENEALOGY**

He was employed by John Deere Harvester and retired in 1962 after nearly 25 years of service. Al's family was very important to him. He loved his children and grandchildren. He was very involved in his children's activities when they were growing up. He was a member of many Lions and ETA and served as president of the MoLine Boys Club, scouts and Capital Hill parents. He was also involved with the Boy Scouts for many years and was a Junior Achievement adviser. He was the current president of the Center for Belgian Culture and treasurer of the Ohio-Texas Business Association. He was also a member of the Hutter Family Association.

He was a member of Christ the King, served as president of the parish council and was a lector and cantor. The school Mass girls will miss his singing on Sunday mornings, but what a wonderful voice to add to the choir of heaven.

He loved classical music and poetry and enjoyed golf and bowling. He had a great sense of humor and always had a joke to tell. He had a wonderful singing voice and sang in barbershop choruses and quartets.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; children and spouses, David and Tracy Loebe, Loretta and Clinton Collier and Marlene Loebe; nephews, Bill and Ed Loebe; nieces, Norma, Bill, Nina, Patricia, Barbara, Vera, David, Anne, Debra, Bernice, Loretta, Kristin, Catherine, Joseph, Colleen, Amanda, Rebecca, Lillian, Loretta, Barbara, Loretta and Debra Loebe; a granddaughter, Amy, step-grandchildren, Lisa, Melissa, and Loretta; sisters, Loretta, Rosemarie, Mary Loretta, Marie Lou, Frances, Edna and Bernice; nieces, Anita, Patricia and William Marlin. He was preceded in death by his father and a grandchild.

## MOLINE

### Albert Loete

*husband of Joan  
Loete, former  
member of B.C.S.*

Albert James Loete, 62, of 3605 34th Ave., Moline, died Sunday, Oct. 10, 1999, at his home with his wife and children around him.



Services will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at DeRoo Funeral Home, Moline, and 10 a.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church, Moline. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline.

Visitation will be 3 to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home, with a Christian wake service at 6:30 p.m. Memorials may be made to Center for Belgian Culture or the church.

He was born April 23, 1937, in Moline, to Albert A. and Lois Suiter Loete. He lived in Moline his entire life. He married Joan Walke Sept. 22, 1956. They had four children.

He was employed by John Deere Harvester and retired in 1992 after nearly 37 years of service.

Al's family was very important to him. He loved his children and grandchildren. He was very involved in his children's activities when they were growing up. He was a member of Dad's Club and PTA and served as president of the Moline Boys Choir parents and Coolidge Band parents. He was also involved with the Boy Scouts for many years and was a Junior Achievement adviser. He was the current president of the Center for Belgian Culture and treasurer of the Olde Towne Business Association. He was also a member of the Suiter Family Association.

He was a member of Christ the King, served as president of the parish council and was a lector and cantor. The 8 o'clock Mass goers will miss his singing on Sunday mornings, but what a wonderful voice to add to the choir of heaven!

He loved classical music and poetry and enjoyed golf and bowling. He had a great sense of humor and always had a joke to tell. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in barbershop choruses and quartets.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; children and spouses, David and Darcy Loete, Lynne and Glenn Collier, and Sharon Loete, Moline, and Matt and Gina Loete, Normal, Ill.; nine grandchildren, Eric Diehl, Angie Diehl, Stephanie Loete, Kristin Collier, Joseph Collier, Amanda Busboom, Lindsay Loete, Rebecca Loete and Dane Loete; a stepgrandson; two stepgreat-grandchildren; his mother, Lois Loete, sisters, Laura Rummans, Sherrard, Mary Meier, Las Cruces, N.M.; and brothers, Lawrence, Apple Canyon, and William, Moline. He was preceded in death by his father and a great-grandchild.



The Harney Clan first gathered for the St. Patrick's Day parade in 1996. Seated at right are Helen Harney Reier and her sister, Frances Harney Moylan. Also pictures from left is Maureen Moylan, Priscilla Haessig (daughter of Ruth Harney), Jim Reier, Dick Hood (son of Margaret Harney Hood), Patrick Moylan.

# Family Reunion

## St. Patrick Society's Grand Parade XIV brings Irish clans together

by Julia LaBua  
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Most families plan their reunions for the dog days of summer, when the kids are out of school and the weather is safer for traveling.

Any given weekend in July or August, you'll find park shelters around the area filled with picnic tables groaning under the weight of each person's special food contribution: Wayne's barbecue ribs, Clara's Swedish meat balls, Mary Lois' lasagna.

More than one family of Irish descent has hit upon a better idea: Organize the annual family get-together around another special event: The annual St. Patrick's Grand Parade.

Which is why you'll find branches of the Harney clan from Oklahoma to New Jersey converging on the Quad-Cities this weekend. As many as 30 cousins and their families will take their places on the family's float, whose theme this year is "Irish Tires Are Piling," which will involve a great number of vehicle tires painted green.

"We have so much fun because we've always been a very close family," Reier said. "We're very, very proud of our Irish, and our parents never let us forget it."

The current Harney clan representatives trace their roots to a common set of grandparents: George and Maggie McCarthy Harney,

who came from County Cork, Ireland, and settled in West Liberty, Iowa.

"They had seven children, three sons and four daughters," said Jim Reier. "We (the surviving members) are the offspring of those seven children. We always talked about having a float in the parade, but no one ever took charge and got it organized."

"It was in 1996, I guess, that we finally decided to do it, because at that time my mother (Helen Harney Reier) and her sister (Frances Harney Moylan) were still alive — the last surviving children of George and Maggie. We had them on the float."

Reier said at least half the fun for the family is planning each year's entry. "It's a lot of silliness and a lot of fun. We have 'planning sessions' throughout the year, which means we meet at the Moline VFW and drink beer and come up with outrageous ideas and enjoy each other's company."

Logistical support comes from some "honorary" clan members, Mike and Sharon McCubbin, who provide the vehicles needed to haul the float in the parade.

Reier has fond memories of growing up with his cousins in West Liberty, where his uncle owned the Hotel Moylan. Some branches of the family have traveled farther afield, but the Mike Moylans of Fort Madison, the Tom Reiers of Oklahoma and the Mary Driscolls in New

Jersey make an effort to return to the Quad-Cities each March.

"We're spread all over, but we make a point of getting together," Reier said. "Dick Hood lives in Atalissa, Iowa, and his family is mostly out in California now, but they still make it back sometimes."

Others, like Reier and his cousin Priscilla Richards Haessig of West Liberty, are still close to home. "It turns into a group of about 30 people each year, and it's just an awful lot of fun to see everyone," Reier said.

After three years of Irish reunions, Reier still points to that first parade in 1996 as the highlight so far.

"The greatest moment of all had to be having my mother and Aunt Frances on the first float," he said. "At that time my mother was 87, and my Aunt Frances was 85, and nobody in the parade had more fun than those two."

Frances Harney Moylan died in 1997, and Helen Harney Reier died last September, making those memories all the more special.

"My mother had a thornwood cane that goes back to her great-grandfather in Ireland, which means a lot to our family."

"All the original Harney children are gone now, but we're carrying on that tradition by calling ourselves that," Reier said.

"The whole idea is just to keep the family close and together."

**DAILY PLANNER**



**Tour Chippiannock Cemetery**

Chippiannock Cemetery historical walking tours will be held at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month through October at the cemetery, 2901 12th St., Rock Island.

**Phylis Normoyle**

Services for Phylis C. Normoyle, 86, of 2718 29th Ave., Rock Island, are 9:30 a.m. today at DeRoo Funeral Home, Moline, and 10 a.m. at St. Plus Church, Rock Island, where she was a member. The Rev. Paul Showalter will officiate. Burial is in Calvary Cemetery, Rock Island. Memorials may be made to Alleman High School, Rock Island.

Mrs. Normoyle died Saturday, May 1, 1989, at St. Anthony's Continuing Care Center, Rock Island.

She was born Nov. 25, 1912, in Rock Island, the daughter of Phillip and Merle Cox Stack. She married Joseph A. Normoyle July 7, 1933.

She was a graduate of the former Villa de Central, Rock Island, and St. Francis College, Joliet. She was a substitute teacher at the Villa and St. Joseph Grade School, Rock Island. She was a member of the Villa alumni, Daughters of Isabella, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Armstrong Chapter, and was regent from 1973-1975. She pursued her family genealogy and was a co-founder of the local chapter of the Genealogy Society. She was awarded a lifetime membership as a result of her work. She enjoyed flying and acquired her pilot's license in 1972.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph, a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Kay and Jack Michalski, Moline; sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph and Faye Normoyle, Australia, and Robert and Donna Normoyle, Cordova; a daughter-in-law, Diane Normoyle, Moline; 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Donald L. Normoyle, a sister, Doris Young, and a grandson, Joseph.

**EAST MOLINE**

**Iris Miller**

Iris L. Miller, 64, East Moline, died Monday, April 5, 1999, at Illinois Hospital, Silvis.



There is no visitation. Private burial is in National Cemetery, Rock Island. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Moline Church of Christ.

Memorial services will be 1 p.m. Thursday,

April 22, 1999, at Moline Church of Christ, where she was an active member. Van Hoe Funeral Home Ltd., East Moline, is handling arrangements.

She was born June 12, 1934, in Hamburg, Ill., the daughter of Harry and Edna (Kraight) McBride. She married Ronald D. Miller on Dec. 20, 1953, in Springfield, Ill.

When her children were younger she drove a school bus for the East Moline Grade Schools and United Township High School.

Survivors include her husband; daughters and sons-in-law Kathy and Daniel Denato, Ashburn, Va., and Lori and Les Flores, Silvis; a son and daughter-in-law Joseph and Hope Miller, Springfield; grandchildren, Rebecca Ryals, Adam, Kit, Beth and Shawn Flores, and Heather and Jamie Jo Miller; three great grandchildren; and a sister, Mardell Liles, Jerseyville, Ill.

Iris was preceded in death by a grandson, Nicholas Flores.

**FORMER MEMBER OF BGS**

**JUMBLE**

**Test your skills!**

**JUMBLE**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By Heidi Arnold and Mike Argenson

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRYAR  
T A R K Y  
CUHDY  
D U C H Y  
S N O D E C  
S E C O N D  
N E S I N G  
E N S I G N



Now arrange the crossed letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ON THE SHADY SIDE  
(Answer Monday)

*Silver Anniversary*  
**25th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference**

Saturday, April 17, 1999  
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
 Viking Club of Moline  
 1408 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois



Sponsored by  
 Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society  
 and  
 Blackhawk Genealogical Society  
 of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois

**Club helps people find their family roots**

QUINCY, Ill. (AP) — When's the last time you rediscovered your family?

The Great River Genealogical Society strives to promote the science of genealogy through education and research. It helps countless people each year discover their family roots and educate themselves along the way.

The not-for-profit club was formed in 1974 by a group of people interested in genealogy and now has nearly 300 members, many from California and Arizona.

Club president Olin Shuler

has been with the club for nine years. His mother was the keeper of genealogy records in his family, and he said he inherited his love for genealogy from her.

"I joined the club because I needed to know how to organize and gather my recordings," Shuler said. "I needed to know how to record things properly."

"Being in the club and teaching the classes has helped me understand the right places to search for information," Shuler said. "I have learned to become quite successful in my searches."

Please see **Roots**, 7

**Mercer focuses on cemetery laws**

Quentin Lemmon

Mercer County State's Attorney Ron Heintz hopes a meeting this week with state officials will improve laws that deal with vandalism, access and maintenance of cemeteries.

The Tuesday meeting, called by state comptroller Daniel Hynes in Peasbury, offered concerned residents and county officials a chance to voice concerns over the treatment of cemeteries in Illinois.

Mr. Hynes' office has authority over almost 1,000 cemeteries in Illinois and has been holding meetings around the state to give citizens a chance to voice concerns.

Mr. Heintz told officials that Mercer County cemeteries in Alsea, Peasbury and Millersburg were vandalized this summer, and the Central Davis Cemetery in New Stanton Township was closed by the owner of surrounding farm land.

Mr. Heintz said Illinois laws have helped sentence vandals to probation and community service, but it often hard to find witnesses of cemetery vandalism, which makes difficult to identify suspects.

In the case of the Davis Cemetery, the owner of farmland surrounding

the cemetery is the Illinois State Agency — has been... case to the property... company spokesman... tion was necessary to... ability for anyone... the land.

By law, Mr. Heintz... from Agency's... access by the... required to provide... such as a road.

I'm... owners and see if... some sort of... Heintz said — a... visit an cemetery... on should not be... private attorney... packet to establish...

Mr. Heintz said... changes should be... help preserve... tombs are limited... can do.

"Without clear-cut... state attorneys are left with... ability to effectively... vets of the public in... counties in this area... Mr. Heintz said. "Changes... made to allow more... resources and authority... these problems."

**NEWS & NOTES**

**Rock Island's Vogele to head state cemetery, funeral home group**



Gregory Vogele

Gregory M. Vogele, of Calvary and Chapman... in Rock Island, is the new president of the Illinois... and Funeral Home Association. A board member... he has served as the association's secretary... vice president. He recently has attended six... meetings by the Illinois Comptroller's Office on the... cemetery care in Illinois.

**Roots**

Page 5

He noted that the first place to start a genealogy search is with the family. Ask as many questions as possible.

A second good place to check is the census records, because that places the person in a given location at a given time. Land ownership records is another good place to start.

The club is currently working on the 1870 census. More interest is in the old records than in the newer ones.

The society has 50 published works that it sells. They can also be found at the library, and some of the indexes can be found on microfilm.

People are curious about their past and their history. Shuler noted. A lot of people may think they are a "nobody in life, and come to find out they have a fascinating history," he said.

The Great River Genealogical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Peasbury Public Library.

There will be...

*Featured Speakers*

**James W. Warren**  
**Paula Stuart Warren**

James W. and Paula Stuart Warren are full-time professional genealogists, lecturers, and writers specializing in United States research. Both have lectured at numerous national conferences (National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies). They are recipients of many awards given by their peers in the genealogy world.

The unique combination of a couple who work together, but with different styles and approaches, gives special strength, flair, and humor to their joint seminars. A few of their specialties include upper Midwest states, Midwest American Indian research, and researching at major national repositories. The Warrens have conducted more than 30 group research trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The Warrens have co-authored several books, including:  
*Getting the Most Mileage from Genealogical Research Trips (3rd edition)*  
*Making the Most of Your Research Trip to Salt Lake City (6th edition)*  
*Ramsey County, Minnesota Relief Records, 1862-68*

Other Warren projects include serving as genealogical consultants for the Minnesota Historical Society's major exhibit, "Families"; administering and teaching the "Discover Your Family History" series of classes hosted by MHS; Intermediate Course Coordinators for the 1998 and 1999 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, developing a course combining classroom instruction with "hands-on" assistance in the Family History Library.



The Warrens are the National Conference Co-Chairs for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' (FGS) Quad Cities Conference to be held in Davenport in 2001.

Saturday, April 17, 1999

*Program*

No taping, please!



8:00 - 8:50 am

*Registration and an opportunity to browse through the exhibits*

8:50 - 9:00 am

*Welcome and announcements*

9:00 - 10:05 am

**"Ancestors hanging on your family tree: Using court and institutional records."**

10:05 - 10:25 am

*Coffee and browsing*

10:25 - 11:30 am

**"The WPA era; what it created for genealogists."**

11:30 - 1:00 pm

*Lunch and browsing*

1:00 - 2:00 pm 2001

**"Untrodden ground: Sources you may not have encountered."**

2:00 - 2:25 pm

*Coffee and browsing*

2:25 - 3:25 pm

**"The mid-life crisis of the family historian: How did I get into this and where do I go from here?"**

3:25 - 3:45 pm

*Closing remarks*



**PLEASE** return to your chairs by the time set out in the schedule. This avoids distractions and inconvenience to our speakers and other conference attendees. Thank you.



Todd Muznier / Staff

Computers are not just for the young. Roy Roba and Clarence Pearson, members of the computer club at Friendship Manor, work on one of the Rock Island retirement home's computers. Members keep in touch with people around the world.

# Cyber Seniors

## Friendship Manor residents point, click, chat over World Wide Web

By John Marx  
Staff writer

Frances Peterson excitedly explained how, as a child, her first radio was made from a wooden pencil box and the only station she got was WOC.

Now, at age 83, she's working the information superhighway as many as four hours per day.

"That's how far I have come," said Mrs. Peterson, referring to what she's witnessed through technology in her eight-plus decades.

"I've experienced quite a bit in my years — radio with the one little crystal that only got WOC — to now. But the computer age might be the most fascinating development of all. Each time I learn something new with my computer or receive e-mail, I think back to how excited I was about that first radio. It makes me want for more."

While some older Americans stiff-arm computers, the computer group at Rock Island's Friendship Manor embraces them.

Mrs. Peterson, Roy Roba, Clarence Pearson, Elzina Oakberg, Milton and Grace Hedquist and John Bloom have turned the senior living residence into their own computer heaven.

"I can receive and send e-mail to Venezuela, Japan and keep track of a friend through e-mail in China," said Ms. Oakberg, a retired teacher and school administrator. "It's wonderful to be able to correspond with so many. It's another avenue for us to stay abreast of what's happening around us. I took a computer course in 1983 that soured me, but I'm excited about the strides and advancements that have been made recently and that I'm in on it."



**'It's obvious we can't get out and do all the things we want to do. That's not to say we don't do anything, but this has opened up a whole new world for us.'**

Roy Roba, computer user and Friendship Manor resident

The group formed in January and meets once every two weeks in a different member's apartment. Each member has his or her own computer with different capabilities, but all are connected to some form of online service. Training courses are available through Friendship Manor, but the club has no leader and no dues. Flexibility floats the ship.

"We pass along new information all the time," Mr. Roba said. "And we don't have

to wait until we meet to do it — that's the flexibility."

Mr. Bloom, a retired insurance executive, used a computer to do his bookkeeping for many years. But the last few months — thanks to his involvement with the club — he has expanded beyond just doing the books.

"I've done checking and banking on a computer for many years," said Mr. Bloom, who recently hooked up with an online service. "Being able to keep updated information at my fingertips was important, especially at tax time. Now, though, with getting an online service, I've taken hold of a whole new world."

With the club going strong and the others catching on, Friendship Manor is upgrading its computer room and its system.

"I see that as being a big help," Mr. Pearson said. "The more that's available the better. Instruction wherever you can get it is important."

Mr. Pearson, hailed as the resident expert, says his computer knowledge has played a role in helping others at Friendship Manor.

"There was a nice lady who moved over to the nursing center who received (downloaded) wedding photos from a grandson in Hawaii," Mr. Pearson said. "So Roy (Roba) and I transferred the photos and I sent them through the color printer and took them to her. It made her day."

Mr. Roba says having a computer and knowing what to do makes getting to the outside world that much easier.

"It's obvious we can't get out and do all the things we want to do," he said. "That's

# Legacy lives in graveya

## Web site helps trace family roots

Moline library debuts Web site for genealogists

By Sarah Larson  
Staff writer

MOLINE — When a woman in North Carolina wanted details about the murder of her aunt in Moline, she didn't call a private investigator. She e-mailed a Moline librarian.

"She knew her uncle had murdered her aunt, but the family didn't really talk about it much," said librarian Emily Turner. "She wanted to get the hard news from The Dispatch."

The woman knew only that the murder took place in the fall of 1940, 1941 or 1942. Ms. Turner spent hours looking through day-by-day issues of The Dispatch on microfilm for the fall months of 1940 with no luck.

However, in a 1941 issue, Ms. Turner found the story and sent the information to the woman in North Carolina. The woman then got more information from the Rock Island County Courthouse to fill in other details.

"It was nice to be able to help her out like that," Ms. Turner said.

The Moline librarians likely will be helping more genealogists track down family information. Librarian Sue Rebro has compiled a Web site detailing the library's genealogical holdings.

The site debuted in August and is generating interest. Librarian Margaret Rogal said Wednesday the staff is averaging 25 genealogical requests per month.

The Web site is paying off for the library staff by reducing calls for basic information, saving on phone bills and postage.

"Especially with genealogy, lots



Margaret Rogal, adult/young adult services librarian at the Moline Library in downtown Moline looks over the genealogical Web site that she helped to develop.

of people travel distances to use the Moline local history holdings," Ms. Rogal said. "The Web site will help them prepare before they come here, or help them contact us to do research."

The new Web site tells genealogists across the country and the world about the library and its services, like hours, available

holdings, equipment and prices for research requests.

The librarians will do basic genealogical research, like looking up and copying an obituary, for \$5 an hour. More involved research — like one man's request for the librarians to take photographs of area McDonald's restaurants — is too time-consuming for the li-

brary.

The Web site also has links to other regional and national genealogical Web sites, a plus for budding family sleuths who aren't sure where to start.

You'll find the site at [www.rbls.lib.il.us/mpl/genealogy.html](http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/mpl/genealogy.html).

### Thomas Jackson

Thomas M. Jackson, 80, Rock Island, died Sunday, Nov. 28, 1999, at Trinity Medical Center, West, Rock Island.



Services are 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Hodgson Funeral Home Ltd., Rock Island. The Rev. Stacie Fidler will officiate. Burial is in Chippianock Cemetery, Rock Island.

Visitation is 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island, Organ Fund or a favorite charity.

He was born March 11, 1919, in Matherville, the son of Ralph Raymond and Lelah Vale Underwood Jackson. He married Lois A. Erickson Dec. 15, 1946, at St. John's Lutheran.

He was a 1937 graduate of Sherrard High School. He was employed as a precision tool grinder at the former International Harvester Farmall Works, Rock Island, for 40 years, retiring June 30, 1981.

He received the Bronze Star in Guam during World War II.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran, Rock Island, where he was a church council member for 21 years, member of the property, music and worship committees, a Sunday school teacher and member of the choir for 44 years and member of the Ageless Group. He also was active in Boy Scouts of America for 53 years, serving as a scoutmaster, committeeman and on the Merit Badge Council and receiving numerous awards, including Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver. He was an amateur radio operator and a member of the Civil Defense in earlier years. A model railroading enthusiast, he was very knowledgeable about Rock Island Lines Railway history. He also was an accomplished musician, playing bass and guitar. At one time he played with the Bill Kramer Group and in retirement played guitar at local nursing homes.

Survivors include his wife, Lois, sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert W. and Sheila Jackson, Moline, and Murrell R. Jackson, Rock Island; grandchildren, Thomas R. and Emily M. Jackson; and several cousins.

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAUPE

PLAUSE

YOWDD

DOWDY

FOYMD

MODIFY

HILERS

RELISH

ANS: ON THE

SPADY SIDE

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Amund and Mike Angrin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Legacy lives in graveyard

## Former teacher keeps cemetery records

By Pam Sawyer

ESSEX, ILL. — The rubble of a once-thriving town and a graveyard of Essex are the only things left of a town that once was a bustling center of the state.

The town, once the only source of coal in the cemetery, is now a ghost town. The only thing left of a town that once was a bustling center of the state is a graveyard.

In the summer, grass and weeds grow tall, hiding the markers. Many markers are missing. Some are propped up by stones to keep them from falling over. Some are still standing, but they are in poor condition.

There are no markers for the animals. Mr. Mohlenbruck, and property owners, who propped up the markers. Several brass plaques are still in place. Mr. Mohlenbruck has tried to get the cemetery that lays along the side of the highway. He says that they may have been there before his time.

There are no markers for the animals and no markers for the animals and no markers for the animals and no markers for the animals.

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There is no one who knows anything about it.

Such is the case with William Duffield, a Civil War veteran, buried behind a church in Illinois City. He was 44 when he died. The rest of the man's life is a mystery to everyone. Mr. Mohlenbruck said.



**'This is something I could leave for people.'**

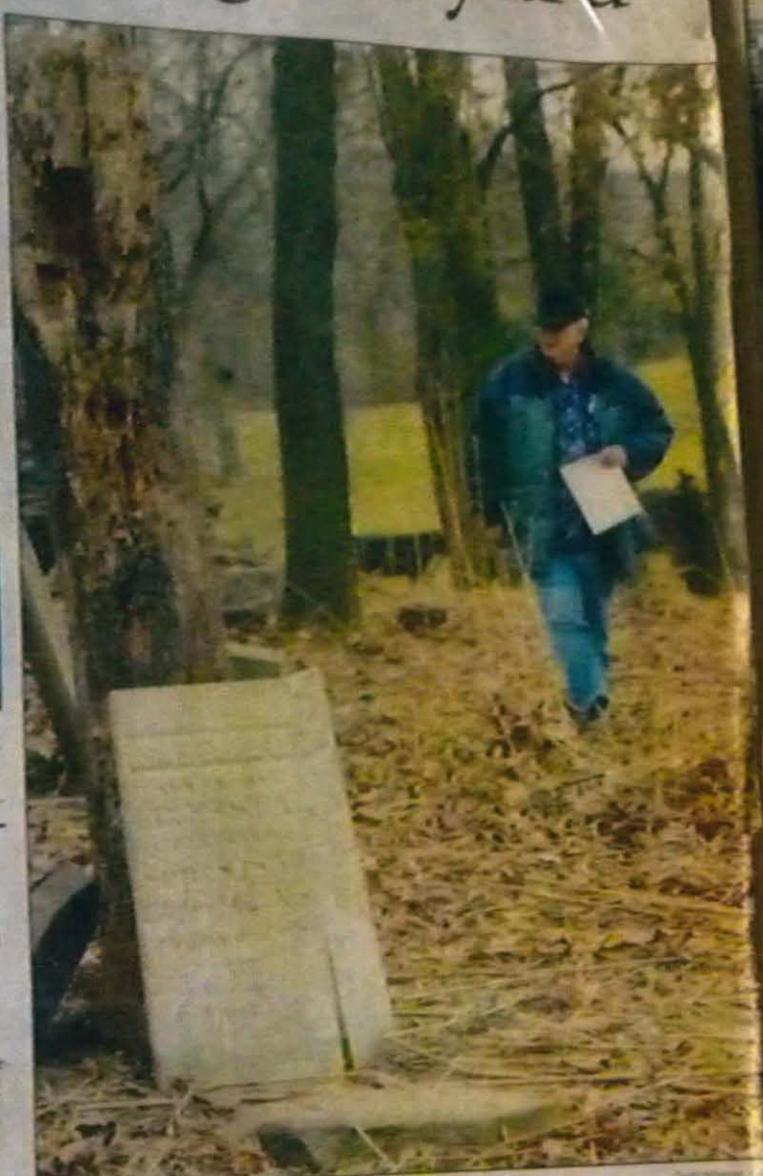
Dwight Mohlenbruck

Families move or become disassociated with their distant ancestors. It's not hard to understand how cemeteries fall by the wayside. "It's one of those things that fade away," he said.

Mr. Mohlenbruck isn't out to save all the cemeteries and return them to pristine condition. Recording their information is his goal.

Since 1982, he's compiled several books on area cemeteries that include the names, dates of birth, date of death and, in some cases, the descendants of those buried there.

Another book Mr. Mohlenbruck has compiled is a listing of all the obituaries that appeared in The Rock Island Argus during the 1970s and 1980s. He's now working on the 1990s. Delving into the past isn't



**ABOVE:** The nearly abandoned Essex Cemetery is surrounded by cornfields on the Owen farm near Illinois City. The cemetery and its residents, including nine Civil War veterans, have captured the interest of Dwight Mohlenbruck of Rock Island. The last person buried there was in 1942.

**BELOW:** Dwight Mohlenbruck of Rock Island spends his time recording names of those buried in Rock Island County cemeteries. The Essex Cemetery, about a half mile off West 92 near Illinois City, has grave markers dating from 1842 to 1942.

SEE 1 CEMETERY, C4



**Blackhawk  
Genealogical  
Society**



**Annual Dinner Meeting  
November 16, 1999  
Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church  
Moline, Illinois**

**Quad Cities Genealogical Conference  
April 29, 2000  
Paul Milner, Speaker  
Co-Chairmen -  
Gaycha Mayhew 386-5805  
Anne Riepe 322-6527**

**FGS/Quad Cities Genealogical Conference  
12-15 September 2001  
River Center/Adler Theatre, Davenport, Iowa  
FGS Chairmen -  
Jim & Paula Warren, St. Paul, MN  
Quad Cities Co-Chairmen -  
Dorothy Darland 786-3058  
Everett Guerink 344-4866**

Welcome -  
Dorothy Darland

Invocation -  
Lorraine Hathaway

Menu -  
Apricot Chicken with Wild Rice  
Green Beans  
Salad  
Rolls - Coffee  
Assorted Pies

Installation of 2000 Officers -  
Eulalia Garrett

Program -  
A Pioneer Skit  
Presented by Mary & Merlin Nelson





Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

April 29, 2000

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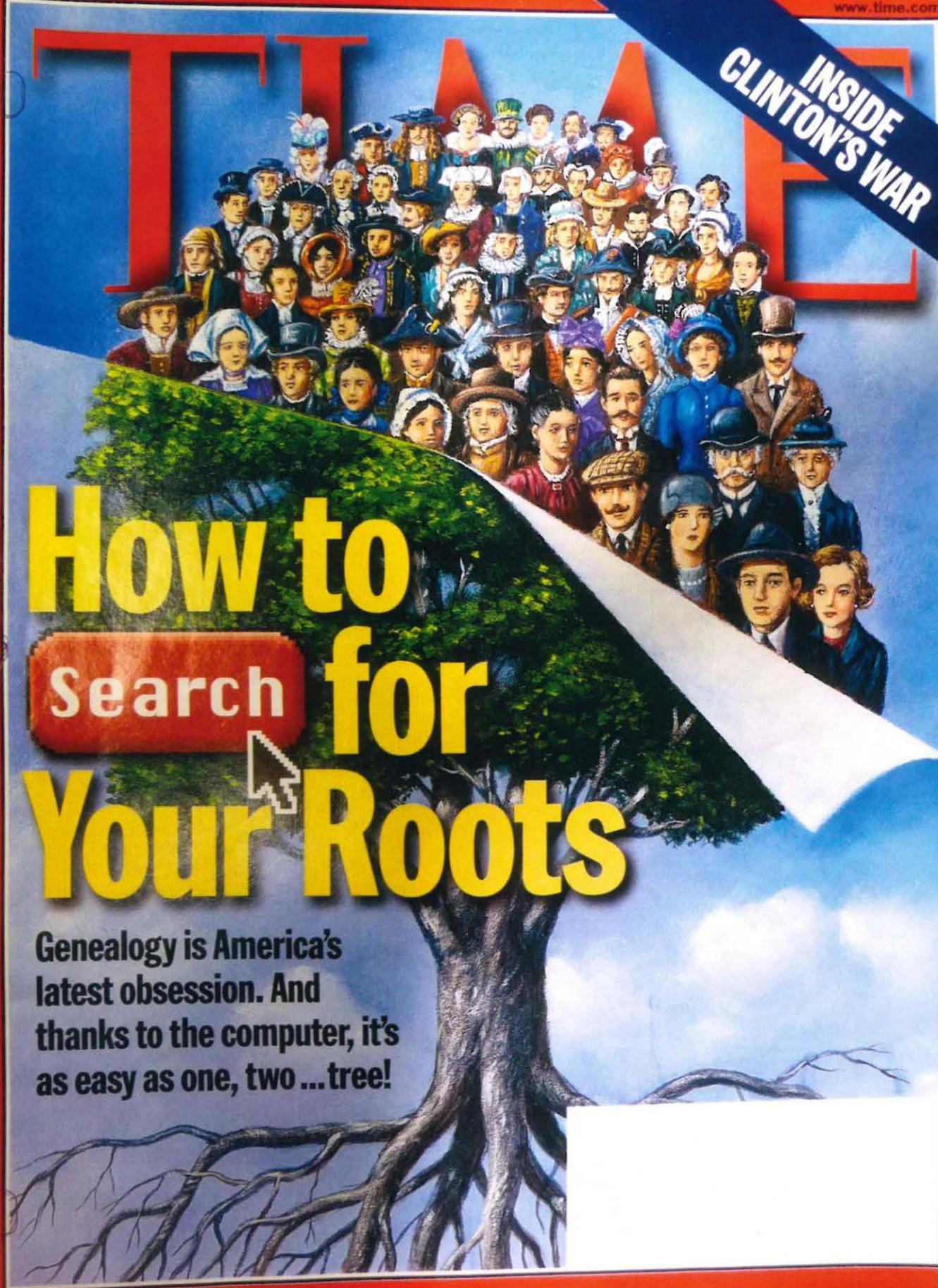
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APRIL 19, 1999 \$3.50

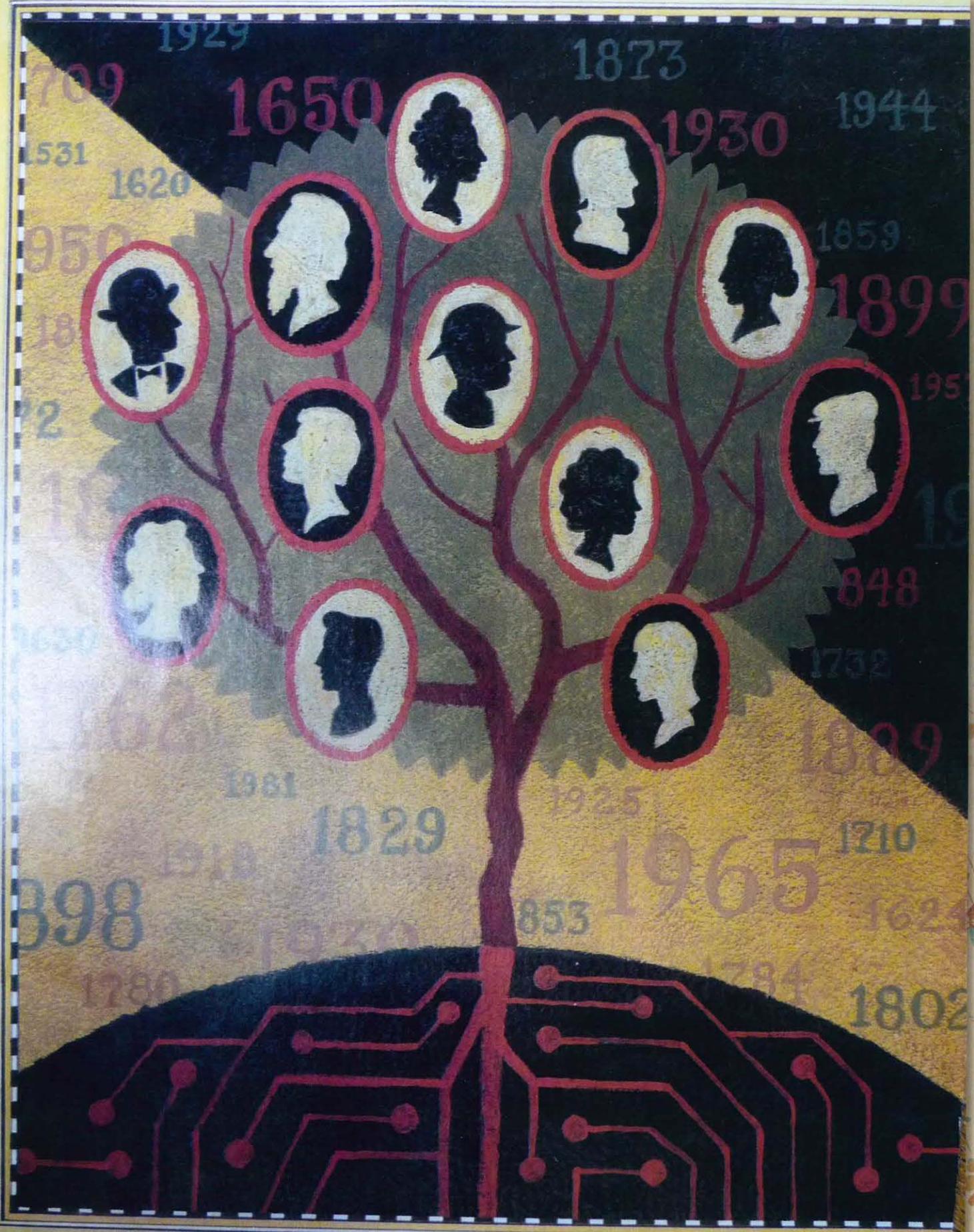
www.time.com

INSIDE  
CLINTON'S WAR



# How to Search for Your Roots

Genealogy is America's latest obsession. And thanks to the computer, it's as easy as one, two ... tree!



# ROOTS MANIA

Spurred by new resources on the Internet, the ranks of amateur genealogists are growing, and millions of family trees are flourishing

By MARGOT HORNBLOWER

*"Please, will somebody help me? I'm new at this, and I have no idea what I'm doing."*

**T**HOSE WORDS WERE NOT SOME perverse message smeared in lipstick across a rest-room mirror. They were posted on the volunteers' bulletin board of America Online's genealogy site, typed by G. Marie Leaner, a communications consultant in Chicago, looking for her family roots.

Leaner's plaintive cry was heard by a volunteer researcher, who told Leaner about the Social Security Death Index. That was the breakthrough Leaner needed, allowing her to move out onto the Internet and into libraries, gathering snippets about her heritage. Now, thanks to scores of websites and chat groups, she has traced her great-great-grandparents back to Mississippi, found the cemetery in Hines County where they are buried, obtained a copy of their 1874 marriage license—along with the World War I draft card of a great-grandfather—and in the process, discovered the thrill of cyber-rooting. "It's kind of spooky," she says. "Whenever I come upon something, my heart starts racing."

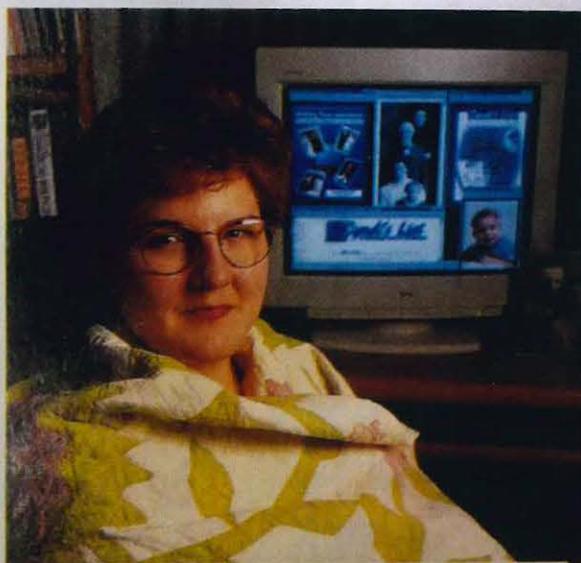
Once the hobby of self-satisfied blue bloods tracing their families back to the *Mayflower*, genealogy is fast becoming a national obsession—for new parents basking in the glow of family life, baby boomers wrestling with their first intimations of mortality, and various ethnic groups exploring their pride and place in a multicultural society. Powering the phenomenon are the new tools of the digital age: computer programs that turn the search for family trees into an addiction; websites that make it easy to find and share information; and chat rooms filled with folks seeking advice and swapping leads. "The Internet has helped democratize genealogy," says Stephen Kyner, editor of *The Computer Genealogist* magazine.

Root seeking ranks with sex, finance and sports as a leading subject on the Internet. More than 160 million messages flowed last month through RootsWeb ([www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)), a vast electronic trading post for genealogical information. There are at least seven treemaking computer programs currently selling well, and according to

Nielsen/NetRatings, the three top genealogy websites in March had an audience of 1.3 million individual devotees.

This month, in what will be a major contribution to the field, the Mormon Church, officially known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has begun testing a new website ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) that eventually will be a repository of 600 million names, extracted from vital records worldwide. The Mor-

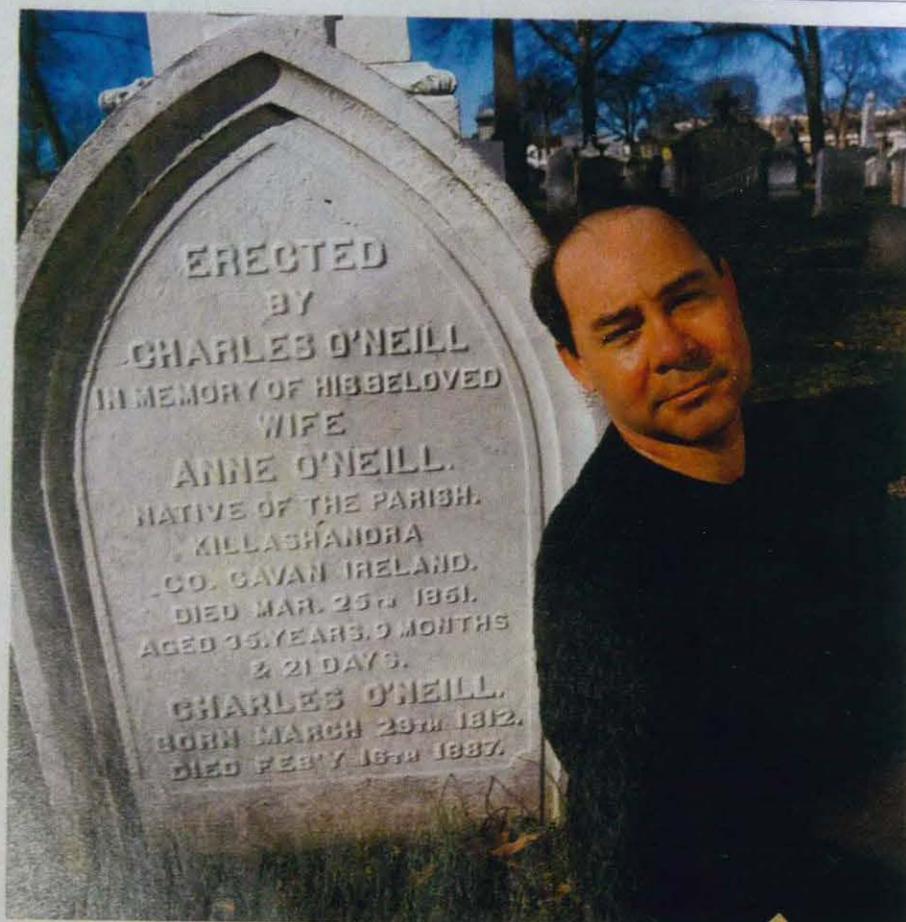
mons consider genealogy part of their mission and have the world's most extensive records. "I think it is a wonderful site," says Michael Leclerc, reference librarian at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. "It is giving the most widespread access ever to the



## GENEALOGICAL SUPERSTAR

Wrapped in a quilt sewn by her great-great-great-great-grandmother, Cyndi Howells rests before adding another page to her website, [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com), background, visited by 2 million people each month. With her is Evan, her family tree's newest twig, holding his great-grandmother's picture. "Find leads on the Internet," she advises, "then go off-line to find the sources you need."





## FOLLOWING EVERY LEAD

Joseph Silinonte collected memorabilia, right, for his Irish and Italian roots, and had a relative's headstone, with its misspelled name, cleaned

world's largest genealogical repository."

But genealogy, as any veteran will tell you, is no cushy computer-desk job. Its aficionados are besieging National Archives branches and county historical societies, rummaging through newspapers' microfilm, tramping through rural courthouses and overgrown cemeteries. Each year 800,000 people visit the Mormons' Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Americans of all ethnic backgrounds were inspired by Alex Haley's 1977 miniseries *Roots*, eventually watched by hundreds of millions worldwide. Today a quarter of the 300,000 amateur genealogists who visit the Denver Public Library each year are Hispanic. Ukrainian Americans register inquiries at [www.carpatho-rusyn.org](http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org), and Cajuns can



search for their ancestors on a CD-ROM of half a million names, compiled by Acadian genealogist Yvon Cyr. In San Francisco, educator Albert Cheng, who has traced 2,800 years of his family history, leads a

program for the Chinese Culture Foundation, which takes groups of Chinese-American youths back to their ancestral villages each summer after they have researched family and archival records in the U.S. "Now I feel proud of who I am," said 25-year-old Julia Fong, who met her great-grandmother, now 99, in Guangdong province. "She was feisty; she had no teeth and a wonderful smile."

No single group, however, is as involved as the Mormons. Believing that ancestors can be saved through retroactive baptism, they have sent missionaries around the globe, setting up 3,200 library branches in 64 countries and filming massive amounts of documents, touching on 2 billion people. With the promise that the church's vast trove of well-checked data will eventually be available online comes the potential for another burst in genealogical activity.

The Internet has already made the task easier. Cyndi Howells, 35, a Puyallup, Wash., housewife, got interested as a teenager when she read some old family letters and records for a high school genealogy project. "It was fascinating to see all these names and places and think this was all connected to me," she said. In 1992 she quit her job at a bank, bought a computer and began collecting website addresses. In 1996 she

posted her list on the Internet. Today [cyndislist.com](http://cyndislist.com) has grown to 300 pages with links to 41,700 genealogical sites worldwide—from ships' passenger lists to prison rolls. Howells travels the country, giving speeches. "Everyone wants to know where they came from," she says. "I don't even have time to do my own research anymore."

Be forewarned: Much of what is on the Web now is akin to signposts—lists of documents but rarely the documents themselves. The National Archives provides a description of its material online—but only 120,000 of its 4 billion records have

been digitized. Much of the Net's information is posted by volunteers who transcribe cemetery headstones or newspaper obituaries—with predictable human error. "People think because it's on the computer, it's the gospel truth. But it's only as good as the person doing it," says

**Each generation back, the number of your ancestors doubles. When you hit 20 genera**

Cliff Collier of the Ontario Genealogical Society. His view, shared by most serious researchers, is that only an exact copy of an original marriage certificate or immigration visa can be trusted. "The true aficionado," adds Boston genealogist Eileen O'Duill, "wants to feel the paper that his great-grandfather's birth was registered on."

Starting to get interested? If you are willing to forgo leisurely weekends for a search that is bound to be alternately tedious and exhilarating, here's how:

## STARTING UP

Whether you read a how-to book, click on a website with beginner's tips, take a course on family-history research or join a genealogical club, you must first decide on a collection system. You can use notecards, three-ring binders or software, but each new twig on the family tree must be documented, with notes on its source. That's why computers, which can organize massive amounts of data, are ideal. Remember that for each generation back, the number of parents doubles; by the time you hit 20 generations, it's up to more than a million. In two decades, genealogist Cyr has collected data on 88,000 relatives and in-laws—going back to 17th century France—and stored the information on his desktop, using Family Tree Maker software (see box, next page).

If you're computer phobic, rest assured: you can do without. Working with a vintage Smith-Corona, Ida Quintana Foraci, 70, explored her family, discovered a French-speaking Pawnee grandmother and traced her ancestors through families intertwined since New Mexico was part of Spain. She delved into archdiocesan records, statistical abstracts and old Spanish histories at the Denver Public Library. On a monthly pension of \$400, she sold most of her furniture so she could publish her findings: 22 volumes documented back to the arrival of conquistador Don Juan Onate in 1598. It is now a valuable resource for Hispanic genealogists. "I spent the past seven years looking," she says, "and I found me."

The first step is to write down everything you know about your family. Then interview relatives, oldest ones first. Videotape or tape-record them if possible. Ask for exact names, dates and places, and as many details of your ancestors' lives as they can remember.

Copy all documents: birth, christening, marriage and death certificates, school and medical records, family-Bible inscriptions, military papers, old letters. "Everyone has a little piece of the puzzle," says Estelle Guzik, director of the New York Jewish Genealogical Society, who set out to trace relatives killed in the Holocaust. In one family a cousin had saved a 20-year-old invitation list to a son's bar mitzvah. An elderly invitee from Israel still lived at the same address and referred Guzik to her son, a rabbi, who provided a family tree stretching from Australia to France.

One happy by-product of your search is that it's likely to open new avenues of communication. Says Carl Davidson, a Chicago computer consultant: "You didn't use to talk much with older folks at family reunions, except maybe 'Pass the pota-

to salad.' Now they take you home, get out these old Bibles and dig out ancient maps, and you get to know them in a whole new way."

## ROOTS SURFING

Genealogists disagree on whether to begin by searching the many rich websites devoted to genealogy or by traveling directly to a source for documents, whether it's the local branch of the National Archives, a well-stocked genealogical library such as the Newberry in Chicago or the Clayton in Houston, or the closest Mormon Family History Center. In some cases, the Web is a clear time saver. George Warholc, a Rockville, Md., economic consultant, set out in 1983 to trace his Ukrainian relatives. "It was a chore," he remembers. "I spent weeks at the Li-

## GENEALOGY SAVES LIVES

The Krause sisters, Carol, Susan and Peggy, meet at their parents' Washington church. (In the wedding photo are bride Peggy, who is cancer free, with her parents and sister Kathy, who all died of cancer, and with Carol and Susan, who have had cancer.) "Knowing my family's health history saved my life," says Carol



ons, you have over a million

## Caveat Emptor

If you're one of the millions who have received an offer of a personalized family history that will help locate ancestral "namesakes," remember the old warning, "Buyer beware." Various companies have sold such books over the years, but the enduring master is Ohio-based Numa Corporation, parent company of Halbert's. Though their pitch carries a disclaimer—"no direct genealogical connection ... implied or intended"—the actual product is a glorified, and often inaccurate, phone listing of everyone sharing your surname, culled from public sources like auto registries and phone books, padded with general information easily found in history textbooks, plus advice freely given by many genealogical societies. Coats of arms, emblazoned on everything from plaques to shot glasses, are another huge moneymaker for Numa. Since heraldry was awarded to only a few families and typically passed on to male descendants, chances are slim you deserve a crest at all. That hasn't stopped Numa from filling customer requests; it's legal and, as a Numa spokeswoman argues, the company has millions of satisfied customers. Quips Victor Waszyn, head of the Akron Better Business Bureau, which has been fielding Numa complaints for decades: "They'd send me one with two kielbasas crossed with some sauerkraut sprinkled over the top."



ILLUSTRATION BY RODICA PRATO

library of Congress, searching hundreds of telephone books for people with the same name. Now this information can be got in a few hours on the Internet."

Like the Internet as a whole, online genealogy information is a chaotic hodgepodge. The scope can be as broad as the U.S. Social Security Death Index, which draws on some 60 million records of those for whom a lump-sum death benefit was paid, mostly be-

tween 1963 and 1997; and as specific as the street maps of Eastern Europe on the Shtetlseeker page of the JewishGen website. Click onto Historical Records of Dukes County, Mass., to see who lived on Martha's Vineyard in 1790. Survey the resources of the Trinidad and Tobago National Library on its website. Contact the Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society, which has a database of more than 500,000 names, including headstone

inscriptions from 300 cemeteries in the Canadian province, and for a small fee the group will do a search and mail back the results. A Salt Lake City entrepreneur offers wills from nine states for \$7 each.

Beyond research, the Web is a genealogists' agora, invaluable for trading information and connecting with living relatives. Dave Distler, who works at an electronics firm in Greenwood, Ind., lost track of a great-great-great-grandfather, Friedrich Jakob Distler, who was born in 1814 in Germany, Prussia, Rhineland or Northern Bavaria, according to vague records. Surfing the Net, he found an organization, Palatines to America, which referred him to a German genealogist who found his grandfather's hometown, Hinterweidenthal. When he entered the village name in a search engine, he found a private e-mail address. Three weeks after e-mailing, he got a response from a local resident with the phone numbers of two Distler families in the town. In May 1996, three New World and 14 Old World Distlers met at a cozy German inn to celebrate. "Old Uncle Fritz had told me about the mysterious Distlers who journeyed to the other side of the Atlantic," says Brigitte Schubert, a newfound German cousin. "I was so glad to sit beside Dave, I didn't want to let go of his hand."

## How to Program Your Family History

By DAVID JACKSON

AS ADVERTISED, **FAMILY TREE MAKER** from Bröderbund (about \$82 for the deluxe 15-CD version; \$45 for the four-CD version; Windows or Mac) is the easiest and most complete software package available—ideal for beginners. With more than 2 million in sales, it's also the industry leader. The 15-CD package includes a Family Finder index on three CDs, with information on more than 200 million people; two more CDs listing Social Security death-benefits records; five volumes of actual family trees for tens of thousands of fami-

lies; and an international marriage-records index for more than 1 million couples—and more. The interface is intuitive and easy to learn, and the templates will simplify a daunting organizational task. In late March, Bröderbund launched an impressive website ([genealogy.com](http://genealogy.com)) that further broadens its offerings. **GENERATIONS FAMILY TREE GRANDE SUITE** (\$69.95; Windows) by Sierra Home includes 12 CDs of data on 200 million names and resources, plus three different programs: the Generations genealogy software; Snap-Shot Special Edition, photo-enhancement software that helps you add old family pho-

tos and documents to your records; and MasterCook, a cooking software program (experts say recipe collecting is uncannily similar to ancestor collecting), allows you to rearrange your ancestors in a variety of formats with just a click of the mouse.

**THE MASTER GENEALOGIST** from Wholly Genes software (about \$89 for the gold version; \$49 for the silver; Windows), one of the most expensive programs but also one of the most powerful, handles an unlimited number of people, relationships and sources. "There are easier programs," admits Wholly Genes president Bob Velke, 36, "but they're nowhere near as powerful. This has all the power and flexibility

that professionals need, but you don't need to be a pro to use it." ([www.whollygenes.com](http://www.whollygenes.com) or call 877-TMG-FAMILY). **ULTIMATE FAMILY TREE** (about \$50 for the five-CD platinum version; \$30 for the two-CD deluxe; Windows) by Palladium is another top-selling program whose own genealogy is as complex as any family's. Palladium was bought out in December by the Learning Company, which two months earlier had acquired Bröderbund, which itself had acquired two other genealogy-software publishers. A few days after the Palladium deal was announced, Mattel said it would buy the Learning Company.

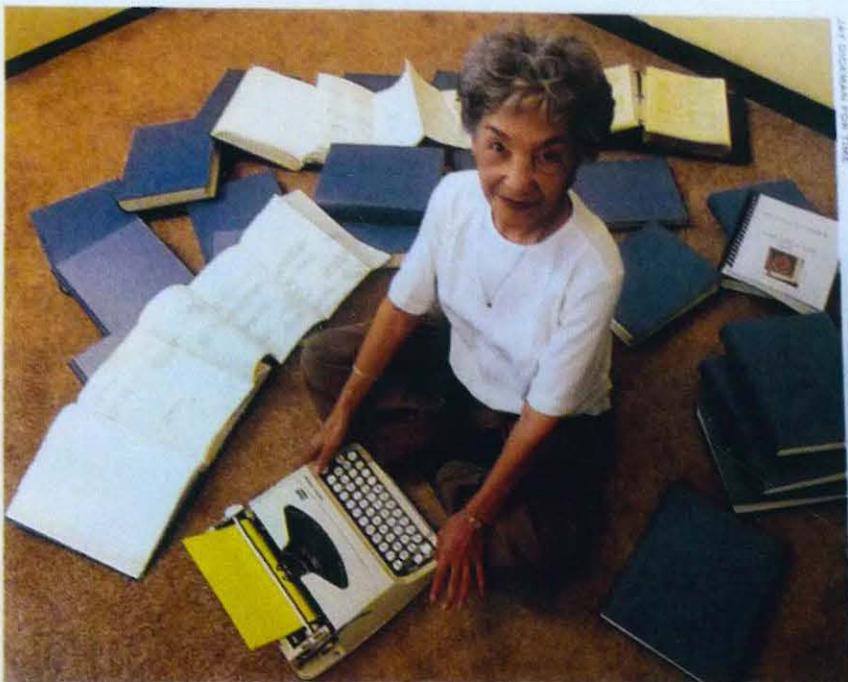
Devoted fans of Ultimate Family Tree are worried that the product



## DIGGING FOR DOCUMENTS

As you embark on your search, think of yourself as part historian, part detective. Federal records, vast and varied, can be researched at the National Archives and its 13 regional branches as well as at major libraries—and not necessarily online. Because of privacy laws, the U.S. Census is made public only after 72 years have passed since the time it was taken. Next to be opened is the 1930 census, which will become available in 2002. Early censuses, beginning in 1790, are sketchy, but by the mid-19th century they begin to provide rich detail, listing everyone in the family by name, age, occupation and place of birth. Starting with 1900, one can find out the year of immigration, whether English was spoken and whether a home was owned or rented. Robert Stokes, a retired Dallas high school principal, has traced his family from 17th century Maryland through Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Mississippi to Texas. "It is such a thrill when you find a census about an old relative that shows he owned 26 pigs and a wagon," he says. "Then you have to go to the next census to see how he made out. If he had horses, and more pigs, he was doing well."

Federal records are rich troves for census, immigration and military rec-



## A MODEL OF DETERMINATION

Using only an old Smith-Corona and working mostly in one library, Ida Quintana Foraci created a history of the Spanish in the Southwest when she wrote her family's 22-volume saga, which surrounds her in her Denver apartment. "Never take the word of others," she stresses. "Get the document itself"

might not survive, but the company insists there's plenty of room in a growing field where different programs appeal to different audiences. In UFT's case, the new owners are touting it as a user-friendly but powerful program that should appeal to more experienced genealogists than buyers of Family Tree Maker. Most of these products can still be used by either amateurs or professionals, depending on which user interface you like best and how much you want to spend.

### MILLENNIA'S LEGACY FAMILY TREE

(\$49; Windows) is a favorite of many Mormons because it includes ready-made templates for Church of the Latter-day Saints documenta-



tion. (The software has plenty of non-Mormon admirers as well.) If you have an Apple computer, consider the no-frills, straightforward interface offered by Reunion from

Leister Productions (\$99). Before making your choice, ask around at your local genealogical society, through mailing lists and even in website chat rooms for advice. The good news is that it's not hard to export data if you later decide to switch from one software package to another. But don't try to run these products on an old 486; you'll get the best performance on a Pentium-class machine. And save plenty of room on your hard drive. The better you get at tracing your ancestral past, the more you'll need the space. ■

## Stocking Your Library

### FINDING YOUR ROOTS: HOW TO TRACE YOUR ANCESTORS AT HOME AND ABROAD

by Jeane Eddy Westin (Tarcher/Putnam). Westin's updated book is the best friend a new family historian can have. Well organized and well researched, *Finding Your Roots* shows the reader how to make genealogy fun rather than drudgery—how to stay organized, the secret of keeping yourself from feeling as if you're up a family tree rather than building one.

■ **GENEALOGY ONLINE FOR DUMMIES** by Matthew L. Helm and April Leigh Helm (IDG). With its catchy prose, the book is an easy-to-read but thorough introduction to computer genealogy and a valuable tool for techies. There's noncomputer advice too.

### HOW TO TRACE YOUR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ROOTS

by Barbara Thompson Howell (Citadel) meets the special needs of the black genealogist, and the author's enthusiasm is contagious.

### THE ANCESTRY FAMILY HISTORIAN'S ADDRESS BOOK

by Juliana Szucs Smith (Ancestry). Whether you're looking for the phone number of the American Historical Association or the Jewell County, Kans., Historical Society, you'll find it here.

■ **ME AND MY FAMILY TREE** by Joan Sweeney (Crown). The book, for children five to eight, gives a child's-eye view of constructing a family tree: "First I start with me. Then comes my big brother, Alan. We're both part of my family tree." By catching them young, Sweeney promises to hook a new generation.

—By Andrea Sachs



FAMILY

# HOW TO MAP YOUR HERITAGE

Looking for your family often leads you around the world. Start with a home computer, but when you need to dig deeper, be prepared to branch out, hit the road and become a sleuth

Illustration for TIME by Rodica Prato

## WHERE TO GO: WEST

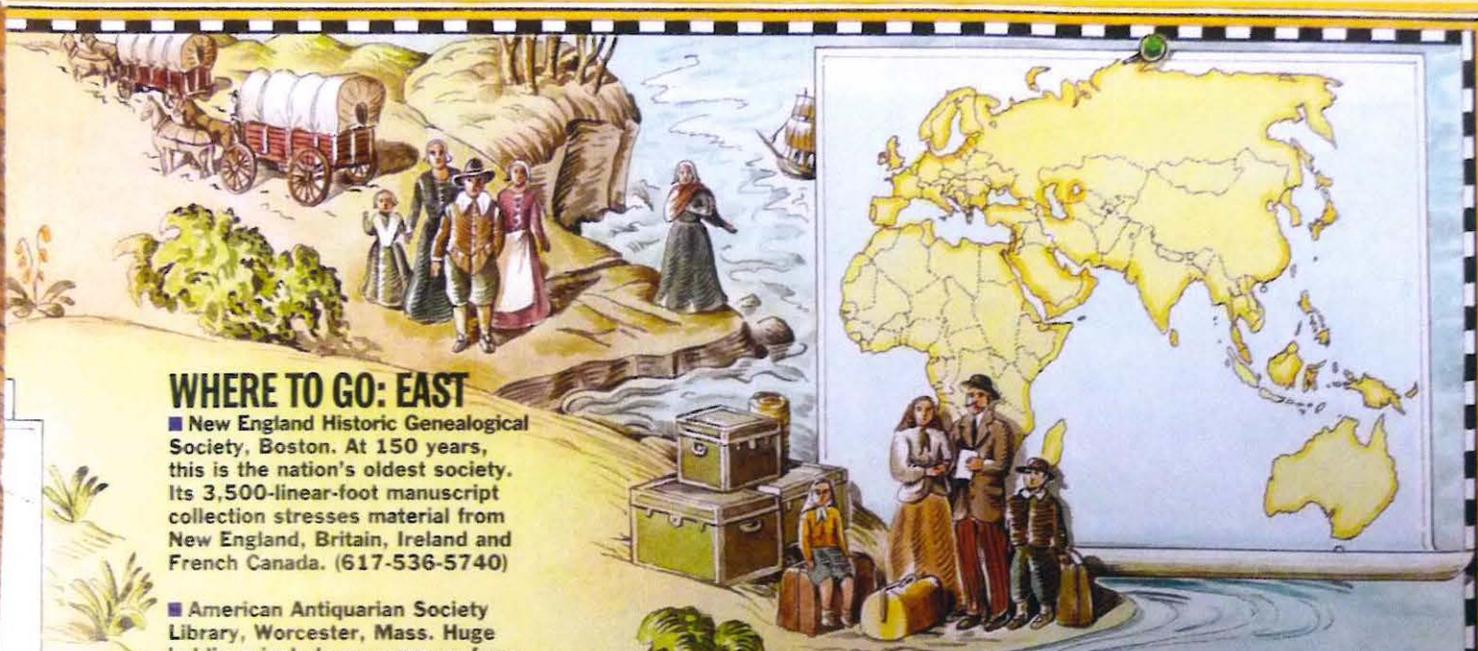
■ **Sutro Library Research, San Francisco.** Contains thousands of family histories; state, regional, county and town histories; and city directories. ([www.records.org/sutro.html](http://www.records.org/sutro.html); 415-731-4477) \$

■ **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.** Mormon records of 2 billion people in 64 countries—the world's largest collection—could soon be on its website. ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); 801-240-2331)

## GENERAL WEBSITES

These are the most comprehensive websites, with links to dozens of specialized resources. A \$ sign indicates a fee for access or membership.

- **NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** ([www.ngsgenealogy.org/](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/), 800-473-0060) \$
- **FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES** ([www.fgs.org/](http://www.fgs.org/), 512-336-2731) \$
- **CYNDI'S LIST** ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) Links to more than 41,200 sites
- **ANCESTRY.COM** ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) Links aplenty, including the Social Security Death Index, which has more than 60 million death-benefit-payment records \$
- **U.S. GENWEB PROJECT** ([www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)) Volunteers nationwide provide links to state and county resources
- **SWITCHBOARD** ([www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com)) Locate people who share your surname in this nationwide directory
- **ROOTSWEB** ([www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)) The Internet's oldest genealogy site lets you see who is looking for the same surnames that you are
- **BRØDERBUND** ([www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)) How-to lists, megalinks and news for genealogy buffs



## WHERE TO GO: EAST

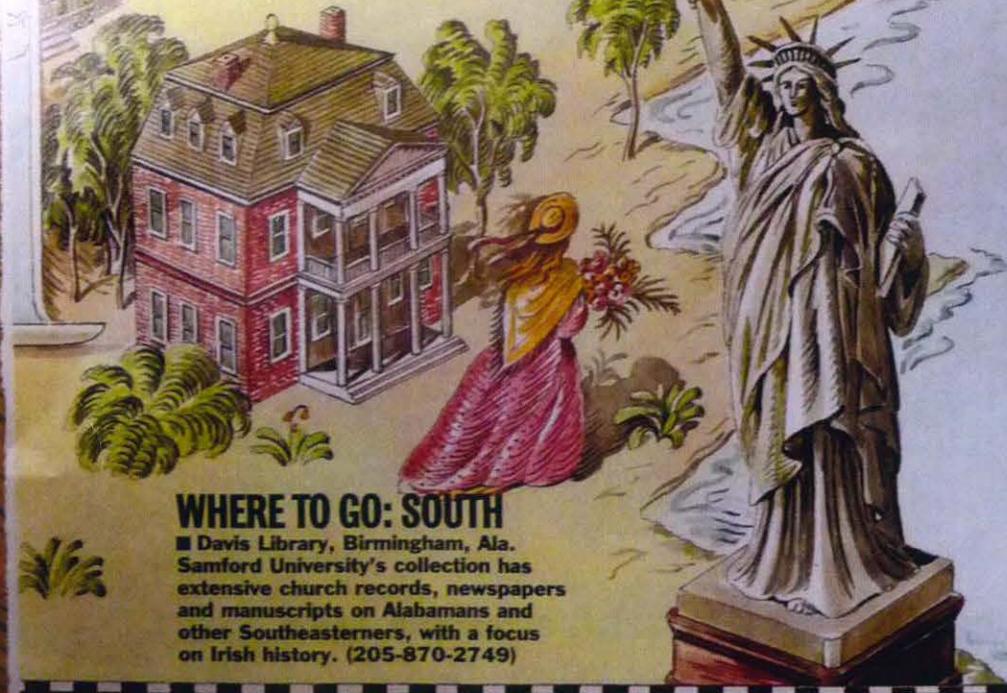
■ **New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.** At 150 years, this is the nation's oldest society. Its 3,500-linear-foot manuscript collection stresses material from New England, Britain, Ireland and French Canada. (617-536-5740)

■ **American Antiquarian Society Library, Worcester, Mass.** Huge holdings include newspapers from 1704 to 1820 and 75% of all 1st and 2nd century American printing. ([gopher://mark.mwa.org/](http://gopher://mark.mwa.org/); 508-755-5221)

## WASHINGTON

■ **National Archives and Records Administration, Ground Zero for U.S. roots hunters,** contains ships' records; censuses; naturalization, military and pension records; Native American tribal information; land records; and passport and homestead applications dating back to the Revolution. ([www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov))

■ **National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.** Especially strong in exclusive cemetery indexes, data on graves of Revolutionary soldiers and lineages compiled over time by DAR members. (202-879-3229)



## WHERE TO GO: SOUTH

■ **Davis Library, Birmingham, Ala.** Samford University's collection has extensive church records, newspapers and manuscripts on Alabamians and other Southerners, with a focus on Irish history. (205-870-2749)

## OTHER WORLDWIDE RESOURCES

### CANADA

■ Since privacy legislation mandates that census data cannot be released for 92 years, the latest census information available is from 1901. Other records can be costly and difficult to locate, but begin the search for Canadian birth, death, marriage and other records at [www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca); 613-996-7458

### AUSTRALIA

■ Early census records were destroyed because people feared discovery that their ancestors had been convicted felons. Crime records from the 1800s may include vital stats, including details of the offense. Try [www.slnsw.gov.au](http://www.slnsw.gov.au); [www.naa.gov.au/](http://www.naa.gov.au/), or [www.alphalink.com.au/~aigs](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~aigs) \$

### ITALY

■ Each of Italy's 20 regions has its own archive, usually in the capital, which houses birth, marriage and death certificates dating back to the 1860s. No websites; records available only by visiting archives or town halls

### SCOTLAND

■ First among nations to put all its records online; Scots origins ([www.origins.net/GRO](http://www.origins.net/GRO)) is a must see for anyone with clan ties. Also see [www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm](http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm)

### HOLLAND

■ Relaxed privacy laws make this the easiest of all European countries to scour for details. Visit [www.cbg.nl](http://www.cbg.nl)

### BRITAIN

■ In 1837 Queen Victoria ordered civil registration; earlier records are scattered among 14,000 parish-church registers throughout England and Wales. Start your hunting at [www.visitbritain.com/activities/wtd%2D9.htm](http://www.visitbritain.com/activities/wtd%2D9.htm)

## IN THE MIDWEST

■ Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind. Contains nearly half a million printed volumes, microfilm and microfiche, with good records on Europeans, Native and African Americans. ([www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)) 219-421-1225



### Chinese Heritage

To find immigrants who entered the U.S. under assumed names during the exclusionary period (1882-1943), when interrogation records show only adopted names, visit [www.nara.gov/regional/findaids/chirip.html](http://www.nara.gov/regional/findaids/chirip.html). There you can search cemeteries to find ancestors' true surnames. For limited access to original Chinese family histories from the Ming and Qing dynasties at Columbia University's C.V. Starr East Asian Library, search [www.columbia.edu/libraries/indiv/eastasia](http://www.columbia.edu/libraries/indiv/eastasia)



### Jewish Heritage

These sites are attuned to specific patterns and customs, such as the Habsburg and Russian mandates that Jews adopt national surnames, the early Jewish tradition of passing on the mother's maiden name in a religious marriage rather than the father's in a civil one, and the tendency among early Jewish immigrants to Americanize their long, ethnic-sounding names. Begin your search at [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org), or [www.yad-vashem.org](http://www.yad-vashem.org)



### Hispanic Heritage

Bloodlines—blurred by intermarriages, name changes and the dominant use of matronyms—can be difficult to trace. The Denver Public Library houses 20,000 specialty volumes, plus periodicals, clippings and charts on early Spanish history. (303-640-6291)



### African Heritage

Slave marriages weren't recognize so family records of descendants of Africans living in America prior to 1870 were often not recorded.

But good paper trails do exist for black freemen who came as ship's crew members, not slaves. A good start: [www.ccharity.com](http://www.ccharity.com); 212-491-2200, or [www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html](http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html)

divorces and illegitimate children. "Drunk census takers and bad penmanship can drive you insane!" says Rawlings, the Florida real estate broker. Lorraine St-Louis-Harrison, a Canadian genealogist, had a hard time tracing her French-speaking grandfather until she realized that an English census taker had transcribed St Louis as "Salway." Likewise, immigrants disembarking at Ellis Island found their names arbitrarily Anglicized. And some families, wanting to assimilate, did so later on their own.

Contrary to myth, blacks don't always carry the names of their family's last slaveholder: slaves could change hands numerous times without changing their surname, points out Tony Burroughs, who teaches genealogy at Chicago State University. In the case of biracial children born to slaves, it is often impossible to tell if the father was the slave owner, the overseer or a relative of the slave owner given liberties with the slave (see story, next page). Jewish researchers run into complications too: traditionally Jews



JAMES MCCOON—SIGMA FOR TIME 21

## RICH AND POOR

Robert Stokes, with his cousin Inez Pringle in Shreveport, La., holds a picture of her mother and the family genealogy book. With the help of the census, land records, family Bibles, documents in Britain, genealogical clubs, gravestones and local libraries, Stokes found among his ancestors a sheriff who was an enemy of King John, and an indentured servant who arrived in Maryland in 1670. He says, "Honestly, once you get into genealogy, it's addictive"

# A Visit to the National Archives, The American People's Library

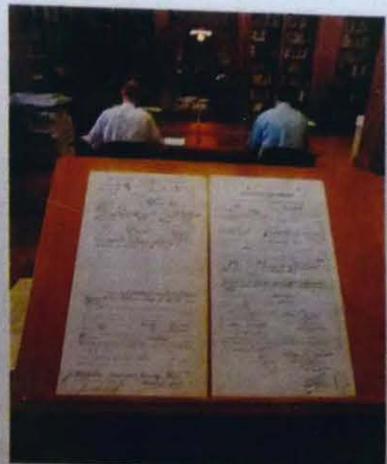
By EMILY MITCHELL WASHINGTON

**E**ARLY ON A MISTY WINTER MORNING, Corinne Konecny, 39, takes the elevator to the microfilm-research room on the fourth floor of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington. She is looking for her great-great-grandfather, whose name was Solomon Seif.

A cousin who just located Solomon Seif's burial place in Galion, Ohio, noticed on the gravestone that he had been a Civil War soldier. Konecny made note of that on a scrap of yellow legal-pad paper, and now she is spending a day at the Archives. She has been working on her German and French-Canadian family tree for 10 years, determined "to take all my family on both sides back to where they came from."

Sooner or later, almost every genealogical hunt leads past the tall columns of the National Archives on Pennsylvania Avenue. On one side of the building are the grand documents of democracy: the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. On the other side are the commonplace but invaluable records of the 272 million people who make up that democracy: census schedules from 1790 through 1920, military records from the Revolution to the start of World War I, passport applications going back to 1795, documents from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, ships' passenger lists. Since they were created by bureaucrats for bureaucrats, cautions NARA archivist Constance Potter, "a novice can have trouble."

A staff member leads Konecny to Drawer No. 44 of a large steel cabinet. Inside are microfilmed lists of Ohio Civil War regiments. Konecny sits at one of the 97 viewing stations and within a few minutes finds a faded entry showing that Solomon Seif served as a private in Company I of the 136th Infantry. From a second reel about Company I, she learns that as a 20-year-old farmer, he enlisted for 100 days in 1864, shortly before the war ended, and in 1885 he applied for a pension as an invalid.



The Archives, where a soldier came to life for his great-great-granddaughter

The Archives also stores individual pension records, she is told. Would she like to see if Seif had one? "Oh, yes," Konecny replies, her face lighting up. She fills out the appropriate forms and, after the requisite two-hour wait, enters the high-ceilinged central research room, where she is presented with a thick brown folder that had been stored with more than a million other original military pension records.

From letters to the War Department, she reads that his company had been sent from Ohio to Fort Ellsworth in Virginia, not far from where she now sits. Seif landed in the hospital with an illness called camp fever; he never returned to his regiment. "When he came home, he looked like a dead boy," declared the affidavit of an Ohio friend. For years after the war, Seif wrote to Washington requesting a pension increase, complaining of neuralgia, lumbago, catarh, headaches and heart trouble. By 1927, the year he died, Seif was receiving \$90 a month, an amount granted, according to notes from a nameless bureaucrat, because he was blind and totally helpless. "I didn't know that," says Konecny, shaking her head sadly. Turning over the last papers, she sees in the place marked for her great-great-grandfather's signature a large X made in black ink by a trembling hand. For a moment, she has a glimpse back into her family's past. ■

did not have surnames; they were called, for instance, Isaac, son of Jacob. Only beginning in the late 18th century were surnames imposed by edicts passed in Europe and Russia.

## DEALING WITH SURPRISES

In a celebrity-obsessed culture, it is no wonder that some root seekers hope to uncover an aristocratic connection. Stokes, the former Dallas principal, thought his family might be related to Robert E. Lee, as several generations had a family member with the middle name Lee or Lea in honor of the general. It turned out that his great-great-great-grandfather had been an admirer, not a relative, of Lee's. In fact, as he went back,

Stokes found his first American ancestors were indentured servants. "We came to America basically as white slaves," he says, with a laugh. Lately, Harold Brooks-Baker—head of Burke's Peerage, the British company that does genealogical searches—sees a change. People are less obsessed with nobility and more with the dramatic. "If their ancestor was a horse thief, all the better," he says. Care to chat about family skeletons? The International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists has set up a website and an electronic mailing list for "those who have a dastardly, infamous individ-

ual of public knowledge and ill repute in their family."

In Australia, once a penal colony, Valerie Garton, 61, warns that "one must never start family history unless you're willing to accept everything you find." Garton's great-grandfather was transported to Tasmania for stealing sheep. Only a few decades ago, it was considered a taboo Down Under to admit to convict ancestry, and early census

## For African Americans, Uncovering a Painful Past

By SANDRA LEE JAMISON

IT IS EASIER FOR AFRICAN-Americans to talk about their roots these days than it was even a decade ago. People then didn't openly debate the slave descendants of Thomas Jefferson, discuss black slave owners or see whites sitting alongside blacks searching for their shared African ancestors.

Since the first broadcast of the groundbreaking 1977 miniseries *Roots*, Hollywood, in such films as *Glory*, *Amistad* and *Beloved*, has helped depict a more complex picture of race relations in early America. Combined with new literature and scholarship on the African American experience such as John Hope Franklin's *Runaway Slaves*, the companion to the four-part, six-hour PBS series *Africans in*

A slave dealer's ad in 1769 announces new arrivals from Africa

*America: America's Journey Through Slavery*, and Microsoft's CD-ROM encyclopedia, the *Encarta Africana*, there is respect and understanding for the lives of African ancestors.

But this new openness cannot repair all the damage done to the historical record of black people, nor overcome the pain of re-creating it. For even after slavery, segregation forced the creation of two Americas, and family-history seekers must be equipped to navigate in two sets of records—one black and one white. Racial identities were sometimes hidden as blacks "passed" from one race for societal survival. Military records, church archives, city directories, newspapers and a wealth of information from county, state and federal government agencies have to be researched with race in mind.

For many, the hardest part of piecing together individual lives of your family line is finding them listed in the same inventories that include cattle, plows and flat-



Slaves like these gathered during the Civil War may be the connection between an African past and an American present

ware—not just hard but gut wrenching.

For Southern plantation owners and gentleman farmers, enslaved Africans were simply investments. Ledgers and diaries from their estate archives documented who had to be fed, housed and rationed clothing, blankets and utensils: "Essie" received a pot, ladle and blankets for her child, and "Mose" was hired out to a neighboring farm.

Practically speaking, slave transactions provide solid genealogical connections. Slave names are recorded in wills, bills of sale and even dowries. Records from slave-ship cargo lists, captain's logbooks, ship route maps, white family histories and oral histories once available only in obscure books and dusty archives are available today on computer databases and widely disseminated via the Internet and on CD-ROMS.

And more is on the way.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize deteriorating pages of diaries, autobiographies, primary texts and slave narratives for inclusion in the university's database.

There are two websites valued and respected as resources for up-to-date information and discussion for the African ancestor. One is a website founded by Mississippi State University, *Afrigenes* ([www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/afrigen/](http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/afrigen/)); the other is Christine's genealogy website ([www.ccharity.com](http://www.ccharity.com)).

Today's tools certainly make the search for black roots easier. The trick is to steel yourself for what you are likely to find.

Sandra Lee Jamison, a TIME research librarian, is the author of *Finding Your People*

MATTHEW BRADY—BRADY COLLECTION/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



records were destroyed by politicians and others who did not want their origins revealed. But lately it has become fashionable to be a first-fleet Australian. Likewise, in the new South Africa, nonwhite ancestry for an Afrikaner is not only politically correct but socially advantageous. Former President Frederik Willem de Klerk, once a defender of apartheid, now admits to a Bengali-slave forebear. In the U.S., blacks and whites are cooperating in joint genealogy searches. Says Colorado land appraiser James Rogers, a Caucasian who unearthed a slave ancestor: "It certainly brought home to me that we are all related."

For Asian Americans, immigration records have yielded a wealth of surprises. From 1882 until 1965, a series of laws severely restricted Chinese immigration. Only a few exempt groups—diplomats, merchants, students and teachers, for example—were allowed in. Byron Yee, a San Francisco actor, had always known his father had changed his surname to Yee from Seto when he emigrated from China, but it wasn't until years later, when he was researching his family for a *one-man* show, that Yee discovered why. His father had been a "paper son," entering the U.S. with false documents that identified him as the son of a citizen—a common ruse of many Chinese immigrants. Now that he has reviewed his father's interrogation records, he says, "I've recovered some of my lost relationship."

If genealogy is an entertaining hobby, it can also be a matter of life and death. Two years after Washington public affairs specialist Carol Krause graduated from college, her mother died of ovarian cancer. But she and her three sisters did not feel any personal threat—until comedian Gilda Radner's death, when they learned that ovarian cancer can be hereditary. Shortly after that, Carol's sister Susan also came down with ovarian cancer. Interviewing relatives and ferreting out death certificates, the sisters found more than a dozen family members who had died of different cancers. Carol and her other sisters, Peggy and Kathy, were tested for several cancers. Kathy had a microscopic tumor, which was ultimately fatal. Carol and Peggy had preventive hysterectomies. Carol also discovered and was successfully treated for colon and breast cancer. "There's a lot of denial out there," says Krause, who has written a book, *How Healthy Is Your Family*



PETER SIBBALD FOR TIME

## WE'VE GOT MAIL

Yvon Cyr takes pride in his Acadian heritage, and his wife Judy treasures her family keepsakes, right. After tracing his own roots, Cyr is busy sharing information with the 500 people on his Acadian website's mailing list. Says he: "It's uniting people from all over the world who have a common interest"



*Tree?* "When I go and speak to groups and ask, 'How many of you know what all four of your grandparents died of?', they don't know."

In the days when your relatives mostly stayed put, they knew more about one another's lives and deaths. But in today's mobile society, as nuclear families splinter, loneliness and alienation are the order of the day. "We are witnessing the atomization of the family," says David Alshuler, director of Manhattan's Museum of Jewish Heritage. "The coming of the millennium focuses people's attention on the disappearance of an era." That nostalgia, the sense of lost roots, has fired a thirst for connection that genealogy seems to satisfy. Middle-aged and older people, who form the majority of root seekers, talk

about leaving a legacy for their children—a guide to their children's identity, a family deeper and broader than ever imagined. With genealogy, says Hank Jones, a San Diego character actor who writes and lectures on the subject, "you have a feeling of belonging again when, in daily life, sometimes you don't."

—Reported by Melissa August/Washington, Greg Aunapu/Miami, Curtis Black/Chicago, Moira Daly/Toronto, Megan Rutherford/New York and Richard Woodbury/Denver, with other bureaus

**Last year 800,000 people visited the Mormons' Family History Library in Salt Lake**

Co-founder of BGS. A5

THE DISPATCH AND  
THE ROCK ISLAND ARGUS  
Monday, May 3, 1999

OBITUARY

## ROCK ISLAND

### Phyllis Normoyle

Services for Phyllis C. Normoyle, 86, of 2718 29th Ave., Rock Island, are 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at DeRoo Funeral Home, Moline, and 10 a.m. at St. Pius Church, Rock Island, where she was a member. Rev. Paul Showalter will officiate. Burial is in Calvary Cemetery, Rock Island.



Visitation is 5 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home, with a rosary at 6:30. Memorials may be made to Alleman High School, Rock Island.

Mrs. Normoyle died Saturday, May 1, 1999, at St. Anthony's Continuing Care Center, Rock Island.

She was born Nov. 25, 1912, in Rock Island, the daughter of Phillip and Merle Cox Stack. She married Joseph A. Normoyle Aug. 7, 1933.

She was a graduate of the former Villa de Chantal, Rock Island, and St. Francis College, Joliet. She was a substitute teacher at the Villa and St. Joseph Grade School, Rock Island. She was a member of the Villa alumni and Daughters of Isabella. She pursued her family genealogy and was a co-founder of the local chapter of the Genealogy Society. She was awarded a lifetime membership as a result of her work. She enjoyed flying and acquired her pilot's license in 1962.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph; a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Kay and Jack Michalski, Moline; sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph and Faye Normoyle, Australia, and Robert and Donna Normoyle, Cordova; 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister, Doris Young, and a grandson, Joseph.

Co-founder of BGS. A5

THE DISPATCH AND  
THE ROCK ISLAND ARGUS  
Tuesday, May 4, 1999

OBITUARY

ROCK ISLAND

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