

2000

German: 'Fleabag hotel' gets new life as Heritage Center

Continued from Page B1
lodging spot for hundreds of German immigrants arriving weekly on boats and trains.

In 1878, Miller expanded the hotel to the east and added a fourth floor across the entire structure. In 1880, he changed the name to Miller's Hotel. It became the Standard Hotel in 1924 and operated under that name until closed in the late 1980s.

In 1994, German American Heritage Center Inc. bought the building for \$42,500 from an owner who had planned to open a bed and breakfast. The German American Heritage Center has invested \$970,000 in land acquisition and construction costs.

The work has included putting in a new roof, filling in the old basement to stabilize the building, restoring the balcony over the front door, adding new cast-stone window sills and new quoins, installing period "bat wing" style windows and painting

the metal cornice.

The cornice, one of the building's most striking architectural features, includes the name "J.F. Miller" and "1878," the year Miller expanded the hotel. Acanthus leaves, flower medallions and the head of the Roman goddess Germania also grace the cornice.

Future plans call for a paved parking lot, an addition that will house a lobby, elevator and offices and creating exhibition space, archives and a research library on the upper floors.

Later this summer, the center will unveil storefront windows on the 2nd Street side, replicated to the originals by project architect Bracke Hayes Miller, of Moline.

Don Wetzenbach, vice president of the center's board of directors, attributes the project's success to the vision of Charlott Goetsch Blevins and the persistence, commitment and enthusiasm of center volunteers and the commu-

German magazine picks Davenport as travel destination

A monthly magazine devoted to German travel, culture and history has ranked Davenport among its five "Favorite German-American Travel Destinations."

In its June/July 2000 issue, German Life magazine says Davenport is among five cities that have a strong German influence and also offer "wonderful festivals, great food and fun shopping." The article begins:



"Maybe it's the jazz sound-track that sets Davenport, Iowa, apart from other German-American destinations.

Nonetheless, with over 150 years of German influence, there is a subtle pride in its heritage that underscores life in the largest of the Quad-Cities. Although economic development has erased much of the commercial architecture built by German ancestors, Davenport finds itself enjoying a new-

found commitment to preserving its residential architecture and historic artifacts."

The city's German immigration patterns, growth of German neighborhoods, the anti-German sentiment brought on by World War I, the jazz influence of Davenport native son and German-American Bix Beiderbecke, the jazz festival and race named in his honor are all covered in the story by Mark A. Slider.

The other German-American towns cited are Helen, Ga.; Kutztown, Pa.; New Glarus, Wis.; and Oldenburg, Ind.

— By John Willard

nity at large.

More than 40 major donors have supported the project, with gifts ranging from \$5,000 to \$120,000. The donors con-

tributing more than \$100,000 have come from The Riverboat Development Authority, \$120,000; City of Davenport, \$107,700; Jane E. and Clemens

A. Werner, \$107,916 and the Scott County Board of Supervisors, \$100,000.

The center has its beginnings with Blevins, the great-

great granddaughter of German immigrants and the center's administrative assistant, who proposed the establishment of a German history and cultural center a decade ago.

She says the center will serve as a genealogy resource for Quad-Citians trying to trace their German roots and for Germans trying to locate American relatives in the Quad-Cities.

A major challenge in bringing the center to reality, Blevins said, was convincing the community that it could salvage what many regarded as a "fleabag hotel." Once a vibrant hostelry sporting a saloon, billiard parlor and barbershop, the hotel was known as a hangout for prostitutes and other undesirables in its twilight years.

Completion of the first-floor exhibit space should boost fundraising efforts and assure the building's future as a downtown attraction, she said.

26th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

Saturday, April 29, 2000
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Viking Club of Moline
1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois

Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois



Dan Wadsworth / staff

Salad will be served

The Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, Council 658, will host a salad luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 420 23rd St., Rock Island. Getting in a holiday mood are, from left, Pam Langston, Karen Wieland and Jan Egger. Tickets are \$5. Cards may be played after lunch.

German 'Fleabag' hotel gets new life as Heritage Center

continued from Page 10
 including upon the hundreds of
 German immigrants arriving
 weekly on boats and trains.

In 1876, Miller expanded the
 hotel to the east and added a
 fourth floor across the entire
 structure. In 1880, he changed
 the name to Miller's Hotel. It
 became the Standard Hotel in
 1924 and operated under that
 name until closed in the late
 1980s.

In 1994, German American
 Heritage Center Inc. bought
 the building for \$42,500 from
 an owner who had planned to
 open a bed and breakfast. The
 German American Heritage
 Center has invested \$970,000 in
 land acquisition and construction
 costs.

The work has included
 putting in a new roof, filling in
 the old basement to stabilize
 the building, restoring the bal-
 cony over the front door

the moral center.
 The cornice, one of the
 building's most striking archi-
 tectural features, includes the
 name "J.F. Miller" and "1876,"
 the year Miller expanded the
 hotel. Acanthus leaves, flower
 medallions and the head of
 the Roman goddess Germania
 also grace the cornice.

Future plans call for a
 paved parking lot, an addition
 that will house a lobby, eleva-
 tor and offices and creating
 exhibition space, archives and
 a research library on the
 upper floors.

Later this summer, the center
 will unveil storefront win-
 dows on the 2nd Street side,
 replicated to the originals by
 project architect Bracke Hayes
 Miller, of Moline.

Don Welzenbach, vice president
 of the center's board of
 directors, attributes the pro-
 ject's success to the vision of

German magazine picks Davenport as travel destination

A monthly magazine
 devoted to German travel, cul-
 ture and history has ranked
 Davenport
 among its five
 "Favorite Ger-
 man-American
 Travel Destina-
 tions."

In its
 June/July 2000
 issue, German
 Life magazine
 says Davenport is
 among five cities
 that have a strong
 German influence
 and also offer
 "wonderful festivals, great
 food and fun shopping."

The article begins:



"Maybe it's the jazz sound-
 track that sets Davenport,
 Iowa, apart from other Ger-
 man-American
 destinations.

Nonetheless, with
 over 150 years of
 German influence,
 there is a subtle
 pride in its her-
 itage that under-
 scores life in the
 largest of the
 Quad-Cities.

Although eco-
 nomic develop-
 ment has erased
 much of the com-
 mercial architecture built by
 German ancestors, Davenport
 finds itself enjoying a new-

found commitment to preserv-
 ing its residential architec-
 ture and historic artifacts."

The city's German immi-
 gration patterns, growth of
 German neighborhoods, the
 anti-German sentiment
 brought on by World War I,
 the jazz influence of Daven-
 port native son and German-
 American Big Band leader,
 the jazz festival and race
 named in his honor are all
 covered in the story by Mark
 A. Slider.

The other German Ameri-
 can towns cited are Helen,
 Ga.; Kutztown, Pa.; New
 Glarus, Wis.; and Oldenburg,
 Ind.

By John Willard

great work on the subject of that
 must coincide with and the con-
 fer's administrative assistance,
 who proposed the establish-
 ment of a German history and
 cultural center a decade ago.

She says the center will
 serve as a genealogy resource
 for Quad-Citians trying to
 trace their German roots and
 for German-Americans trying to locate
 American relatives in the
 Quad-Cities.

A major challenge in bring-
 ing the center to reality,
 Blevins said, was convincing
 the community that it could
 salvage what many regarded
 as a "fleabag hotel." Once a
 vibrant hostelry sporting a
 saloon, billiard parlor and bar-
 bershop, the hotel was known
 as a hangout for prostitutes
 and other undesirables in its
 twilight years.

Completion of the first-floor
 exhibit space should boost
 fundraising efforts and assure
 the building's future as a
 downtown attraction, she said.

Werner, \$107,916 and the
 Scott County Board of Super-
 visors, \$100,000.

The center has its begin-
 nings with Blevins, the great-

26th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Saturday, April 29, 2000
 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Viking Club of Moline
 1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois

Sponsored by
 Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
 and
 Blackhawk Genealogical Society
 of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois



Salad will be served

The Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, Council 658, will
 host a salad luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 25 at
 Getting in a Holiday mood are, from left, Rock Island
 Karen Winkler and Jan Egert. Tickets are \$5. Cards may
 be dropped after lunch.



Featured Speaker

Paul Milner

Paul Milner is a professional genealogist and lecturer. He is a native of northern England and has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for the past 20 years. He was raised in England and settled in the United States in 1975.

Paul is a communication professional and has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for 25 years. He also holds a degree in theology and is particularly knowledgeable about the church and its role in record keeping.

As a genealogist he speaks on a variety of topics relating to research in the British Isles, the U.S. and research methodology.

Paul is the president of the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL), a board member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. He is a regular speaker at national and regional conferences. He is the book review editor for the FGS *FORUM* and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Society of Genealogists (London) and several English Family History Societies.

Saturday, April 29, 2000

Program

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

"New resources for the British Isles."

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

"Scottish emigration to North America: Before and after the Rebellion."

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Lunch and browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

"Irish emigrants to North America: Before, during and after the famine."

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

"Organizing your search to any place Methodology?"

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 speaker and other conference attendees.

Thank you.



EXHIBITORS and/or CONTRIBUTORS

Antique Week	Gen-Book
Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois	Heritage Books, Inc.
British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois	Higginson Book Company
Cedar County Genealogy Society	New England Historical & Genealogical Society
Creative Memories	Origins
Federation of Genealogical Societies	Petersen Reproductions
German American Heritage Society	Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
	Mary Storbeck
	Tuttle Antiquarian Books
	Willow Bend Books
	Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons.....	Ann Riepe, Gaycha Mayhew
Mistress of Ceremonies.....	Ann Riepe
Exhibits.....	Janet Greenlee
Finance.....	Eulalia Garrett
Hostesses.....	Kathryn Foulkes, Dorothy Darland
Publicity.....	Don Southwood
Registration.....	Lorraine Hathaway, Judy Rueckert

THANK YOU

The conference committee appreciates your support and cooperation. If we did not have the attendance that we've enjoyed over the 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.

Ann Riepe, Gaycha Mayhew, Co-Chairs

EXHIBITORS and/or CONTRIBUTORS

Ancestry, Inc.
American Genealogical Lending Library
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
Cedar County (Iowa) Genealogical
Society
Creative Memories
Genealogical Publishing Company
German American Heritage Center
The Gold Bug
Heritage Books, Inc.
Higginson Books
Modern Woodmen

New England Historic Genealogical
Society
Origins
Quad-Cities Computer Society
Quad City Heritage League
Quad City Times
SCGS Research Team
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
Scott County Iowa Historical Society
Southern Historical Press
Mary Storbeck
Tuttle Antiquarian Books
Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson.....Lorraine Hathaway
Master of Ceremonies.....Lorraine Hathaway
Exhibits.....Janet Greenlee, Ann Riepe
Finances.....Eulalia Garrett
Hostesses.....Kathryn Foulkes, Dorothy Darland
Publicity.....Don Southwood
Registrar.....Judy Rueckert, Gaycha Mayhew

THANK YOU

The conference committee appreciates your support and cooperation. If we did not have the attendance that we've enjoyed over the 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.

Don Weisenbach, vice president of the German American Heritage Center's board of directors, is one of the many volunteers who are making the center's new museum a reality.

Willkommen!

German American Heritage Center unveils museum

By John Willard
DAILY TIMES

A Civil War-era hotel that was the first stop for thousands of German immigrants pouring into Davenport in the 19th century makes its fiber this week as a museum showcasing the city's German heritage.

The occasion is Saturday's grand opening of the newly renovated first floor of the old Standard Hotel, overlooking the Mississippi River at 712 W. 2nd St. The project is the first major renovation of the building now owned by German American Heritage Center Inc.

Regret with track lighting, special "starry walk" designed for ease of handicapped wheelchair access and a decorating scheme that repeats the black, red and yellow of the German flag, the first-floor space has all the physical attributes of a world-class museum.

Saturday's grand opening is part of the center's 100th-anniversary from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will be able to purchase museum displays that reflect Davenport's strong German heritage.

Germanic-themed political events and military commemorations at Iowa Statehood during the 19th century, led by the thousands in Davenport, becoming the city's largest ethnic group.

A 19th-century display will include a 19th-century glass used by the German investors of the city of Scott County.



Photos by Jenelle Peterson, DAILY TIMES

The new exhibit room of the German American Heritage Center in Davenport takes shape with help from Jeff Guthrie, left, of Midwest Graphics Management, East Moline; and Don Weisenbach, vice president of the German American Heritage Center's board of directors.



Part of the renovation was restoring Victorian detailing.

German Stephan Metz who they treat the prize for the family born in the 1850s. Metz

is secretary of the German American Heritage Center. Saturday's event is a "week preview" of the German American Heritage Center's regular exhibits. Hours are scheduled to begin in August. When the museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. on the last Sunday of every month or by appointment.

The grand opening also the German American Heritage Center's six-year dream to build a museum in the old

hotel, located on the northwest corner of 2nd and Galena streets at the foot of the Centennial Bridge.

One of the city's oldest surviving commercial buildings, it dates back to 1862 when a German immigrant named John Frederick Miller built the first wall of what became known as the Germania House. By the 1870s, his home was a popular

A Civil War-era hotel at the foot of the Centennial Bridge in Davenport is the new home of the German American Heritage Center.

Bringing people together

Even before its opening, the German American Heritage Center is serving its purpose as a repository of German immigration history.

Last week, Sebastian Goertsch-Hewitts, the center's prize mover, welcomed 15 German tourists who were visiting Davenport to explore family connections in Scott County.

One was Christian Bierwig, a young farmer from Tating, Germany. He brought with him an old photo of his great uncle, Ernst Henrichs, who had immigrated to Scott County from Garding, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1865. He hoped the photo would yield clues to the whereabouts of any relatives who might be living in Scott County.

Stevens went to work. At the Davenport Public Library she rummaged through microfiche and newspaper obituaries and located Henrichs' daughter, her name: Bertha Cahill. A check of the telephone book revealed that Cahill still lived in Davenport.

Merwig and Cahill got together for a joyful reunion. "This is what the center is all about," Hewitts said. "It isn't just bricks and mortar. It's bringing people together."

—By John Willard

► IF YOU GO

- **What:** 100th anniversary and grand opening of the German American Heritage Center.
- **Where:** German American Heritage Center, 712 W. 2nd St., Davenport.
- **When:** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday.
- **How much:** \$6 for adults or \$3 for the youth. Children under 12 free. Tickets are available at Eagle County Markets in the Quad-Cities and from German American Heritage Center board members. Ticket sales support continued development of the heritage center.
- **When to park:** Free parking and shuttles from John D. Deming Center, 1000 W. 2nd St., Davenport.
- **What to expect:** Music by the Deutsche Polka Band, Light Family & the Poles, Nicks, winners of German Food and German Beer, Wine, Soda, Dancing, Wine, Cake, Sailing, Tours of the center's first floor museum exhibits.
- **Information:** German American Heritage Center Inc., (319) 332-1914.

—GERMAN
Press from the Press 84

Davenport center helps people add branches to family trees

By Claudia Loucks
Correspondent

DAVENPORT — What you learn about your ancestors can bring blessings and strengthen your family ties, according to Alma Bignall, co-director of the Family History Center in Davenport.

Mrs. Bignall and her husband Fred serve as co-directors of the center, which is located within and part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

If you have ever wondered if your ancestors were kings, queens or other royalty, you will not have to wonder any longer because the Family History Center can help answer most of your questions and get you started researching your lineage.

Mrs. Bignall explained the history of the tracing of ancestors began in November of 1894 when a group of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founded the Genealogical Society of Utah and opened a library in Salt Lake City. The library, now known as

the Family History Library, has become the largest library of its kind the world.

The Davenport Center is also experiencing growth. Mrs. Bignall said this year the center is visited by about 400 patrons each month, an increase from 300 per month. The resource library is free and open to the public.

Mrs. Bignall, her husband and about 20 other volunteers help people trace their roots. She estimated that last year about 3,600 inquisitive folks found themselves taking advantage of the service. The church center also has a Web site, familysearch.org, where millions of names can be traced. People all over the world do tracing of their family line, and once they have gone as far as they can or want, they can submit their findings to the Family History Center. The only requirement is that information be accurate.

The main library in Salt Lake City has a large collection of microfilm records from all over the world as well as a large col-

lection of books on genealogy and family history.

Mrs. Bignall said those books do not circulate from the library, but many are available on microfilm. The microfilms at the center also contain copies of original documents from more than 100 countries. Such documents include passenger lists from ships carrying immigrants, census information, church, land, probate and other records of genealogical value. Mrs. Bignall said because of privacy laws, census information cannot be released for 75 years, so 1920 is the latest census information available.

Five computers are available for patron use at the center which contain a wealth of information to begin a search for ancestors. Several large files of family history are available. The collection is the Family Search. One Family Search file is the International Genealogical Index which lists dates and places of birth, christenings and

Please see ■ Center, C9



Claudia Loucks / correspondent

Alma and Fred Bignall serve as co-directors of the Family History Center in Davenport. The center is a service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mrs. Bignall has traced her lineage back to 6 A.D.

The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus
Saturday, June 17, 2000

C8

Center

FROM PAGE C8

marriages of millions of deceased people who lived in the period from the early 1500s to the early 1900s.

The Family History Library Catalog is also available. It lists the holdings of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Much of the information found on the center's Web site is also at the center on CDs. One thing not found on the Web site is the Social Security index. Using this index can provide a person with information on anyone who died whose name was reported to the Social Security Administration.

There is also a military index which lists names of all people who died in action during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The indexes for the Civil War and the Indian War are currently being worked on.

The center offers not only CDs filled with information and microfilm with copies of original documents, but also the original documents, stored in a vault in a granite mountain in Utah. The center has maps, books and word lists to translate from German, French and other languages. The center also has Scottish Church records. The records contain all of the parishes in Scotland in the 800s.

Once a patron begins a search, there are a few different charts available depending on the search that has been done. A

pedigree chart consists of immediate relatives such as parents and grandparents, which is one's direct ancestry.

There also is a Family Group Record which contains information about a father, mother and their children — all of the information pertaining to this family.

There is a booklet called "A Guide to Research" available at the center. The guide outlines through the five steps outlined in beginning a search. It helps in situations where a patron may have hit a dead end with ideas of where else to look if the facility does not have the information needed.

Mrs. Bignall said the center came into being 20 years ago and was housed in three Sunday school classrooms in the church. The Davenport center is one of the largest centers and it is unique because an addition was built to the existing church to house the center.

Mrs. Bignall became involved with the center in 1987 as an assistant librarian. She and her husband as well as the 20 volunteers who operate the facility are unpaid volunteers.

"One of the reasons I am involved is in relationship to our church. All positions are filled by volunteers. There are no paid people," she said. "Everyone has a responsibility or a calling. These callings come from the Lord and so He has called me and my husband at this time to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the center which includes staffing,

ordering of supplies and films needed by patrons."

Mrs. Bignall continued, "Because family is the most important organization in the church and in this life, in our position, we help people learn about their families. Families are not just those living today, but they encompass all of our ancestors and the center can help people identify who their ancestors are so they can be united with them eternally."

She said the church provides the center for their members because it is not always possible to visit the library in Salt Lake City or the historic homes of their ancestors and to research in these places.

Mrs. Bignall said the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints do family history research because they are motivated by love for their deceased family members and desire to serve them.

"Life does not end with death. When we die, our eternal spirits go to a spirit world, where we continue to learn while we await the resurrection and final judgement. Members of the church believe that the family can also continue beyond the grave, not just until death."

The Family History Center in Davenport is open Tuesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The center is closed Sunday and Monday. Appointments can be arranged by calling the center at (319) 386-7547.

Davenport center helps people add branches to family trees

By Claudia Loucks
Special Services



Alma and Fred Bignall serve as co-directors of the Family History Center in Davenport. The center is a service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mrs. Bignall has traced her lineage back to 6 A.D.

the Family History Library, has become the largest library of its kind the world.

The Davenport Center is also experiencing growth. Mrs. Bignall said this year the center is visited by about 400 patrons each month, an increase from 300 per month. The resource library is free and open to the public.

Mrs. Bignall, her husband and about 20 other volunteers help people trace their roots. She estimated that last year about 3,000 inquisitive folks found themselves taking advantage of the service. The church center also has a Web site, familysearch.org, where millions of names can be traced. People all over the world do tracing of their family line, and once they have gone as far as they can or want, they can submit their findings to the Family History Center. The only requirement is that information be accurate.

The main library in Salt Lake City has a large collection of microfilm records from all over the world as well as a large col-

lection of books on genealogy and family history.

Mrs. Bignall said that they do not circulate books, but they do have a large collection of microfilm. The center also contains more than 100 countries. Book documents include government records from ships, marriage records, census information, church land, probate and other records of genealogical value. Mrs. Bignall said because of the very laws, census information cannot be released for 100 years so 1950 is the latest census information available.

Five computers are available for patron use at the center which contain a wealth of information to begin a search for ancestors. Several large family history genealogy collections are available. The collection is the Family Search, One Family Search, and is the International Genealogical Index which lists names and places of birth, christening and

Please see if Center

DAVENPORT — What you learn about your ancestors can bring blessings and strengthen your family ties, according to Alma Bignall, co-director of the Family History Center in Davenport.

Mrs. Bignall and her husband Fred serve as co-directors of the center, which is located within and part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

If you have ever wondered if your ancestors were kings, queens or other royalty, you will not have to wonder any longer because the Family History Center can help answer most of your questions and get you started researching your lineage.

Mrs. Bignall explained the history of the tracing of ancestors began in November of 1894 when a group of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founded the Genealogical Society of Utah and opened a library in Salt Lake City. The library, now known as

patrols chart records of immigration, military such as paroles and judgments, which is a new birth records.

There is also a Family Group Record which contains information about a father, mother and their children — all of the information pertaining to this family.

There is a booklet called "A Guide to Research" available at the center. The guide outlines through the five steps outlined in beginning a search. It helps in situations where a patron may have hit a dead end with ideas of where else to look if the facility does not have the information needed.

Mrs. Bignall said the center came into being 20 years ago and was housed in three Sunday school classrooms in the church. The Davenport center is one of the largest centers and it is unique because an addition was built to the existing church to house the center.

Mrs. Bignall became involved with the center in 1987 as an assistant librarian. She and her husband as well as the 20 volunteers who operate the facility are unpaid volunteers.

"One of the reasons I am involved is in relationship to our church. All positions are filled by volunteers. There are no paid people," she said. "Everyone has a responsibility of a calling. They callings come from the Lord and so the Lord calls me and my husband at this time to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the center which includes staffing,

ordering of supplies and films needed by patrons."

Mrs. Bignall continued, "Because family is the most important organization in the church and in this life, in our position, we help people learn about their families. Families are not just those living today, but they encompass all of our ancestors and the center can help people identify who their ancestors are so they can be united with them eternally."

She said the church provides the center for their members because it is not always possible to visit the library in Salt Lake City or the historic homes of their ancestors and to research in these places.

Mrs. Bignall said the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints do family history research because they are motivated by love for their deceased family members and desire to serve them.

"Life does not end with death. When we die, our eternal spirits go to a spirit world, where we continue to learn while we await the resurrection and final judgement. Members of the church believe that the family can also continue beyond the grave, not just until death."

The Family History Center in Davenport is open Tuesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The center is closed Sunday and Monday. Appointments can be arranged by calling the center at (313) 262-2222.

Center

The Family History Library Center is also available. It lists the locations of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Much of the information found on the center's Web site is also found on CDs. One thing not found on the Web site is the Social Security Index. Using this index, you provide a person with information on anyone who has that name was reported to the Social Security Administration.

There is also a military index which lists names of all people who served in active during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The index for the Civil War and the I-80 War are currently being worked on.

The center offers not only CDs that contain information and microfilm with copies of original documents, but also the original documents, stored in a vault with granite masonry in Utah. The center has maps, bookland word lists in translation from German, French and other languages. The center also has records Church records. The center contains all of the records in bookland in the center.

When a patron begins a search, there are a few different charts available depending on what search has been done. A

Alma Bignall

Helen Hutchinson
Services for Helen E. Hutchinson, 95, Rock Island, are 1 p.m. Thursday at Hodgson Funeral Home Ltd., Rock Island. Burial is in Preemption Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Donald Batz will officiate. Visitation is noon to 1 p.m. Thursday. In lieu of flowers, memorials to First United Methodist Church, Rock Island, where she was a member. Mrs. Hutchinson died Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006, at home. She was born March 29, 1905, in Bowling Township, the daughter of Robert H. and Nettie Lova Hutchinson. She was a member of the Rock Hawk Genealogy Society, Life member of OES and of the Illinois Teachers' Association. She taught school for 42 years including 20 years at a rural one-room school, 35 years in the Rock Island system and two years at a private school in Davenport. She is survived by a niece, Mrs. Carol, Sacramento, Calif.

German American Heritage Center will open with festival

By Pam Berenger
Staff writer

DAVENPORT — Just as one voyage for German immigrants ended when they arrived in their new country, their descendants' "voyage" to open a heritage center in Davenport is nearing its end.

Saturday, the new German American Heritage Center at 2nd and Galois streets will open to the public with a traditional German spring festival called Maifest, which has been celebrated in Europe for hundreds of years.

The festival, including traditional music and dance, will be available during the fest, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Activities include Maibaum (Maypole) dancing and German bands.

There will be arts and crafts, children's activities, and official German Embassy displays of German immigration history. The gift shop also will be open that day.

Tickets, available at Hy-Vee and Eagle stores, are \$4 in advance or \$5 at the gate. Free parking and shuttle service will be available from John O'Donnell Stadium.

The opening is the culmination of years of planning that started in 1984 when Scharlott Goettisch Blevins persuaded a handful of people to join her in creating a center to preserve the heritage of German immigrants who helped establish that area of Scott County.

The 1980 census showed that about half of all Iowans were of German heritage.

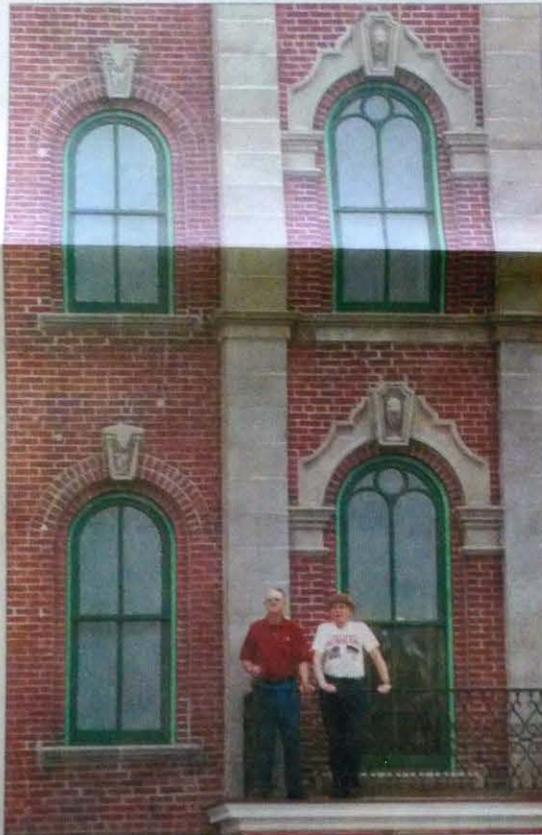
The German American Heritage Center (GAHC) will preserve and display the rich German heritage of the area, as well as usher in their Illinois friends, member Harian Meier said.

Letters written by immigrants and their families, photos, clothing and equipment, like a small steel blade used to break the prairie south of Walcott, will be on display.

"Without a place like this, they'll be destroyed or lost," Mr. Meier said. "People should be proud of their ancestry."

The site at the foot of Centennial Bridge has been passed by immigrants and visitors for 190

Please see **Heritage, D2**



Above: Harian Meier and Don Waisenbach of the German American Heritage Center, Davenport, are part of the group that founded the center in 1994. The group has worked to restore the building built in 1863.

Top right: The front windows of the German American Heritage Center have a wonderful view of the Centennial Bridge and Mississippi River.

Right: Outlines of the old hotel room walls still can be seen in the floor on the second floor of the building.



The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus
Sunday, May 21, 2000

D1

Q-C Area

Heritage

From Page D1

years. The abstract shows that a wood structure, operated as a rooming house and bar, was built on the land in the early 1850s.

By 1863, it had been replaced with a three-story brick building. In 1876, a fourth story, and a four-story addition were added to the building.

Iowa and the west were growing, and the hotel expansion was an indication of that growth, GAHC vice president Don Welzenbach said. "Obviously, a lot of people were traveling through the area."

Because of its history, and location in what was predominately a German business district, the former hotel was the perfect site for the center, the men said.

Its past still is evident in the upper stories. Grooves in the floor show where walls to the small rooms once were. Brick chimneys still stand against the walls, and charred ceiling rafters are evidence of a long-ago fire.

Stacks of hard hats sit on a shelf that once was a ticket window in the enclosed second-floor stairway. Sketches of future renovations are tacked to walls on the third floor. On another

floor, old doors and windows rest against a wall.

The first floor has been completed in the German flag colors of red, black and yellow, and includes a gift shop, traveling exhibits, hotel history exhibit, and a video theater with seating for a dozen.

Center directors visited several museums, taking the best of what others had done and incorporating it into the Davenport center.

Plans for the second, third and fourth floors include a conservation and display lab, exhibit areas, children's areas, a conference room and archival document library.

It's taken about \$1 million to refurbish the brick building that some thought should be demolished. The basement was filled in, windows replaced and brick repaired.

The money came from several sources, including \$120,600 from the Riverboat Development Authority, \$107,700 from the city of Davenport, \$102,916 from Jane and Clemens Werner Sr., \$100,000 from the Scott County Board of Supervisors, \$97,937 from the Iowa Department of Transportation, and \$45,000 from the State Historical Society of Iowa and others.

The group is trying to raise an additional \$600,000 to build a

A look at the building's history

Important dates in the building's history include:

- 1868 — John Frederick Miller, a German-American businessman who owns a bottling works across the alley, buys the property.
- 1869 — Mr. Miller buys two adjoining lots west of the hotel.
- 1873 — The business is renamed Germania Haus.
- 1874 — Germania Haus is renamed Deutsch Gast Haus (German Guest House).
- 1876 — Mr. Miller expands the hotel, adding a fourth floor and a four-story east wing addition.
- 1906-1917 — It is renamed Arcadia Hotel and the Henry Blessing Boarding House.
- 1915 — Mr. Miller dies.
- 1924 — The property is rented to owners of the Standard Service Station and Standard Tire Co., and renamed Standard

Hotel which closes in 1990.

■ 1983 — The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

■ 1994 — The German American Heritage Center is incorporated.

■ 1995 — The German American Heritage Center buys the building.

■ 1996 — Architects and contractors are hired for restoration, and the building becomes the first non-public building to receive landmark status from the city's historic preservation commission. A fundraising feasibility study is done.

■ 1997 — Start \$700,000 fundraising campaign.

■ 1999 — The initial fundraising goal is surpassed, and a new goal of \$1.798 million is set to raise money for an elevator stair-tower.

■ 2000 — Grand opening of the German American Heritage Center.

Source — German American Heritage Center

stairway and elevator tower, so the upper floors of the building can be used.

"It costs a lot to renovate," Mr. Meier said. "But it also costs a lot of money to build a new building. This way, we preserved a bit of German heritage."

The center opens at 11 a.m. Saturday, with children's activities,

German food and drink throughout the day. The Deutsche Polka Band plays at noon, followed by a 1 p.m. dedication ceremony and groundbreaking, maibaum dancing, maikuchen cutting and tours of the first floor immigration displays. Lyle Beaver and the Brass Notes play at 4 p.m., and the center closes at 8 p.m.

Marion Snow June 17, 2000

Marion Robert Snow, 76, East Moline, died Friday, June 9, 2000, at Illini Hospital, Silvis.

Services are 3 p.m. today at Law-Jones Funeral Home, Savanna, Ill. Burial is in Spring Lake Cemetery, Savanna. Visitation is 1 p.m. to service time. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association in his name.

Marion was born Sept. 23, 1923, in Jamestown, N.Y., the son of Robert and Vernice Hope Strong Snow. He married Dorothy Helen Novak June 24, 1944, in San Francisco, Calif.

Marion served in the United States Navy during World War II as an electronics instructor at Navy Pier in Chicago. He retired from Eaton Corp., Savanna, in 1976 and later worked for the Forestry Service in Kentucky and the Corps of Engineers in Rock Island.

Marion enjoyed reading, gardening, ~~genealogical research~~, computers, home construction and repair, and a good golf game.

Marion's family (and spouses) includes his wife, Dorothy, East Moline; a son, Thomas (Helen) Snow, Chicago; daughters, Jeanne (Lum) Baker, Fulton, and Judith Cayard, Louise (Paul) Kallemeyn and Susan (Jesse) Fosdick, all of Savanna; a brother, Warren (Connie) Snow, Charleston, S.C.; sisters, Mary (Richard) Bensen, Kennedy, N.Y., and Carol (David) Novak, LaPorte, Ind.; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Marion was preceded in death by a granddaughter.

Home in 'Tombstone Territory'

By Pam Berenger
Staff writer

If Cordova volunteer firefighter Geoffrey Hayes discovers a body, he knows what protocol to follow. Uncovering a tombstone is another matter.

On Tuesday, Mr. Hayes was digging the footings for an addition to his 100-year-old home when he uncovered a tombstone about 18 inches below the surface. At first he thought he'd hit a large rock. Then he scraped away the dirt from the surface and saw the writing.

"When I first saw it was marble I thought 'This is pretty cool, I may have a marble step,'" Mr. Hayes said. "Then I saw what it was and it was kind of shocking. It's been laying within six feet of the front door all this time underneath old concrete."

Although cracked, the writing on the 3 foot by 1½ foot tombstone is remarkably distinct, Mr. Hayes

'I'd like to keep the tombstone, at least I'd like to see something done with it ... maybe dedicate the room to her.'

Geoffrey Hayes

said.

"Margaret, wife of William P. Darrah, died Oct. 19, 1856, at the age of 47."

Not knowing exactly what to do,

Mr. Hayes contacted the police, the coroner, the mayor, the cemetery and his church.

Records at First Baptist Church in Cordova verify Mrs. Darrah was a member, and that she died in October 1856. The cemetery had no record of Mrs. Darrah's burial.

The mayor, police and coroner told Mr. Hayes to keep digging.

That was good news. After all, Mr. Hayes would like to get the addition to his kitchen built. However, his digging has become a little solemn; he's being careful just in case there are more graves.

It's unlikely Mr. Hayes will find any of Mrs. Darrah's remains, according to Rock Island County Coroner Sharon Anderson. The coffin she was buried in was likely wood and disintegrated long ago.

It's also highly unlikely that the skeletal remains are intact in the sandy wet soil.

Then again, the headstone may have been used as backfill, Mr. Hayes said. Or it may have fallen over and gotten covered with soil without the people who built the porch off the kitchen knowing it was there.

Mr. Hayes said his wife, Tonia, theorizes the offset way the kitchen was added on to the house indicates the builder knew the headstone was there. Eventually the gravestone ended up in the dirt and covered up.

"We've talked to some of the older generation and they said it was common to bury people near homes," Mr. Hayes said. "I'd like to keep the tombstone, at least I'd like

to see something done with it ... maybe dedicate the room to her."

The couple is enjoying the mystery that surrounds the headstone and taking some good-natured ribbing over it, too. Fellow volunteer firefighters have asked if his house will be the new location for the annual haunted house and others have suggested he should watch for poltergeists.

Some are just shaking their heads.

"We've never had anything like this come up before," Cordova Police Chief Kevin Lambert said. "He's being careful in his digging, and we'll deal with whatever he finds. Right now I'm just wondering, how do I classify this in my reports?"



Chuck Thomas / staff

Geoffrey Hayes looks over the 143-year-old tombstone of Martha Darrah, which he found as he dug under the old front porch of his Cordova home recently.

2001

27th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Saturday
21 April 2001
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Viking Club of Moline
1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois

Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois

27th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

Saturday
April 21, 2001

8:00 am to 4:00 pm
at the
Viking Club of Moline
1450 - 41st Street
Moline, Illinois



Featured Speaker

James L. Hansen

Since 1974 Mr. Hansen has been the reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In that capacity he assists several thousand researchers a year. For years he has taught beginning and advanced genealogical research courses through the University of Wisconsin--Extension and the National Institute on Genealogical Research at the National Archives. Mr. Hansen has lectured in thirty-four states, at more than fourteen NGS conferences, and at least nine FGS conferences.

Mr. Hansen is noted for his informative and entertaining presentations on a variety of genealogical topics. This should be a very enjoyable session for everyone. The topics being presented will be helpful for everyone, no matter your region or time period of research.

Sponsored by

Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society

and

**Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois**

Program Schedule

Saturday, April 21, 2001

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

"Tracing your immigrant ancestors—naturalization records and passenger lists."

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

"What to do when you hit a genealogical brick wall."

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Lunch and browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

"Getting around the lost 1890 census."

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

"Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin—Research in the States of the Old Northwest."

3:25 - 3:45 pm

Closing remarks

***Door prize drawings
throughout the day!***

Take flight to Chippiannock

Cemetery tours
offer unique
perspective of
Rock Island

By Toni Wilson
Staff writer

Many people wouldn't think of voluntarily taking a walk in a cemetery for the purposes of enjoyment or education. But that's the payoff for those who participate in one of the guided tours of Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island.

Chippiannock is not only beautiful — the grounds feature a wide variety of flowers and trees — it is full of history, making it the perfect place for a stroll during the remaining summer and fall guided tours.

Rock Island's first formal cemetery sits on 30 acres of rolling and gently sloping hills. There are over 23,000 people laid to rest in Chippiannock, which is an Indian word meaning "Village of the Dead." Many of the people interred there have an interesting story — some are sad, some are touching, some are sinister.

Programs and walking tours offer insight into different aspects of Chippiannock, from the people buried there to the nature to the markers.

Today's program, "The Hour Glass and the Empty Chair," will be led from 1 to 3 p.m. by Peoria journalist Linda Tosch, who will explain the history and messages in gravestone art.

Ms. Tosch has studied gravestone art and history, and has long been fascinated by Edgar Lee Masters' "The Spoon River Anthology," a collection of poetic epitaphs.

Visit CEMETERY on B6



Cemetery

From Page B1

Usually Ms. Tosch presents her program indoors with slides from different cemeteries across the state, but for today's presentation she will take visitors into the cemetery to see the stones up close.

"The meanings of the symbols remind us of our hopes, dreams and limitations," she said. "They also express our culture, our art and what we treasure." The program is free, but those wishing to join should call ahead (788-6622) to let the cemetery know how many people will be attending the program.

Guided tours fascinating

The cemetery also offers guided walking tours on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. May through October. The tours are free and last about an hour and a half.

About 60 people participated in the June tour, which was led by Sue Voegel, Chippiannock's curator. Ms. Voegel, who has conducted the tours for about 10 years, talked about 31 different stones and grave sites as the group made its way through the cemetery. Some of the stones are old and crumbling; a few have been knocked over and others stand as strong and beautiful as the day they were erected.

Each stone or marker is as unique as the person buried in the grave. There are roll stones, ledger stones, anchors, tree-shaped stone monuments, a pyramid, a gigantic granite sphere and two dog monuments.

Participants can learn not only about the cemetery itself but about the many interesting

people buried there who lived in the Quad-Cities when it was young, including:

■ Benjamin Dann Walsh: Walsh, known as "the bug man," was a native of England and a graduate of Cambridge University. He and his wife came to America in 1838 and settled in Rock Island in 1851. He was a farmer, an editor of entomological journals, a Rock Island alderman (known as a zealous radical Republican), a lumber dealer and Illinois' first state entomologist. He was often seen hunting for specimens with a staff, net and dunce cap on which he would pin his winged prizes. He was struck by a locomotive and lost his foot while pursuing his science, dying of an infection soon after. His collection of 90,000 insects was moved to Springfield and later to the Chicago Academy of Sciences, only to be destroyed in the great Chicago Fire.

■ Josie and Eddie Dimick: One of the most popular graves in Chippiannock, the grave of the Dimick children also has one of the sweetest stories behind it. Near the children's graves sits a stone statue of a Newfoundland dog, probably named Rex. The children — Josie, 9, and Eddie, 5 — both died of diphtheria Oct. 22, 1878. Rex used to follow the parents to the cemetery and eventually started coming on his own, staying by the graves from sunrise to sunset. When the dog died, the family placed a statue of him at the grave in honor of his devotion. "Dogs sense things," Ms. Voegel said. "I think he knew."

■ Dogs aren't the only interesting statues placed next to graves. A 900-pound anchor sits partially buried in the ground next to the grave of Captain David M. Tipton. Capt. Tipton



photos / Chuck Thomas / staff

On the cover, main: This angel marks a grave at Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island. **Inset, left:** The grave of Capt. David M. Tipton has a 900-pound anchor on it. **Inset, bottom:** Visitors to Chippiannock Cemetery participate in one of the free monthly guided tours. **Above:** The gravestone of B.F. Craig is carved in the shape of a tree.

— a friend of Mark Twain and captain of the government snagboat, the Colonel Alexander Mackenzie — died in 1904 at the wheel of his boat in the middle of Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The anchor at his grave was found by Tipton's crew at the bottom of the harbor at Keokuk, Iowa, and was brought to Chippiannock.

■ A sinister story comes from the grave of Henry Bastian. "People who are buried here were not always known for the good things they did," Ms. Voegel said.

Bastian owned a farm on the south end of Rock Island and

died March 13, 1896. He had been accused of murdering a man and setting fire to another farmer's barn, and as the pressure and suspicions grew, he hung himself in his barn. He claimed in a suicide note that he was innocent, but excavation of his pig pen proved otherwise: bodies of former farmhands were found there. He had chosen as farmhands immigrants who had no family, and when they asked him for their wages he would kill them and bury them in the pen.

Future events

In addition to the remaining monthly guided tours (10 a.m. Aug. 1, Sept. 5 and Oct. 5), other workshops and events are scheduled at Chippiannock.

■ A Family History Workshop will be presented at 6 p.m. Aug. 17. Genealogy expert Charlotte Blevins will present the two-hour workshop on creating your own family tree. Participants will learn to trace near- and distant-family members using newspaper articles, old records and computerized listings. The workshop is free, but call for reservations.

■ "Epitaphs Brought to Life" will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 9. This event dramatizes a group of the cemetery's most interesting "citizens." Tours will leave the cemetery entrance every 10 minutes, and the cost is \$3 for adults. This program is co-sponsored by the Rock Island Preservation Commission.

■ At 6:30 p.m. Oct. 12, Tom Rogan, owner of Bevel Granite, will give a slide presentation about individually styled monuments. There is no fee, but call for reservations.

For more information on any of the Chippiannock events, call the cemetery office at 788-6622.

Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island and Mercer
Counties, 7 p.m. at South Park
Presbyterian Church, Rock Island.
Inquiries: The Care and Preser-
vation of Monuments will be given by
Barbara Douglas.

World's oldest person dies at 115

PARIS (AP) — A 115-year-old French woman, believed to be the world's oldest person, died Wednesday, ending a journey through life that spanned three centuries.

Marie Bremont died in her sleep at 2:15 a.m. at a retirement home where she lived in Cande, 150 miles west of Paris, said her nephew, Georges Crespin, one of two surviving family members.



Marie Bremont

"For the past eight to 10 days she was a bit more tired than usual," said the retirement home director, Joseph Foucher. "She died calmly, in the image of her life."

Ellis Island records now on 'Net

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Tracking ancestors who entered the country through Ellis Island used to mean poring through endless reels of microfilm.

Now, it can be as simple as a few clicks of a computer mouse.

On Tuesday, Ellis Island officials and the Mormon Church introduced a database containing arrival records for the 22 million immigrants who entered the port of New York from 1892 to 1924.

The database is expected to be up and running today. When fully operational in about a month, the database, which includes 70 percent of all U.S. arrivals recorded during that period, will be available both to Ellis Island visitors and on the Internet.

"This is the tool everybody's waiting for to go back to Ellis Island and find their ancestors," said Wayne Metcalfe, who helped direct the project for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The searchable database includes immigrants' names, their port of origin, age, nationality, hometown and marital status.

Visitors to the new American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island can take home printouts of the information, and purchase a copy of the original immigration records and a photo of the ship that brought their ancestors to the United States.

Online visitors will be able to order the records and photos in about a month.

CEMETERY

FROM PAGE 51

Refreshments, including lemonade and old-fashioned sugar cookies, will be served.

Mrs. Smith will play Mrs. Potter, the wife of John W. Potter, a former owner of The Rock Island Argus. She and the other actors will perform at the gravesites of the people they are portraying. Mrs. Potter is one of four historical subjects from last year's event. Eleven new "characters" have been added to this year's event. Local actors will bring them "back to life."

"The neat thing about the entire production is that it is held in this beautiful cemetery with its rolling hills and great landscape," said director Jack Elliott, who, along with the rest of the cast, will work from scripts provided by Charles Chestnutt.

"Basically, it's just a great idea to bring to life something from the past. It's special to see the care, thought and effort people put into their eternal life. By that I mean they wanted to mark their passing in a special way, and now we can bring to life some of their efforts."

Mrs. Smith said Mrs. Potter was a special woman in her day. Mr. Potter died in 1896, leaving his wife, then 22, to oversee publication of the Argus. She did so with much success until her death on June 6, 1896, at age 71.

"She was a woman who lost her husband and was left to run a newspaper and to raise her three small children at a time when it wasn't fashionable for a woman to do that kind of thing," said Mrs. Smith, who also played Mrs. Potter a year ago.

Approached last year to participate in the inaugural event, Mrs. Smith warmed immediately to the idea.

"Well, I'd never played dead people before, and I thought it was kind of strange," said Mrs. Smith. "I thought it kind of funny, but I thought it was a unique and interesting idea. I found out it truly was."

The site of the production also attracted Mrs. Smith.

"Chippinuck is such a beautiful cemetery, full of history," she said. "So few people know all that is there, but now a number of people have done a great deal of research, and with our efforts we can bring people out to see just how wonderful Chippinuck really is. It's a treasure of Rock Island, and the Preservation Commission and Chippinuck's Greg Vogele have done a wonderful job."

Mr. Elliott hopes to get all 25 performances taped and aired on



Lee Frogley holds a picture of her Mormon ancestors, who 150 years ago joined the great migration of Mormons from Nauvoo, Ill., to the Great Salt Lake. The Frogley family and other Quad-Cities Mormons will commemorate the trek west this weekend.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy was the first caretaker at Chippiannock. A gardener by profession, O'Shaughnessy planted evergreens, rose gardens, and flowerbeds throughout the cemetery. His house, at the entrance to Chippiannock had a belfry, used to signal approaching funeral processions.

The bell tolled for all who came to Chippiannock—statesman and farmer, river pilot and coal miner, adventurer and pioneer. Each headstone tells the story of Rock Island's growth from wilderness territory to industrial city.

Weyerhaeuser, Denkmann, Davis, Cable, Mitchell, Buford, Harper—families who left their mark on Rock Island beyond the simple etchings on stone. Businessmen who capitalized on the natural resources of the land and the people, and gave back much of their wealth in service and support to the community.

Tradesmen and workers of every craft share the serene beauty of Chippiannock. Anchors mark the graves of two riverboat pilots. Four granite anvil and hammers serve as monuments to the blacksmith's trade.

Scientists rest here, too. Mansill, who wrote a number of books on the origin of the universe, lies buried beneath a red granite sphere set on a pyramid supported by four pillars. Some believe the monument represents one of Mansill's theories. Nearby is the grave of Benjamin Dann Walsh, known to Rock Islanders as "the bug man."

Susan Lewis Goldsmith (*Argus* obituary: August 5, 1878)

Mrs. Susan M. Goldsmith whose death is chronicled in today's issue was born in Erie, Penn., Feb. 10th, 1801, and died in this city at the residence of her son, Hon. Bailey Davenport, Esq., Aug. 5, 1878.

Mrs. Goldsmith was emphatically one of the pioneers of the Mississippi Valley in this region and was so thoroughly identified with its history, and its progress to the present, that the people of this city and vicinity, especially the earlier settlers, can scarcely call the subject to mind without early and vivid recollections of the part which she sustained to both the past and present.

The family of the late Col. Davenport, of the U.S. Army, was the only family settled in this locality for a number of years. Mrs. Goldsmith was the last surviving member of the original family—one of the golden links which united those adventurous days with the changed appearance and the populated cities which now exist upon the banks of the then lonely Mississippi.

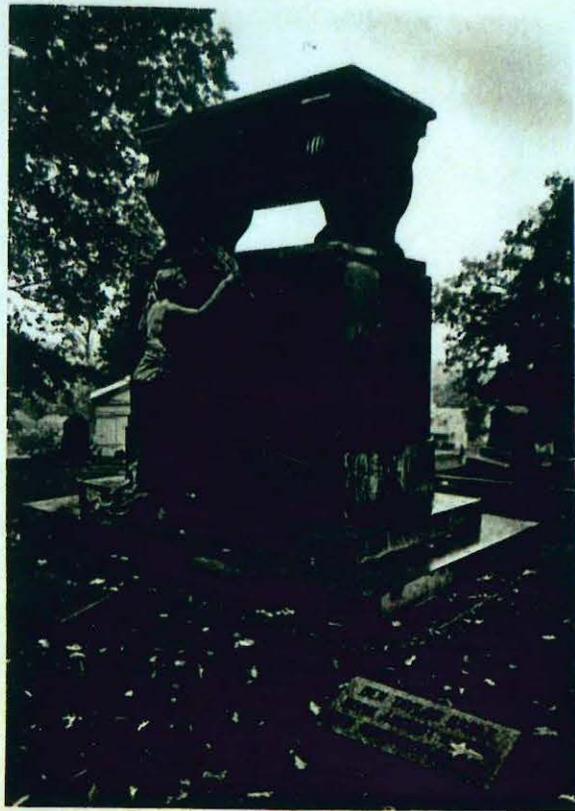
It was in the year 1816—being herself but a child—that the island of Rock Island became her home.

The frontier condition may well be imagined when it is stated that for a period of five years after her arrival she saw the face of no white woman save that of her mother. For a longer time than that there was no other white family nearer than St. Louis in one direction, Chicago in another, and Prairie DuChien far above. Rock Island was at this time the center of attraction for large numbers of Indians who dwelt in the vicinity or paid it their usual visit.

Upon the eastern bank of the Mississippi where now is the city of Rock Island then stood the village of the Foxes. At the mouth of Rock river were the Sauk lodges and the village of the chieftain Black Hawk.

The erection of Fort Armstrong at the lower or western end of the island afforded a favorable point for the arrangement of government relations with these and more distant tribes, thus bringing all the more notable personages and chiefs frequently to this point.

Mrs. Goldsmith's knowledge of the character and customs of the natives and her acquaintance with their leading chiefs and braves was by these means rendered unusually extensive and valuable. The regard and confidence reposed in Col. Davenport by the Fox and Sauk as well as



Cable family plot. (Quad-City Times photo)

other tribes rendered her position among them peculiarly favorable in this respect and those who were privileged to listen to her recital of these former times will recall with a high degree of pleasure her reminiscences and the story of a pioneer's home.

After the death of Colonel Davenport she still continued to reside for some years at the government house on the Island, but for the last twenty years or thereabouts has made her home in this city with her son, Hon. B. Davenport. Her early experiences of frontier life, and the loving regard of the Indians who long since left this venerated ground for a home "further west," was almost yearly recalled to mind by the return of many of the Indians to their old home and their invariable visit on such occasions to the estimable lady whom they held always in such high regard. Perhaps the peculiar features of early life, and the impression made upon her youthful mind by the scenes to which her children was thus subjected may have contributed in some degree to the earnest and quiet discharge of the duties of life for which she is eminently noted. Yet it was far more due to her cheerful and hopeful disposition, her steady and unvarying equanimity of dispoities, and a calm and conscientious performance of every duty, which gave her such a strong and enduring hold upon the regard and esteem of all who knew her. For many years she was a communicant of the Episcopal church of this city and contributed largely of her means to the erection of the beautiful church edifice belonging to that denomination. The poor early learned to love her and to bless the hand that never stayed its bounties in the midst of suffering and distress. Her benevolence was of that large hearted kind which sought out the sick and afflicted and ministered as their necessities required. Her works were orderly, quiet, almost wholly reserved from the public gaze, yet like her own large heart were free and generous, even as God had given her to bestow.

Her later years were passed amidst all that affluence could give or that kindness and affection could suggest. The pleasures of an unclouded decline of life, surrounded by relatives and friends was the gift which Providence bestowed, and in her exemplary Christian devotion to the duties which came to her to perform, she has gained for herself among the people of Rock Island a remembrance that will long survive her departure from this life.

Mrs. Goldsmith was long known to our citizens as a truly pious, consistent and charming Christian lady. Her decease will create a void in the community not easily again supplied—the poor especially will deeply feel her loss, will miss her many quiet acts of true beneficence.

People overwhelm Ellis Island Web site

NEW YORK (AP) — People searching for information about their ancestral roots have overwhelmed a new Ellis Island Web site that debuted last week.

The site had 26 million visitors in its first 54 hours of operation, and many more were unable to get into the site because of its popularity, said Peg Zitko, a spokeswoman for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

"The response has just been tremendous," Zitko said.

The site, which went online April 18, includes arrival records of 22 million immigrants who entered the port of New York between 1892 to 1924.

"In the first six hours we had 8 million visitors," Zitko said. "Right then we knew we had an instant hit." Figures for this week were not available, Zitko said Wednesday.

The largest number of inquiries have come from the United States but there's also been a significant number from other countries, she said.

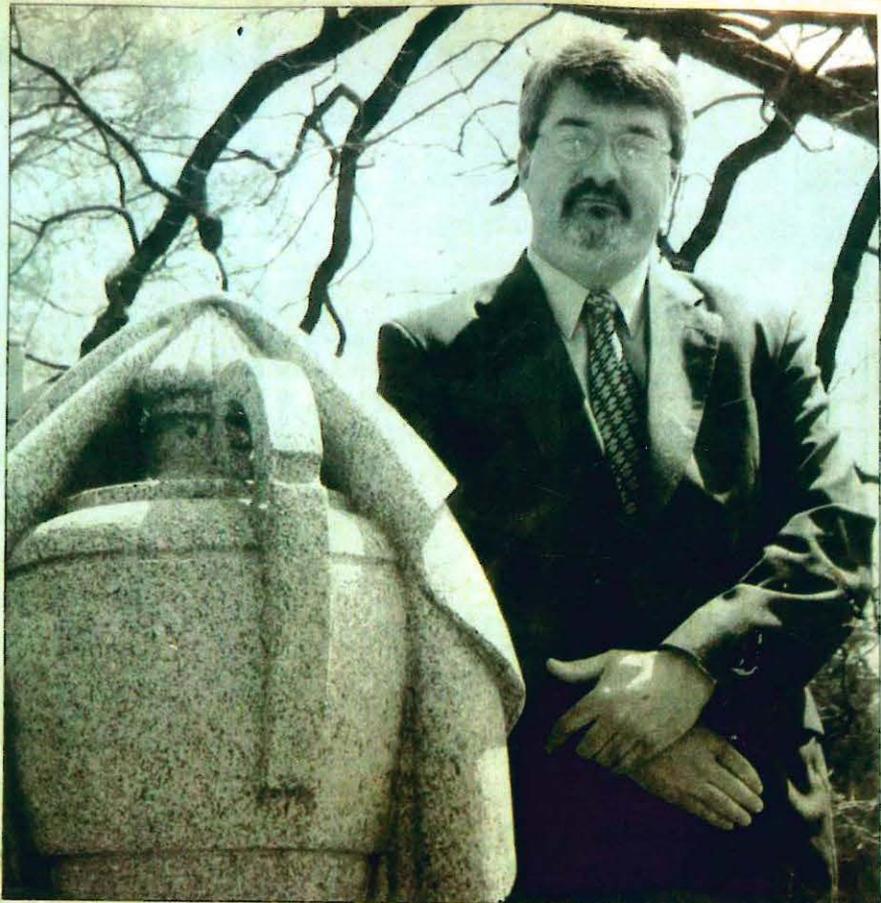
"We knew it would be popular because 40 percent of Americans can trace their roots back to someone who entered the country at Ellis Island," Zitko said, "but we didn't expect it to be an international phenomenon." The site began operating with 10 servers and three backups and had to add 10 more to handle the load.

Zitko said it was the top search term on the Lycos search engine last week, and only the third time in Lycos' history that a new term debuted as No. 1.

The database, found at www.ellislandrecords.org, was put together by the foundation and the Mormon Church, which encourages its members to identify ancestors and baptize them into the faith.

Until now, the information was only available on microfilm at the National Archives in Washington or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Visitors to Ellis Island can also access the information at its American Family Immigration History Center.



Jonathan Turner / staff

Chippianock Cemetery superintendent is a cofounder and president of the Alliance of Illinois Cemeteries, a statewide group to help the cemetery industry.

Cemetery chief heads state group

By Jonathan Turner
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — The health of cemeteries is of grave concern to Greg Vogele, leader of a new statewide group to help the industry.

The head of historic Chippianock Cemetery, Mr. Vogele is a cofounder and president of the Alliance of Illinois Cemeterians, formed to "foster a spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation" among those interested in the highest standard of cemetery care.

He also is past president of the Illinois Cemetery and Funeral Home Association, which is more focused on legislative efforts.

"With bigger conglomerates purchasing larger cemeteries, there's been a reduction in what we call cemeterians — that is their profession," he said.

"We want to create an organization that's going to get back to basics, to give people what they need day to day."

The new group serves smaller, nonprofit, religious, fraternal, township or municipal cemeteries. It offers information on standards, practices, techniques, laws, competency and ethics.

Q-C business leader

Name: Gregory Vogele

Age: 50

Title: Superintendent, Chippianock Cemetery, and director, Calvary Cemetery.

Education: Associate's degree in business from Black Hawk College.

George Huggins, superintendent of Memorial Park Cemetery in Rock Island and an AIC board member, wasn't surprised Mr. Vogele was elected its chief.

"He is very knowledgeable. He understands the business very thoroughly," he said. "He and I could be considered to be competitors, but we're very close friends. He can provide strong leadership."

A Vogele family member has supervised the 146-year-old Chippianock since 1921. Greg Vogele, the third generation, became boss in 1977 and has managed neighboring Calvary Cemetery since 1980.

"Being a superintendent is kind of like being a city manager," he said. "You've got your

road system, your water system, your property owners. It's kind of like a small city. We just don't have any taxpayers."

The 85-acre cemetery has 23,000 gravesites and must survive on competitive fees and interest income from an endowment fund.

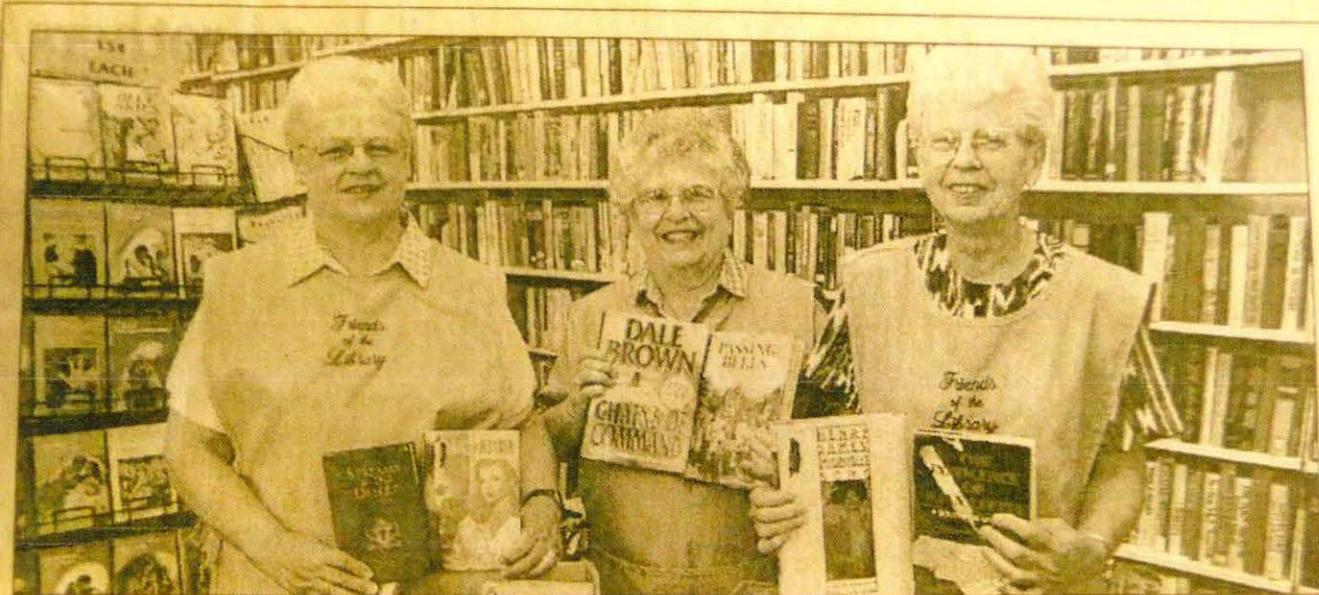
Mr. Vogele finds it hard to compete with corporate-owned and publicly funded cemeteries. National Cemetery on Arsenal Island, for example, offers free burial for all veterans, spouses and their children.

Many people also delay buying a burial plot until a death, Mr. Vogele said. Then they rush the decision on where to buy a plot.

"It's human nature. You postpone talking about your death," he said. "... A lot of times, they never speak to their spouse about what they want. They're at a loss. It makes it more difficult for us to do our job."

Difficulties aside, Mr. Vogele loves his job.

"There are so many different aspects of it," he said, "whether it's working in the woods or sitting down with a family and designing a granite memorial that's going to be there forever."



Chuck Thomas / staff

Friends of Rock Island Library to hold book sale

Friends of the Rock Island Library, from left, Phyllis Witherspoon, co-chair, Corinne Potter, president, and Joyce Hannah, co-chair, prepare for the Book Sale at the Rock Island Library 30/31, 30th St. and 31st Ave., Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.

RICIGS members
Phyllis Witherspoon
and Joyce Hanna

Tracing immigrants

Swedes to visit R.I. center

By MARY OTTO
Dispatch Correspondent

Two Swedish researchers who have been tracking down information about the immigration of about 2,200 people from Kristdala, Sweden, in the 19th Century will be in Rock Island next month to interview the immigrants' descendants.

Bjorn-Ake Petersson and Alvar Ahl, both of Ronneby, Sweden, will be combine data culled from immigration records in their homeland with area research.

Volunteers with the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College, Rock Island, have been combing church records to discover what happened to the immigrants.

The project has been going on at Swenson for more than a year.

The Swedish researchers hope to talk to as many descendants of the Kristdala

settlers as possible.

ANYONE WHO wishes to contact the researchers should call the Swenson Center, 794-7204 or the Augustana Lutheran Church, Andover, 478-8126 for an appointment.

"Before you come to see Petersson, gather up your records," said Lilly Setterdahl of the Swenson Center. "The exact dates are important and hard to remember."

The researchers are scheduled to stay in Andover during their visit.

At 10 a.m. Sept. 2 they will be at a coffee in the Swenson center to meet the researchers who collected information from the local church records. The Swedish pair will also bring computerized records of their own research, Setterdahl said.

News of the Swedish-American research has spread through the United States through Swedish language magazines.

"We have had response from New Jersey, California and Florida," said Setterdahl.

SOME OF THEM write that "we are so surprised you are interested in Kristadala," Setterdahl said. "A person in Kansas said they were almost crying because someone is so interested in us (the descendants)."

Kristadala is an interesting example of group emigration, said Joel Lundeen, acting director of the Swenson Center.

Starting in the mid-1850s, about 2,200 people left Kristdala, in southern Sweden to come to America.

About 60 percent of them settled in Western Illinois.

The Swedish researchers hope the information exchange will be a two-way exchange. They hope they can tell Kristdala descendants about their Swedish ancestors.

They plan to attend a service Sept. 25 at Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover when Bishop Sven Lindegard of Vaxjo, Sweden, will preach a Swedish sermon.

The service will be followed by a luncheon in the Augustana Luther Hall, so members of the community can meet the bishop and researchers.

BLACKHAWK GENEALOGY SOCIETY will meet at 7 p.m. in the Union Federal Savings and Loan building, Milan. A show-and-tell program will be given, with questions and answers. Anyone interested in genealogy is invited to attend.

SHORT OF HOT WATER?
CALL 797-1289
ALLISON-ALBRECHT
PLUMBING & HEATING

VAN HOE
Funeral Home
1500 6th St.,
East Moline
Dial 755-1414

HEBREW GENEALOGY

Grocery business pioneer Isador Pesses, 94, dies

Isador A. Pesses, 94, whose East Moline grocery was the forerunner of Eagle Food Centers, died Wednesday at Franciscan Medical Center, Rock Island.

Mr. Pesses, 1804 16th St., Rock Island, opened his first store, Eagle's Kash & Karry Market, in 1921 at 11th Street and 15th Avenue, East Moline. His store carried fresh fruits and vegetables, and many varieties were seen for the first time in the area.

Services are 11 a.m. Friday at Western Federal Home, Rock Island. Burial is in Rock Island Eastern Cemetery.



There is no visitation. Memorials may be made to the building fund of Tri-City Jewish Center or a favorite charity.

Mr. Pesses was born June 15, 1893, in Odessa, Russia. His family came to the United States in 1905, and to Rock Island in 1908. He married Sarah Weindrich in 1918 in Rock Island. She died in 1984. He married Ann Deines Nov. 12, 1935, in Chicago.

He was a member of Tri-City Jewish Center, Rock Island, and B'nai B'rith.

Survivors include the widow; daughters Ida Andick and Adala Kaplan, both of Rock Island; sons Louis and Alan, both of Rock Island; and Mary, wife of Dr. Robert Pesses, Rock Island.

Genealogical conference set in Moline

Jo White Linn, Salisbury, N.C. will be the featured speaker at the 14th Annual Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference set for April 16 at the Moline Viking Club.

Jo Linn is a certified genealogist and former president of the North Carolina Genealogical Society. She also is a past editor of that state's Genealogical Society Journal. She has lectured at state genealogical conferences held in Atlanta, Fort Worth, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Columbus, Ohio. She currently is editor of the Rowan County, N.C., Register and advisor to the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy.

Genealogical Society

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Union Federal Savings and Loan Building, Milan. Gene McCarley and Harold Hall, members, will present a tape recorder and a VCR program, "Look and Listen," an aspect to recording family genealogy.

The Society's book collection is housed upstairs at the Moline Public Library and on Feb. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. a member will be present to assist with genealogy research and use of the collection. Visitors are welcome and need not be a member to attend either the meeting or the research session.

Colo., formerly of Moline, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2001, at the Life Care Center, Westminster, Colo.



Services are 10 a.m. Monday at Trinity Episcopal Church, Rock Island. Burial is in Rose Lawn Memorial Estate, Moline.

Visitation is 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Wheelan

Funeral Home, Rock Island. Memorials may be made to the church.

Mr. Pease was born June 18, 1917, in East Moline, the son of Burt and Norma Struve Pease. He married Irene DeMoney Aug. 29, 1940, in Nashua, Iowa. She died March 25, 1997.

He had worked in the purchasing department of Clifton Precision Co., Davenport, retiring in 1986.

Keith was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Rock Island. He was a longtime Quad City musician and a member of Musician's Union Local 67 and the Catfish Jazz Society.

Survivors include daughters and a son-in-law, Janet Pease, Arvada, and Susan and Craig Redalen, Northfield, Minn.; grandchildren, Brit and Kai Redalen, Northfield; a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Ron Taylor, Lakewood, Colo.; and a niece, Vicki Jones, Channelview, Texas.

Current member of BGS

Eva Johnson

Eva P. Johnson, 94, Moline, died Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2000, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.



Services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church of Moline. Burial will be in Rose Lawn Memorial Estate, Moline. Visitation will be an hour prior to services at the church. Memorials may be made to the church, Visiting Nurses and Homemakers of Rock Island County, Christian Friendliness and St. Anthony's Continuing Care.

Esterdahl Mortuary Ltd., Moline, is in charge of arrangements.

Eva was born April 21, 1906, in Grand Ridge, Ill., the daughter of Rufus and Dott Evans Peterson. She married Melvin Johnson May 17, 1931, in Aledo. He preceded her in death on July 12, 1986.

Eva attended the Silver Cross School of Nursing in Joliet and then graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island.

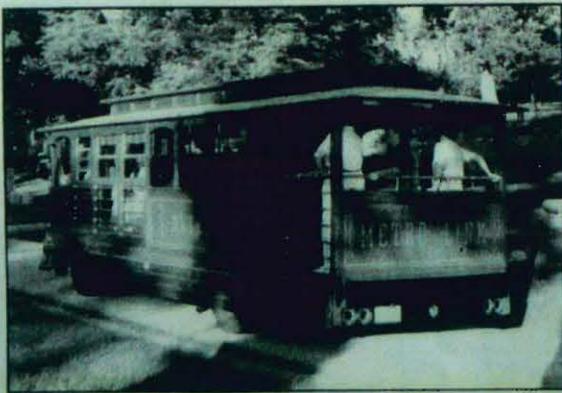
Eva worked as a private-duty nurse, school nurse and a VNA staff nurse.

She was the executive director of the Rock Island County American Cancer Society from 1952 to 1953 and was director of the Moline Visiting Nurses Association from 1954 to 1968, retiring in 1968.

Eva was a member and a volunteer for various health and welfare agencies, the PTA, Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Kings Daughters and Zonta Club. She joined First Baptist Church of Moline in 1945, where she served as a deacon, trustee, Sunday school teacher, church clerk and librarian.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Ann and John Watkins, Moline; grandchildren, Leslie Watkins and Douglas Larson, West St. Paul, Minn.; Lauren Watkins and Kevin McKee, Naperville, Ill.; and John Watkins and Melann Winter, Oak Park, Ill.; great-grandchildren, Eric Larson and Kelsey Larson, both of West St. Paul, and Maren McKee, of Naperville, Ill.; four nieces; and two nephews. She was preceded in death by brothers, Stanley Peterson, Ottawa, Ill., and George Peterson, El Paso, Texas and a great-grandson, Adam Larson.

FORMER MEMBER OF BHGS



A group from the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois, rented this Metro Link Trolley (above) for their visit to Chippianock one bright day this fall. Tour leader Sue Vogele did her presentation from the trolley, instead of the usual walking tour.

Cemetery coming back to life

By Pam Berenger
Staff writer

Shadows danced as a chain saw hummed in the small grove of trees surrounding a cemetery hidden for years from the families whose ancestors are buried there.

A cigarette in one hand and rake in the other, Mikki Judge was ready for a short reprieve from clearing debris and searching for headstones buried beneath the ground in Hunter Cemetery.

"You should have seen it a year ago," the Buffalo, Iowa,

woman said. "A man who restores headstones came and looked at the cemetery and told us he was glad it was our project."

The cemetery was found last May, but the search began 15 years ago when Mrs. Judge started a family genealogy. She knew her great-great-grandparents, Nehemiah and Phebe DeMaranville, lived in Bureau County and were buried in a cemetery named Hunter.

A cousin in Erie had a picture of the headstone and had spent some time searching for the

cemetery.

Mrs. Judge took up the challenge and found the cemetery and its location listed on the Illinois State Genealogy Society's Web site. Then she went to find it.

After three hours of driving around the area, they flagged down a truck driver and asked if he had heard of it. He pointed to a stand of trees where he said there was a cemetery, although he didn't know its name.



Pam Berenger / Staff

Jim and Mikki Judge stand near the tombstone of Mrs. Judge's great-great grandparents, Nehemiah and Phebe DeMaranville.

Please see Cemetery, C2

Cemetery

From Page C1

They stopped at the farm house and asked the owner if they could look.

What they found was disheartening and uplifting. Climbing over dead trees and sorting through the brush, they found the tombstone of Asabel Albee, the father-in-law of Mrs. Judge's great-uncle.

Hunter Cemetery, about seven miles from Bradford, had been desecrated by a former owner who wanted to add the land to an adjacent corn field. All but one tombstone had been pushed over and buried, Mrs. Judge said.

"On the way home, we were dumbstruck," Mrs. Judge said. "I asked my husband if we could do anything about this. He said

'I think we have to.' I'm not a religious person. But many, many times I have stopped and prayed and thanked God that we were brought here to do this. We have to respect our ancestors. Without them we wouldn't be here."

Like many old cemeteries, there are no records of who is buried there. The only record is the tombstones they find.

So far, the Judges and helpers have uncovered about 80 headstones, 18 of which are DeMaranvilles. Mrs. Judge said she spent the winter figuring out how the people in the cemetery are connected. "They were neighbors, friends and relatives. Many belonged to the former Cottage ME Church."

Eventually, the stones will be replaced, arranged by family names that include Hunter, Gange, Loomis, Pickard, Rinehart, Swarthout and Young.

Mrs. Judge said.

A Web site, with a pictorial history of life restoration and names of those buried there, has links to other genealogical sites.

It is at www.homestead.com/zellerstombstone/HunterCemetery.html.

Family members have started a trust to pay for cleanup and headstone restoration. Some money comes from the sale of a family history compiled by Ron Moranville of Texas. Mr. Moranville's book traces the family back to the 1600s.

"It's been a labor of love," Mr. Judge said. "We could not walk out of here the first day and leave it the way it was."

Staff writer Pam Berenger can be reached at 786-6441, ext. 226, or by e-mail at pberenger@online.com

Jewish gravesite tradition has origins in the desert

Dear Abby: My letter is in reference to the question about the Jewish practice of leaving stones at someone's grave. The rabbi whom you consulted said the stones signify that someone has visited the grave to honor the deceased, the money that would have been spent on flowers is donated to charity.

Viewed from the mystical perspective, it symbolizes that the body returns to dust and the soul returns to God.

In my opinion, based upon my research, the custom has ancient and practical origins: We Jews were originally a desert people. As such, we used to bury our dead in the sand without a casket and covered the grave



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

with stones, not only to mark the spot, but also to prevent animals from digging up and devouring the body.

Upon visiting a grave, it was considered a "mitzvah" or good deed — to add stones to replace those moved by the wind or animals. This helped to preserve the integrity of the grave and also the deceased.

The practice of leaving stones at the grave derives from that tradition. The idea of giving to charity instead of a florist is probably a later development.

— Rabbi Jacques Cuklerkorn, Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Rabbi Cuklerkorn: Your explanation makes a lot of sense to me. It is corroborated by more than a dozen letters from other Jewish readers.

Read on:

Dear Abby: I have no doubt that your reference source was correct regarding why stones are placed on Jewish graves instead of flowers. However, I was always told that it was because stones are everlasting, and flowers die. (Just my 2 cents!) — Avid reader, Canyon Country, Calif.

Dear avid: Pennies from heaven?

Read on:

Dear Abby: In response to why stones are placed on graves in Jewish cemeteries — you need only go to the Book of Joshua in the Old Testament to find the answer. God instructed the people to gather stones and place them in a pile after crossing the Jordan River.

"In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it

crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." — Becky in Arizona

Dear Becky: How interesting! You're the only reader who quoted chapter and verse on the subject.

Read on:

Dear Abby: Here's what I learned in Hebrew school many years ago:

The practice started in the old country. They didn't have monuments because they couldn't afford them. So they gathered many small stones and formed a pyramid at the gravesite. When people visited the grave, they would replace any stones that had fallen off. That's how it really

started — that's the truth. — Louis Hyman (age 83), Delray Beach, Fla.

Dear Louis and all you dear readers who wrote to comment: Thank you for your input. Your letters have been fascinating. I often wondered why Jewish scholars would sit and argue for hours about interpretations of the Torah. Well, now I know why.

Delmar and Donna Moore

Delmar and Donna Moore, 1918 15-1/2 St., Rock Island, will observe their 45th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 22, 2002.

The former Donna Husemann, Mt. Sterling, and Mr. Moore were married June 22, 1957, in the Free Methodist Church, Rushville, with Rev. W.C. Raker officiating.

They have a son, Daniel Moore, Rock Island, a daughter, Martha Wynes, Milan, and five grandchildren.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Moore were employed at Augustana College, retiring in 1992 and 1995 respectively.

The couple are members of the First Church of the Nazarene, Rock Island. HISTORIAN, BGS, 2002

Lyal Swenson

Lawrence 'Larry' Neuerburg

Lawrence P. "Larry" Neuerburg, 79, of Rock Island died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2001, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.



Services are 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island, where he was a member. Burial will be in National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, with military honors

presented by American Legion Post 569/206 and VFW Post 1303.

Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island, where a 7:30 p.m. rosary will be recited. Memorials may be made to Pathway Hospice.

Lawrence Patrick Neuerburg was born Aug. 10, 1922, in Wadena, Minn., the son of Nicholas and Louise Tabery Neuerburg. He married Vivian Grewe June 18, 1950, in Wadena.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II. **FORMER MEMBER OF BGS**

He was a business teacher at Rock Island High School for 35 years, retiring in 1985. He also was a World Book representative and worked for Al Boyles' Real Estate for a time. He was a devoted teacher and Catholic. His wife, Vivian, owned and operated Kiddie Kampus in Moline for 30 years.

He was a member of Catholic Order of Foresters and AARP and was active with the Veterans of the USS Gage. He was an avid pinochle player and world traveler.

Larry's life was full of so many different things. He was extremely proud of his family. His six children and 12 grandchildren meant the world to him. He was always offering advice — not always listened to — and help. He loved his pinochle games — especially with his grandchildren, who always managed to keep him on his toes! And he always kept his sense of humor — his "Larry Jokes," as they were called by his family, who were always entertained by them.

Larry would say that, in 79 years of life, he accomplished almost everything that he wanted to do, and his family is very happy about that. He would tell you to love your family, work hard, do service to others, and most of all, be able to have a good laugh.

He is survived by his wife; six children and their spouses, Victoria and Thomas Riordan, New Hope, Pa., Jack and David Olson, Joni Kampner, and Gregg and Brian Neuerburg, all of Rock Island, and Bruce and Shelley Neuerburg, Orion; 12 grandchildren, three sisters and four brothers. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Dig up your family roots at Q-C conference

By Lisa Mohr
Staff writer

Have you ever wondered where your family comes from? Are your family stories just shy of the details necessary to complete your family history?

Where and how you can find more genealogical information will be revealed at a national conference scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday at the Davenport RiverCenter.

"Federation of Genealogical Societies' National Conference ... a Heartland Gathering" will feature dozens of educational sessions, special receptions and professional speakers. A large exhibit area with books, software and demonstrations also will be part of the conference, which will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. all four days.

The exhibit area is free and open to the public. To attend one of the many sessions, participants need to register. Cost is \$151 for the full four-day conference, \$76 for a single day.

The exhibit hall will be a veritable shopping mall for genealogists.

"We will have around 150 exhibitors selling everything from books, computer software and maps to archival boxes and a myriad of things people can use to record and document their family histories," said Everett Geurink, a member of the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society. "This exhibit area is open for everyone to come and look."

Individuals who want to learn the basics of genealogy are encouraged to attend Wednesday's session, "Back to Basics," an all-day event that will aid both beginning and experienced genealogists. Attendees will have the opportunity to review family-history records, resources and procedures. Hours for this session are 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Other sessions — nearly 200

Please see **Roots**, B3

Roots

From Page B1

are planned — will cover subjects such as research into naturalization records, church records and tax records; research in specific states; research into specific nationalities; and evaluation of Web sites.

The Great Hall in the RiverCenter will offer a food court,

and special luncheon sessions also are scheduled.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer counties in Illinois and the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society are co-hosting the conference.

"This is historically important for the Quad-Cities because it is the smallest community to sponsor this annual national family-history conference," Mr. Geurink said. "Usually large cities such as Salt Lake City,

MEMBERS OF BGS BHC educators prepare for Slovakia, not retirement

By Leon Lagerstam
Staff writer

MOLINE — Retirement is no time for Black Hawk College educators Art and Suzanne Pitz to rest and relax.

It's time to pack up and move to Slovakia to teach for a year. It's also time to brush up on Slovak language skills, Mr. Pitz said.

They'll speak English when teaching at Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, starting Sept. 10. However, outside the university, they'll need a basic understanding of Slovak to survive on a daily basis.

"You gain a better understanding of what it's like for immigrants coming to the United States by going to a country where most of the people don't speak English," he said. "You gain a better appreciation of the difficulties immigrants face when adjusting to a different language and culture."

Adjusting to life in Slovakia will be easier for Mr. and Mrs. Pitz, who spent 1996 and '97 teaching in Presov, Slovakia. Mr. Pitz remembered a one-bedroom apartment, primitive laundry facilities, limited grocery supplies, few cars and a mass-transit system in disrepair.

He also recalled never having a student hand in a late paper or drop out of class. Churches also were packed, despite unheated buildings, he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitz's trip is sponsored by a Civic Education Project, designed to send American educators to former Soviet Bloc countries to educate people on democracy and capitalism as they move from communism to a free-market system.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitz considered a couple other retirement options, including service projects in the U.S., but project officials



File photo

Black Hawk College educators Art and Suzanne Pitz plan to spend their retirement in Slovakia teaching at Matej Bel University.

wanted them to return to Slovakia.

Mr. Pitz retires from Black Hawk July 31 after 32 years teaching history and government. Mrs. Pitz is leaving her job as teacher/learning center director Aug. 17 after 22 years at the college.

Many people think retirees adopt more leisurely lifestyles, "but we don't see ourselves retiring to a life focused on tennis and golf," Mr. Pitz said. "We both like leisurely activities, but we don't see building our life around them."

The Slovakia opportunity gives them a chance to help and fulfills a sense of Christian responsibility, Mr. Pitz said.

Banska Bystrica, about the size of Davenport, is in the heart of Slovakia and at the foot of three mountain ranges, offering beautiful hiking sites and prime ski resorts, he said.

Mr. and Mrs. Pitz look forward to seeing friends they made in Slovakia, including a student Mr. Pitz mentored in 1996, who since has become a full-time faculty member of the university in Preslov.

Denver and San Francisco are the conference sites. We are expecting more than 1,500 people to attend."

Special evening events are planned, including an opening-night reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Davenport Public Library, 401 Main St. The Illinois Chapter of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold its 25th anniversary celebration from 6:15 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the River-

Center. A banquet for is scheduled for 6:15 Friday at the RiverCenter.

More than 500 genealogical societies across the States and abroad belong to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. The purpose of the Federation is to help members and the general public learn how to search their family history. The conferences serve as the main educational effort of the nonprofit society.

Lettie Bellinger

Services for Lettie Sarah Lloyd Bellinger, 77, of Reynolds will be 11 a.m. Saturday at Reynolds United Methodist Church. Visitation will be 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Family Funeral Services, Reynolds. Memorials may be made to the church.



Mrs. Bellinger died Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2001, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.

Lettie Sarah Lloyd was born Sept. 10, 1924, in Mantorville, Minn., one of

six children of Everett and Eva Lloyd. She attended high school in Keithsburg and New Boston and graduated from Muscatine High School in 1942. She attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Augustana College.

In 1947, she married Charles Lee Bellinger, and the couple has resided in the Reynolds vicinity for the past 54 years.

Lettie taught school for almost 35 years in the Rockridge district and was principal of the Reynolds Grade School for nine of those years before retiring in May 1984.

She and her husband Charles have traveled on all seven continents, including trips to Antarctica, the Caribbean, Panama, Mexico, Canada, and all 50 states and capitals. She has climbed the Great Wall of China, and walked in and out of the Grand Canyon. She has hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail, she walked the 100-mile Wagon Train Trail in North Dakota, and walked 75 miles the week of her 75th birthday. Lettie has participated in numerous running and walking races, benefits, and charities since her retirement in 1984 including the Quad-Cities Six 7 Run for the past 11 years.

She is a member of numerous organizations including Reynolds United Methodist Church, the Mississippi River Bend China Painters and Porcelain Decorators Club, the Reynolds Garden Club, the Susannah Circle, the Neighborhood Club, the "Running Wild" Runners Club, and the Mercer County Retired Teachers Association. She co-authored the Reynolds Bicentennial History and was an avid researcher of genealogy.

MEMBER - DARWIN SOCIETY
Survivors (and spouses) include her husband, Charles; daughter, Linda (Joe) Kinnett, Selma, Ind.; son, Randal (Christine) Bellinger, West Lafayette, Ind.; grandson, Seth Kinnett, at DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.; step-grandchildren, Shane (Lori) Kinnett, Losantville, Ind., and Troye (Barb) Kinnett, Indianapolis, Ind.; five stepgreat-grandchildren; and sisters, Florence Hoskins, Keithsburg, Iris Williams, London, Ark., and Wanda Valley, Mesa, Ariz. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Laura Lloyd Ferenck, and brother, Milo Lloyd.

Alice Washburn

Services for Alice C. Washburn, 74, of Rock Island, are 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Hodgson Funeral Home, Rock Island. The Rev. Mike Kennedy and the Rev. Mark Hall will officiate. Burial is in Rose Lawn Memorial Estate, Moline. Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.



She died Sunday, Nov. 11, 2001, at her home.

She was born Sept. 19, 1927, in New Madrid, Mo., the daughter of the Rev. O.P. and Wanda O. Morgan Hall. She avidly rode and raced motorcycles. She was the former president of the Motor Maids of the United States. She enjoyed gardening and her grandkids. She traveled the world as a singer with the USO Shows. She was the former president and sang with Sweet Adeline's for 29 years. She was a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Chorus. She was former president and member of the American Business Women's Association, Rock Island Chapter for 30 years.

She owned and operated Washburn's Realty, Rock Island, for many years. She worked at the Rock Island Arsenal as a secretary for many years until her retirement.

Survivors (and spouses) are her sons, Dave (Debbie) Washburn, Moline, Gene (Linda) Washburn, Rock Island; grandchildren, Cris, Jennifer and Bobby; and a great-grandchild, Robby; a brother, Joe (Donna) Hall, Milan. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Titus, and a sister, Naomi.

MEMBER OF F.B.G.S.
"I have done everything I ever wanted to do! I have traveled everywhere I wanted to go!"

Did you know?

Presidential lineage

Cox News Service

Q: I read that President Bush was descended from the mid-19th century President Franklin Pierce through his mother, Barbara Bush. Is this true? If so, is our current chief executive the first to be a direct descendant of not just one, but two former presidents?

A: Many people assume that Bush is related to Pierce, the 14th president, through his mother, whose maiden name was Pierce. But according to an article in Salon.com, the Bushes are related to Pierce through Daniel Brewer, who died in 1646, yielding a lineage that leads to both Pierce and Rutherford B. Hayes.

Gary Boyd Roberts, a genealogist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, documented the Bush lineage in his book "Ancestors of American Presidents," published in 1995. According to Roberts, the list consists of George Washington, Millard Fillmore, Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Hayes, James Garfield, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush.

According to the book "Facts About the Presidents," meanwhile, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was remotely related to 11 former presidents, five by blood and six by marriage.



Andy Rooney

Genealogy important, but fails to interest most

It is an American character flaw that genealogy doesn't interest most people. We aren't much concerned with searching out the records of family members who preceded us to find out what they were like. It may be because the British always made too much of heredity so, after we revolted, Americans decided not to make anything of it. Some of us have a casual interest in relatively recent family members but we have lost track of anyone who lived long ago enough to be called "ancestors." (I don't know what the cutoff age is.) We lose interest two or three generations back.

Most of us know something of our grandparents but ask us about their fathers or grandfathers and we're ignorant. We don't know who they were, what they were like, what they did with their lives, or even where they came from and went to. Great-grandparents are ancient history to most of us.

In this new century, with 1,300,000 babies born to unmarried mothers, it becomes more difficult to search out a family tree, but knowing where we came from provides clues to where we're going. It gives us insight into our character and personality that might not otherwise have occurred to us. And it's evidence of a civilized society.

One of the problems with tracking down long gone family members is that it always seems too late to start. The trail is cold. There are things about my parents' parents that I can't answer and that's a mere two generations back. I knew three of the four and should write down everything I remember about them so our children and their children will have the information. But I have not.

It wasn't all that long ago that the parents of my grandparents lived in England, Ireland and Scotland but I know little or nothing about them and haven't tried to find out. The selfish thought has occurred to me that I'd like to be remembered a few generations after my demise but — fat chance, I suppose.

There is no stronger influence on the character and personality of each one of us than the transmission of genes from one generation to the next. Each human possesses a grab bag of genes from relatives that contribute to who we are and what we're like. We should know our ancestors so we know ourselves.

The inevitability of inherited characteristics is alternately exhilarating and depressing to consider. The same things keep happening to the same people because of their genes. We're trapped in who we are, good and bad. I had a biology teacher who told us about a family, with a fairly common name, which had an unusually high number of members in prison. Dishonesty, he told us, was an inherited characteristic. A teacher would be fired for saying that today but I've never forgotten it.

My most talented grandparent lived with us for several years when I was young, so I try to remember details about him. I'm looking for evidence that I inherited some of his ability. I can't find anything. What talent I have bears no resemblance to his.

The mystery of inheritance is that while I can't find it in myself, I see a little of my grandfather in our son. I see a touch of my mother in a daughter. It's a good feeling for a parent to watch a granddaughter doing some simple thing and suddenly recognize in her a flash of something, a look, a gesture that reminds you of your father. Dad died 40 years before my granddaughter was born. She knows nothing of him but here is that fleck of him in her.

Genes have incredible tenacity. It's as close as we come to immortality.

Would it be too big and too expensive a job to start keeping national genealogical records? It would give us all a kind of permanence that a headstone doesn't provide.

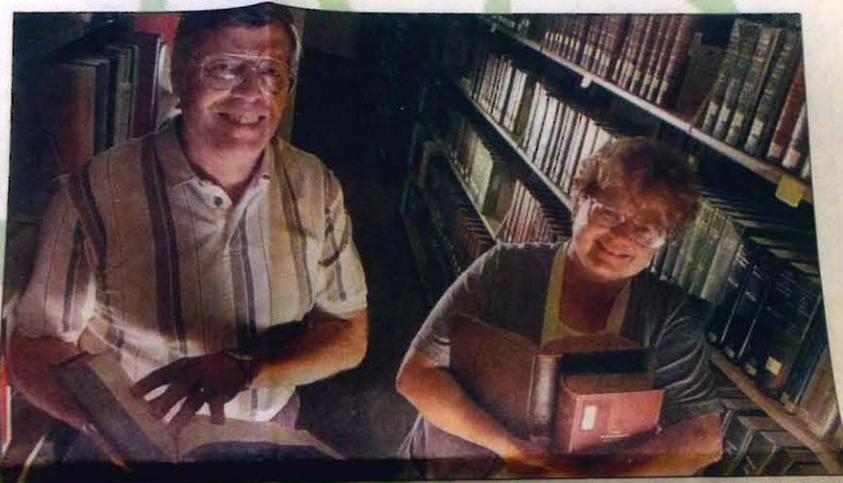
FACES & PLACES

(563) 383-2279

QUAD-CITY TIMES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

a forest of Family Trees



Paula and James Warren, co-chairmen of the big genealogy gathering in Davenport, check out genealogy resources at the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center at the Davenport Public Library.

Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

JOIN THE CLUB

Joining a genealogy club is a good way to get started in researching your family history.

The Quad-Cities has two genealogy clubs — the Scott County Genealogical Society and the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties. For information on the Scott County Genealogical Society, contact president Sandra Luse, 1543 E. Garfield St., Davenport 52804, phone (563) 386-1367, e-mail bulchivs@aol.com.

For more on the Blackhawk Genealogical Society, contact president Pamela Langston, 3713 24th St., Rock Island 61201, phone (309) 786-5927, e-mail pamelang@revealed.net.

Genealogists converge on Q-C for major national conference

By John Willard
QUAD-CITY TIMES

The pursuit of genealogy or family history can take some interesting turns.

James Warren, a professional genealogist, had heard family stories about how his grandfather suddenly fled West from his Arkansas home.

He wanted to know more. Through his research, he learned that his grandfather was a bootlegger. But bootlegging wasn't necessarily a sin at the time, he figured.

He kept digging and found something even more interesting: His grandfather had served six years in prison for counterfeiting when he was in his early 20s.

That revelation solved the puzzle. His grandfather apparently fled, Warren reasoned, because he didn't want to risk getting caught a second time for breaking the law.

"Just about every family history has a good story," he says.

Warren and his wife, Paula, own Warren Research & Publishing, a historical and genealogical research company in St. Paul, Minn. They also are co-chairs of the Federation of Genealogical Societies' national conference, which begins today and continues

"Just about every
family history
has a good story."

JAMES WARREN,
professional genealogist

through Saturday in Davenport.

More than 1,500 people from 46 states, four Canadian provinces and two other foreign countries are expected to attend the conference being held at the RiverCenter, Adler Theatre and adjoining Blackhawk and Radisson hotels. It is one of the two largest gatherings of genealogists in the nation.

Quad-Citians who are thinking about climbing their own family tree should find plenty of opportunities to get a foot on the first limb. The conference features 200 educational sessions for paid registrants and an exhibit hall full of genealogical books, software, supplies and demonstrations. The exhibit hall is open free to the public.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is composed of more than 500 member genealogical and historical societies, family associations and institutions representing more than 500,000 individual genealogists.

Davenport is hosting the conference at a time when interest in genealogy is exploding, the Warrens say. That interest first took hold 25 years ago when the nation was celebrating its bicentennial. The blockbuster television series, "Roots," based on Alex Haley's bestselling book, in which he traced his ancestors back to Africa where they were captured by slave dealers, also fueled interest in family history.

James Warren is a director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a frequent lecturer. Paula Warren, a former national officer of the Association of Professional Genealogists, has written several booklets and articles on genealogical research.

Their new book, "Your Guide to the Family History Library" (Betterway Books) will be unveiled at the conference. It is a comprehensive guide to the Family History Library, sometimes called the Mormon Library, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

During the last seven years, genealogy has enjoyed another resurgence, the Warrens say. People are

— GENEALOGY
Please turn to Page B2

IF YOU GO

What: Great River Bend Genealogy, a heartland gathering (National Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.)

When: Today through Saturday.

Where: RiverCenter, Adler Theatre, Blackhawk and Radisson Hotels in downtown Davenport.

How much: \$151 for entire conference, \$76 for one day. The displays in the exhibit hall are free and open to the public.

What to expect: educational sessions, an exhibit hall full of genealogical books, software, supplies and demonstrations.

Information: (563) 328-6791

CELEBRITY FLASHBACKS

2002

Lyal Swenson

Lyal E. Swenson, 98, of Rock Island died Wednesday, July 11, 1990.

Obituaries graves**Locating ancestors may begin by reading your daily paper**

Dear Heloise: I was visiting my son and wife and read your column on locating ancestors.

While reading the newspaper, I noticed an obituary with our family name listed in it. So I wrote to the woman, and she answered me back.

We are third cousins, and she has a book of all the past family. I learned a lot from her. So

Hints From Heloise

be sure to check the obituaries.

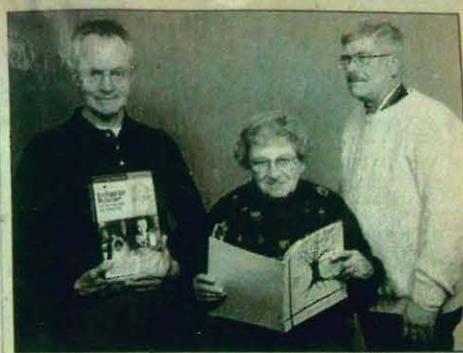
— **Marion Tessaman, PawPaw, Mich.**

Reading through obituaries can lead to a wealth of genealogical information.

And here's another idea: Check your telephone book. One of my assistants started

her genealogy project with the phone book and eventually was able to work back seven solid generations (she says she's still working on more).

Good luck searching!
Heloise



John Greenwood / staff

Exploring one's roots

The Center for Belgian Culture will offer genealogy classes beginning Jan. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the CBC, 712 18th Ave., Moline. Classes will be offered to all interested members. Non-members are invited to join, and will be required to purchase a membership on the first evening. Membership fee is \$25 (under 70) and \$15 (70 and over) per year. You need not be of Belgian heritage to be a member of the center or to participate in the class. Genealogy classes also will be held Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 26, and March 12 and 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bev Francque and Mike Kerckhove will conduct the classes. In the photo from the left are Gabe Verstraete, Bev Francque and Mike Kerckhove. For further information, call Gabe Verstraete at 755-8812.

**BLACKHAWK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2002**

Meetings will be held at Southpark Presbyterian Church
1501 30th Street, Rock Island, Illinois
4th Tuesday - 7:00 P.M.

Note - June, July meetings will be held elsewhere
Annual dinner in November at Bethel Wesley Methodist Church
Moline, Illinois

- JAN. 10 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
JAN. 22 Preservation of Documents, Presentation by Barbara Douglas of Creative Memories
- FEB. 14 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
FEB. 26 Rock Island County Historical Society, Presentation by Judy Belan, Archivist
- MAR. 14 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
MAR. 26 Chippiannock Cemetery Walk - Video
- APR. 11 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
APR. 23 A Century of Coal Mining: Coal Valley and Vicinity, Presentation by Jeffrey Stafford, Director of Robert Jones Library, Coal Valley
- MAY 9 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
MAY 28 Presentation by Scarlott Blevins (Tentative)
- JUN. 13 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
JUN. 25 Kentucky Historical and Genealogical Research by Betty Kaspar at Rock Island Public Library. Scott Co. IA Genealogical Society invited.
- JUL. 11 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
JUL. 23 Visit to Genealogy Department at Davenport Public Library, 321 Main Street, Davenport, IA.
- AUG. 8 Board Meeting at Rock Island Public Library
AUG. 27 Computer Topics - Bill Burrows
- SEP. 12 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
SEP. 24 History of Lagomarcino's, Presentation by Tom Lagomarcino
- OCT. 10 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center
OCT. 22 Illinois State Archives - slide program, Presentation by Dave Morse of IL. State Archives
- NOV. 7 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic (Notice - one week early)
NOV. 19 Annual Dinner (Tentative)
- DEC. 5 Board Meeting at Hauberg Civic Center (Notice - one week early)
NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS

2003

FORUM

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3

FALL 2003

MY PAPA WAS A WOODMAN

by Gail Ann Hodges Levis, Historian, Modern Woodmen of America

The westward migrations and story of the growth of our nation is intertwined with the histories of fraternal benefit organizations. This article explores the use of Modern Woodmen of America records as well as other fraternal life insurance organizations' records as a secondary source. Secondary records help the seasoned genealogist knock down the brick wall that blocks our way to research evidence.

Fraternal Benefit Societies

As in all areas of our research, homework is necessary. When we seek information on ancestors in a particular community, county, state or country, we learn everything possible about the region. This rule also applies to life insurance companies—fraternal and commercial.

Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal benefit society, offers financial services and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States. Modern Woodman is headquartered in Rock Island, Illinois. Fraternalism grew from the guilds or secret societies of England. Guilds were an early form of democracy whose members shared some common interest, such as trade, commerce or religion. In America, organizations known as friendly societies developed. Those friendly societies became the pattern for the growth of fraternal societies.

There are many types of fraternal benefit societies in the United States. Some are religious-based societies. Some are ethnic-based. Some, as in the guilds of old England, have a craft or trade as their common bond. Finally, some are general in nature. Many fraternal societies offer life insurance for their members. Others do not.

A fraternal beneficiary society—a fraternal life insurance society—must follow certain rigid rules of organization and operation. For example, it must be an incorporated society without capital stock; organized and carried on solely for the benefit of its members and their beneficiaries, but not for profit. The society must have a lodge system, a representative government, and must provide for payment of insurance benefits.

These three features—the lodge system, a representative government and benefits—are what create records of use to genealogists and historians. If your ancestor belonged to Modern Woodmen of America, he would have been assigned to a Camp—also known as a lodge. If the life insurance were kept in force, a death benefit would be paid to a beneficiary.

Modern Woodmen of America

Modern Woodmen of America was organized on January 5, 1883, in Lyons, Iowa, a small Mississippi River town. Although the name implies membership was limited to those whose trade involved forestry or woodworking, that wasn't the intent. The founder, Joseph Cullen Root, chose the name while listening to his minister speak about the "pioneer woodmen clearing the forest for the benefit of man." His new fraternal benefit society would clear away the financial problems. Mr. Root's pioneer woodmen would be Modern Woodmen with the phrase "of America" for a patriotic touch.

Historical events can impact other historical events in significant ways. When Modern Woodmen was organized, the yellow fever epidemic had just devastated the South and had affected various

(continued on page 21)



Richard Mason Spenseley joined Modern Woodmen in 1905. He belonged to Modern Woodmen of America Camp No. 7363 located in Chicago. He was a plasterer, weighed 160 pounds and was 5'7 1/2" tall. He was born 22 May 1869. Died of nephritis, 06 October 1910. Death benefit was \$1,000. Photo courtesy of Sandra Luebking.

MY PAPA WAS A WOODMAN

(continued from page 1)

northern areas as well. In Lyons, Iowa, the membership of the Knights of Honor had been virtually wiped out months earlier. Meeting in the now silent Knights of Honor Hall, Mr Root and his followers carved out the jurisdiction for their new organization. They decided to stay north of the Mason-Dixon Line and away from large cities, where population congestion hastened the spread of contagious disease.

Delegates to Modern Woodmen Head Camps (now called National Conventions) voted for a number of years in favor of doing business in what was considered the most healthful territory. Members didn't want to over expand and settled on the north central states as a starting point. Healthfulness, while not the only consideration in determining the territorial expansion of Modern Woodmen, had always been a leading one.

The prevailing death rate, average age at death, frequency of epidemics and predominating occupation were some of the issues carefully inquired into whenever the question of extending the jurisdiction came up.

Organized in a farming section of America, the majority of membership for many years was agricultural in character.

Members were somewhat reluctant to admit those living under other environments. The school of thought was that the isolation of the farmer placed him in a superior class from the standpoint of health. Head Camp delegates felt it unfair to current members to admit residents of large cities and of industrial districts to membership on the same basis. It took a long time and lots of mortality statistics to change this attitude.

Eventually, the whole issue was decided over the admission of Chicago, Illinois, to the jurisdiction. Forces of the urbanites won the first skirmish with the ruralists at the 1895 Head Camp when permission was given to form Good Fellowship Camps in cities of 200,000 populations. A complete victory was made at the 1903 Head Camp.

As you prepare your research, be sure that Modern Woodmen of America was active in the state your ancestor lived. Consider other possibilities: although Modern Woodmen didn't go into the southern states or large communities until the late 1890s-early 1900s, it doesn't mean that an ancestor couldn't have been insured and belonged to a camp in a northern state.

As was mentioned earlier, fraternal

benefit societies come in many forms and sizes. Modern Woodmen is considered a general fraternal benefit society. A person doesn't need to belong to a particular ethnic, religious or trade group in order to secure membership.

Here are some important aspects to know when doing your research homework:

- A woman could not belong to Modern Woodmen prior to June 1929
- A woman could have been a member of Royal Neighbors of America, which was organized in 1890, and began insuring wives, sisters and daughters of Modern Woodmen members
- An ancestor who lived and died in Arkansas or Texas before 1900 most likely did not hold membership in Modern Woodmen
- Roman Catholics would not have belonged to one of the Lutheran fraternal benefit societies; instead, look at the organizations that admitted Catholics.

When Do You Check Life Insurance Records?

Many times a clue comes from a particular record or home source. An emblem or motto might appear on a grave monument. An obituary might mention membership affiliation or refer to a Camp conducting funeral ceremonies for a deceased member. Perhaps you find documents showing a death claim was paid. Or, there may be a photograph of a member in uniform or other memorabilia in a family scrapbook or attic drawer.

Some clues are easier to recognize than others. But many mottos, symbols or initials have slipped into the past. Photograph or sketch the marks or wording that you find. Then seek the opinion of local funeral directors or monument makers. Another resource is your reference or special collection librarian can help identify the fraternal benefit society.

How to Request Research Services

Modern Woodmen of America records do not come under the heading of public domain. Theirs, as are the records of other fraternal benefit societies, are privately-held. While most fraternal benefit societies may want to assist you in your search, few, if any, have a staff dedicated to researching records for genealogists or historians. A response to your request

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA FORESTER TEAMS [GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST]

Forester teams were important in the early growth of Modern Woodmen of America. Founder Joseph Cullen Root envisioned members parading in full uniform as a fitting advertisement of Modern Woodmen. In 1892, members of Camp 566 located in Hutchinson, Kansas, organized and outfitted what is believed to have been the first of the uniformed Forester teams. Its purpose was to perform the ritual drills in the camp hall. The idea caught on. Other camps formed Forester teams and rivalry over which team was best led to drill contests.

Modern Woodmen formed a Forester Department in 1899. Forester teams were organized into battalions, regiments and divisions as in an army. Command officers were given military ranks and titles.

The first of ten national Forester Encampments was held at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1907. The last was in Chicago, Illinois, in 1925. National Forester Encampments were held in conjunction with Head Camps (today called National Conventions) and attracted thousands of Foresters and their families. The men lived in tents and their conduct was governed by modified military regulations. Modern Woodmen Forester teams marked proudly in public parades known as Rainbow parades because of the variety of style and color in uniforms and banners.

National Forester Encampments having become expensive and possibly distracting to the business of the Head Camp were discontinued after 1925. By the late 1930s, many camps disbanded their Forester teams. The most colorful era of Modern Woodmen of America's history became a faded memory.

may take some time, especially during periods of high business activity.

Keep your correspondence simple. Include only the information pertinent for a search: the ancestor's name (and any variations might be helpful), a date of death and anything else you may know about his membership in Modern Woodmen of America.

Reminder: A postal mailing address is important. Especially when sending an e-mail query because there may be additional information to share that cannot be sent in electronic format. While this may seem elementary, I receive enough queries without a mailing address to make it worth mentioning.

Information You Might Receive

Modern Woodmen's first claim was paid in 1884 to Henrietta Mayer of Davenport, Iowa. Her husband, Abraham Mayer, had died July 14. He was a clerk in Rothschild clothing store. The death proofs say Mr. Mayer died from "indiscretion in eating confectionery, ice cream, etc. on the Fourth of July, with the incident excitement and heat."

I can't guarantee that all information in our files is as detailed as Mr. Mayer's. 19. But there is one secondary record source which will give specifics: a company history. Many fraternal benefit societies have established historical collections or have published written histories. Modern Woodmen, for example, has some in-depth information on many of its early leaders. These sketches often read like the biographical section of a county history. Photographs of these early leaders may also be available.

Modern Woodmen records may be searched from the first death claim of Abraham Mayer through 1946. Beyond 1946 records are not researched for genealogical or family history requests because (1) Modern Woodmen is concerned about privacy issues and (2) a decision was made to concentrate research efforts in the first 60 years of paying death benefits on our members.

Will it tell you something new about your ancestor? The researcher whose great grandfather died while a member should receive confirmation or new information on a date of death, full name, and medical history, or a place and date of membership.

Other Records

I have already mentioned business

RETRACING YOUR ROOTS?

Modern Woodmen of America can help for free. Request a copy of our complimentary *Guide* by writing MWA, 1701 1st Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. Or call Gail Ann Levis at (309) 786-6481, or e-mail <gail.ann.levis@modern-woodmen.org>.

If your ancestor was a Modern Woodmen of America member, the society's life insurance records may help verify information, offer new information or point you in the right direction to continue your search.

Death benefit claim records from 1884 through 1946 are a secondary source used to search genealogical and family history requests. The records provide:

- Name of insured
- Date of certificate
- Camp number and location
- Date of death
- Cause of death
- Occupation

Some records may also provide date and place of birth, nationality and beneficiary.

Contact Gail Ann Levis at Modern Woodmen of America (309-786-6481) to request information. Or e-mail your request to <gail.ann.levis@modern-woodmen.org> Include your ancestor's name, date of death and your relationship to the ancestor.

Note: Confidentiality is important to Modern Woodmen. The society has limitations on its membership records and on the type of information that may or may not be released. Each request is reviewed carefully to determine if it meets Modern Woodmen's criteria for research.

histories within the collection, but also look in the location where your ancestor lived. Camps and lodges are the grass-roots level to the fraternal benefit society system of government. Many times the local historical or genealogical societies as well as the area library may know the whereabouts of records of activities of members of these organizations.

By learning about the fraternal benefit society you might find that it offered a tuberculosis sanatorium, such as Modern Woodmen, or a retirement home, such as Royal Neighbors of America or Woodmen Circle. Was there an auxiliary? Is there a membership magazine? Answers to these questions may lead you to additional sources of information.

Conclusion

Modern Woodmen of America will be 125 years old in 2008. Its mission endures: To keep families together, financially secure and independent; to support the positive developmental, emotional and social needs of families; to provide opportunities for service to others in the community. These aims have not changed since Joseph Cullen Root brought 20 men together in Lyons, Iowa, in 1883.

If you haven't checked out Modern Woodmen's website at <<http://www.modern-woodmen.org>>, take a look at the historical section and watch for the updates in mid-2004. Updates will include: expanded topic sections—jewelry,

grave markers and monuments, Foresters (drill teams) and the tuberculosis sanatorium. A page for genealogists has been developed that will guide you through the process to submit a request for research.

As a genealogist and historian myself, I understand the struggle to document our lineages. My practice has always been to review and answer each query in a personal and professional manner. If Modern Woodmen of America's records aren't the right files, I'll steer you in a direction to keep the momentum going in your research quest. Or, I might tell you to stop, take a deep breath, and do your homework.

[About the author: Gail Ann Hodges Levis, Davenport, Iowa, is historian for Modern Woodmen of America. Levis joined Modern Woodmen in June 1974 in the public relations department as the advertising clerk. By 1975, she was managing Modern Woodmen's historical collection and Historical Room displays as well as answering requests from genealogists, historians and librarians. Levis was promoted to department secretary in July 1979 and continued her role as historian. Levis earned an associates degree in liberal arts with a concentration in history from Scott Community College, Bettendorf, Iowa in 2000. She has also attended classes and workshops for beginning and advanced genealogical work. In addition, she has begun work towards a certified genealogist records specialist for Iowa.]

Lyal Swenson
Lyal F. Swenson, 98, of Rock Is.

The Times Record
Mercer County, Illinois

e & Harvest

IVERSARY

The Times Record

Section B

ra Douglas

Garrett receives Distinguished Service Award

The Federal of Genealogical Societies has just released the names of winners of awards presented at the National Conference 2001 held in Davenport in September. The Distinguished Service Award was given to Eulalia H. Garrett of New Windsor, which is given to an individual or an organization in recognition of outstanding service to the Federation or to a member society. Garrett was the organizer of the genealogy division of the Mercer County Historical Society, has served the Black Hawk Genealogical Society as president as well as other offices, and has served several times as chairman or co-chair of the Quad Cities Genealogical Conference held in April of each year and currently serves as treasurer and registration chairman.

In cooperation with other members of the Mercer County Historical Society she has cooperated with cemetery boards of the various cemeteries of

Mercer County to create plats of abandoned areas, has computerized and augmented information by use of obituaries, death and marriage records, as well as Federal Census. Individual notebooks for each township are being made and incomplete at the present time but they are available for research at the Rivoli (New Windsor) Township Library. The Aledo Cemetery will not be ready until sometime in 2002. The completed notebooks will have pictures, cemetery plats and data on individuals with sources noted.

Garrett has transcribed and published the 1860, 1870, and 1900 Census Records. The 1880 and 1920 are not published yet. She has also cooperated with the Illinois State Archives Marriage Record program and was given a Special Recognition Award in October of 1998 by the Illinois State Genealogical Society for that work.



Eulalia H. Garrett and Kenny Burck presenting the Distinguished Service Award.

Cemeteries are for those still living.

See Black Heroes Carved in Stone, Page A1

Cemetery. Hear the word and chances are your first association is with a sad day in your life that eventually evolved into a celebration of a loved-one's life and all that they accomplished.

Walk through a cemetery on a day when you are not there to mourn someone's passing, and you'll realize you are surrounded by reminders of life's great contributions.

Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island almost overwhelms you with such reminders, as those who attended yesterday's memorial service for nine black Civil War veterans found out.

There are those for whom a cemetery will only be a place to mourn and who may continue their mourning for a lifetime. We need to always be mindful and considerate of that.

When I die, I hope there will be no crying. I'd prefer a New Orleans-style celebration of the contributions I made to my family and community — remembering I had a heck of a lot of fun doing it along the way!

To me a cemetery is a place for those still living and, as such, it can serve many roles. They all have their place and share equally in importance. As time goes on, the roles have evolved too. We should welcome



Roger Ruthhart

and embrace alternative uses that those still living find for these historic places, while understanding that sometimes uses can conflict, so consideration is important.

As more and more time passes, and more and more local leaders of historic note are buried in beautiful places like Chippiannock, they become an even greater resource. As we found during the Black Heroes Carved in Stone project, a simple name in a cemetery can lead to a wealth of historical information. After we've learned about the people buried there, the next step is to use that information to educate others — building on the past while teaching and preparing for the future.

There are growing reasons why people visit cemeteries. All should be encouraged. People visit to learn, or because they are curious. They go to watch or commune with nature. They go for a sense of adventure. They go there for recreation — to

walk, or run, or just sit and relax.

Genealogists can find a wealth of information in cemetery files and on gravestones themselves.

Cemeteries like Chippiannock can even be tourist attractions.

School groups visit. So do families. Some even have picnics. And of course people go there to reflect and remember.

What a great thing!

Greg Vogele, superintendent at Chippiannock Cemetery and director of the cemetery's foundation, said he sees these alter-

Chippiannock is approaching its 150th anniversary. Its life expectancy is another one or two hundred years!

native uses in increasing numbers each year. He's had requests to have a baptism in the cemetery, and even a small wedding.

Chippiannock is approaching its 150th anniversary. Think of that! Its life expectancy, according to Mr. Vogele, is another one or two hundred years! Think of the stories it can tell — it's like a giant, open history book.

Mr. Vogele has a dream. Someday he would like to see a History and Interpretive Center built for the cemetery on 11th Street. It would incorporate expanded parking, a staging area and historic displays outside of the current cemetery. Victorian gardens would provide a place for picnics, or for couples or kids to gather and have fun.

Historic presentations would explain the role and evolution of rural cemeteries and the history of the people buried at Chippiannock and their impact on local, state and national history.

Today it's only a dream — and a distant one at that. Chippiannock Cemetery operates at a deficit, except for interest from an endowment fund, Mr. Vogele said.

He worries that the city's proposed storm water runoff tax could even bankrupt the cemetery which his family has been the guardian of for two generations.

Who knows what other future challenges might arise over the course of the next two centuries?

But his dream is a good one. He's been entrusted with a wonderful historic and natural resource. He knows what the rest of us were all reminded of at yesterday's memorial service. Cemeteries are for the living.

Roger Ruthhart is managing editor of The Rock Island Argus.

Lyal Swenson

Lyal E. Swenson, 98, of Rock Island died Wednesday, July 3, 2002, at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Obituaries, graves offer clues to past

By Stephen Elliott

Staff writer

Dwight Mohlenbruck walks silently through cemeteries, looking at the headstones of people who once lived in the Quad-Cities area.

He looks at the mighty oaks, trees that seem to live forever.

They are rooted solemnly over granite slabs where names from past centuries are carved.

Since 1890, when Mr. Mohlenbruck was visiting the graves of two of his children in Drury-Reynolds Cemetery in Drury Township, he has studied the roots of area men, women and children.

He gives people the chance to link their families and find a piece of their heritage.

Mr. Mohlenbruck, 74, of Rock Island, has compiled 30 volumes of obituaries for the Rock Island, Moline, Davenport and Rock Island County Historical Society libraries.

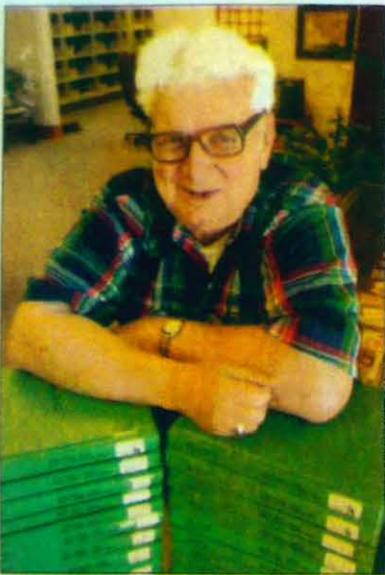
He focuses on the 80-some cemeteries in Rock Island County. He goes through newspapers each day, cataloging obituaries.

Mr. Mohlenbruck, a former Rock Island teacher, recently was honored by the Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for his work, which has helped others trace their family roots.

His research is "used a great deal by genealogists," Rock Island County Historical Society director-archivist Judy Belan said. "His books are invaluable."

Mr. Mohlenbruck grew up in Brown County, south of Macomb. There, he found the traces of his own family.

He tells of one relative he found with the name of Lizzy on her tombstone. "She milked cows, made fresh biscuits, raised chickens," Mr. Mohlen-



Chuck Thomas / staff

Dwight Mohlenbruck rests on a 30-volume stack of genealogical information that he compiled. The books are available at the Rock Island County Historical Society, Moline.

bruck said. "When Lizzy died, her younger sister, Lydia, came to the farm and she raised the six stepchildren."

Lydia, Mr. Mohlenbruck's great-aunt, married her sister's widower husband on Aug. 31, 1896. She was 15 and already pregnant.

Mr. Mohlenbruck said his great-aunt Lydia died in 1957. "She never complained. It was just expected then that you moved in and took care of your relative's kids."

Deaths

From Page C1

He found records of a baby who died in Beardstown in the 1800s who was a distant relative. "Baby Anton," he said. "It would have been my great-grandfather's son. I even went to the church that my two sets of great-grandparents attended during the Civil War. And I stood in that brick building, and I thought, 'God, my great-grandparents sat up there during the Civil War'."

"Well, there were records saved up in the church attic, and, sure enough, there was the name just expected then that you of Anton Mohlenbruck. A nice German name."

Mr. Mohlenbruck has indexed deaths reported in The Rock Is-

land Argus from the 1920s, '30s, '70s, '80s, and '90s, and still is working on those from the '40s, '50s and '60s. He has indexed volumes from lower Rock Island County through other newspapers, such as the now-defunct Reynolds Press.

The deaths are listed in 10-year blocks with the date of death and date of the obituary. He said the earliest marker he has uncovered was the death of a 10-year-old girl buried in the Drury-Reynolds Cemetery in 1839.

He keeps his records "in the basement of my house with the index cards," Mr. Mohlenbruck said. "My wife will say the basement is a mess, but I need more space to do this."

He said old newspapers detail how people died, which was a sign of their times. "The stories



Hunting for heritage: For Dwight Mohlenbruck, studying family roots is a type of addiction. Q-C Area, C1

Please see **Deaths**, C2

behind some of those people are just extremely fascinating. I come up with all kinds of things.

"They (newspapers) used to tell all the gory details of how somebody would die. Somebody got kicked by a cow, and I'd read in the paper that, a few days later, that person had died.

"In one case, it told how a cow fell on a man and killed him while he was milking it."

Harry Galli, of Rock Island, a retired engineer sitting near Mr. Mohlenbruck in the historical society library, said he has traced his family back to the 1600s in Switzerland and Germany. "It's like working a giant jigsaw puzzle," he said.

Arlene Hudson, of Rock Island, was thumbing through old newspapers and index books, some completed by Mr. Mohlenbruck.

"When you do family research, you get a tiny picture," Ms. Hudson said.

"I've found relatives who went out to the Dakota territories in the 1880s. Most of them ended up coming back this way. Some went out to Kansas. They endured drought, plagues of grasshoppers that ate their crops out, and they eventually just came back to Illinois."

"Some counties have nothing, no lists," said Mr. Mohlenbruck, who sits at his 52-year-old Royal typewriter every day, typing in the names of roughly 1,500 people who die in the county each year.

Genealogy is time-consuming, said Ms. Belan. "Many genealogists come to the historical society from other states and cities. I think the hobby is addictive."

Roy Roba

Services for Roy C. Roba, 85, of Friendship Manor, Rock Island, are 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. The Rev. Gary LaCroix will officiate. Private burial is in Moline Memorial Park Cemetery.



Visitation is 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Trimble Funeral Home, Moline. Memorials may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church or Christian Friendliness.

Mr. Roba died Thursday, April 11, 2002, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Rock Island.

He was born July 6, 1916, in Burt, Iowa, the son of Harold and Agnes Soderberg Roba. He married Elsie Knaack Aug. 26, 1939, in Moline. She died Aug. 18, 1989. He married Bertha Running Bjerkan March 12, 1988, in Dubuque, Iowa. She died Aug. 1, 2000.

He was a supervisor at John Deere Industrial Equipment, Moline, and John Deere Dubuque Works for 38 years, retiring in 1978.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, John Deere Retirees, Moline Lodge 1014, AF & AM, Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Moline, Golden "K" Kiwanis Club, Friends of Davenport Public Library, Friendship Manor Resident Council which he served as president, Trinity Seniors and Up 'N Adam, Eve of the Church.

He was a member of several genealogical societies and was co-founder of the Dubuque Genealogical Society and a past president of the Iowa Genealogical Society. He had formerly been active in Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver Award.

He loved his computer and formed a computer club at Friendship Manor. He also enjoyed creating wood sculptures and handwriting analysis.

Roy is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, William H. and Sylvia Roba, Davenport; granddaughters, Jennifer Roba, St. Paul, Minn., and Allison Roba, Minneapolis, Minn.; sister and brother-in-law, Grace and Andy Anderson, Mankato, Minn.; sister-in-law, Erma Roba, North Mankato, Minn.; and special friends, Peg Etzel, Moline, and Doris Lee, East Moline. He was preceded in death by his parents, wives, and brother, Russell Roba.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.TrimbleFuneralHomes.com.

28th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Saturday 27 April 2002

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Viking Club of Moline

1450 - 41st Street, Moline Illinois

Sponsored by

Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society

and

Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois

Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties Illinois
POB 3912
Rock Island IL 61204-3912

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit # 71
Rock Island
IL 61201

George McMaster Jr.

George McMaster Jr., 83, Tuesday, May 13, 2002, at the Rock Island Care Center.

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at the Broadway Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Private interment is in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island. There is no visitation at the funeral home. Charge of arrangements may be

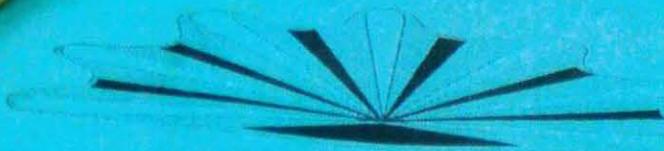
born Oct. 23, 1918, in Quincy, Ill., the son of George and May T. McMaster. He married Margaret on Oct. 17, 1943,

and moved from Galesburg to Rock Island. He received a master's degree from Knox College in 1948.

He worked at Rock Island science department. He had served as coordinator of the Department for Disoriented Personnel as audio-visual coordinator in the district. He taught in the early years, he taught in the School of Education. He was a member of the World War Veterans of America and served in the U.S. Army as a member of the Presbyterian Church.

He was an elder, a member of the session, secretary of the church and a member of the Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge. He had been a member of the Rock Island Chapter of DeMolay, a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon and was a life member of the National Education Association. He worked with the Civil Defense Program following the

death of his wife, Estelle McMaster, daughter, Deborah McMaster, Rock Island; granddaughters, Karen Fialek and her husband, David, Naperville, and Kristin McMaster, Rock Island; a great-grandson, John Robert Fialek, a sister, Stella Trench, South Bend, Ind., and a sister-in-law, Ann McMaster, Galesburg. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James Hunter McMaster. **FORMER MEMBER - BGS**



Program

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

"Be Your Own Detective: Locate Lost Family & Friends"

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

"Knowing What To Do Next"

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Lunch and browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

"No Great Depression Here: The Wealth of the 1930 Census"

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

"After the Civil War: Grand Army of the Republic"

3:25 - 3:45 pm

Closing remarks

PLEASE

return to your chair by the time set out
in the schedule. This
avoids distractions and inconvenience
to our speaker and
other conference attendees.

Thank you

EXHIBITORS and/or CONFERENCE

*Blackhawk Genealogical Society of
Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois*

Cedar County Genealogical Society

Creative Memories

Davenport Public Library

Federation of Genealogical Societies

Gen-Book

German American Heritage Center

Heritage Books, Inc.

Higginson Book Company

Modern Woodmen of America

National Genealogical Society

*New England Historical &
Genealogical Society*

*Quad-Cities Convention & Visitors
Bureau*

Quad-Cities Heritage League

Scott County Historical Society

*Scott County Iowa Genealogical
Society*

Mary Storbeck of Storbecks's

*Southern California Genealogical
Society*

The Gold Bug

Tidewater Virginia Families

Tuttle Antiquarian Books

Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe

THANK YOU

*The Quad Cities Genealogical Conference Committee
appreciates your support and cooperation which makes a conference
of this stature possible. Your attendance is more than adequate
compensation for the time and effort we devote to arranging this
conference.*

Gaycha Mayhew, Ann Riepe 2001-2002 Co-Chairs
Exhibits.....Janet Greenlee
Finance.....Eulalia Garrett
Hospitality.....Kathryn Foulkes, Marilyn Mix
Mailing Labels.....Sandra Luse
Registration.....Eulalia Garrett, Lorraine Hathaway
Carol Sachs

tribute cast in stone

ded on the artificial
agement draped



Country-
side

Pam

28th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Saturday

April 27, 2002

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

at the

Viking Club of Moline

1450 - 41st Street

Moline, Illinois



Quad Cities USA

gh the exhibits

ily & Friends"

f the 1930

public"

Score

George McMaster Jr.

George H. McMaster Jr., 83, Rock Island, died Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at Manor Care Center, Davenport.



Memorial services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Broadway Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Private inurnment is in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island.

There is no visitation. Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island, is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to the church.

Mr. McMaster was born Oct. 23, 1918, in Warren County, Ill., the son of George H. and May T. Hunter McMaster Sr. He married Esther R. Odelberg Oct. 17, 1943, in Moline.

George graduated from Galesburg High School. He received a bachelor's degree from Knox College, Galesburg, and a master's degree from the University of Iowa.

He was a teacher at Rock Island High School in the science department for 32 years. He had served as department head, coordinator of the science department for District 41 and served as audio-visual aids director for the district. He retired in 1980. In early years, he taught evening adult classes at Rock Island High School. George received the Recognition of Excellence Award in 1985 from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Mr. McMaster was a World War II Army veteran and served in the Army Reserve. He was a member of Broadway Presbyterian Church, where he had served as an elder, deacon, clerk of the session, secretary of the development fund and a Sunday school teacher.

Mr. McMaster was a member of the Rock Island Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Rock Island Masonic Lodge 658 A.F. & A.M., had been a Legionnaire of the Rock Island Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, a member of Phi Delta Kappa education fraternity and was a life member of the National Education Association. He has worked with the Rock Island Civil Defense Program in the years following the war.

Survivors include his wife, Esther; son, Dr. Brian McMaster, Rock Island; daughter, Deborah McMaster, Rock Island; granddaughters, Karen Fialek and her husband, David, Naperville, and Kristin McMaster, Rock Island; a great-grandson, John Robert Fialek; a sister, Stella Trench, South Bend, Ind.; and a sister-in-law, Ann McMaster, Galesburg. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James Hunter McMaster. **FORMER MEMBER - BGS**



Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS

Ms. Hinckley is a professional genealogist and private investigator. She is Executive Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists, trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogist, and author of several books. She has authored "Your Guide to Federal Census Records", (Betterway, 2001), "Locating Lost Family Members & Friends" (Betterway, 1999), and "Tracking Twentieth-Century Ancestors", in "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy", Revised Edition (Ancestry, 1997)

Her business, Family Detective is featured at www.familydetective.com

Her books are for sale at this conference at her sales table.

Featured Speaker

Kathleen W. Hinckley, CGRS

Ms. Hinckley is a professional genealogist and private investigator. She is Executive Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists, trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and author of "Your Guide to Federal Census Records"(Betterway, 2001), "Locating Lost Family Members & Friends" (Betterway, 1999) and "Tracking Twentieth-Century Ancestors", in "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy," Revised Edition (Ancestry, 1997)

She has been a speaker at national conferences since 1985; faculty member at Samford's IGHR in 1992,1993,1999, and 2001.

Ms. Hinckley was a televised expert in the PBS "Ancestors" series.

Her business, Family Detective is featured at www.familydetective.com.

← Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois →



Program Schedule Saturday April 27, 2002

- 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
"Be Your Own Detective: Locate Lost Family & Friends"
- 10:05 - 10:25 am
Coffee and browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am
"Knowing What To Do Next"
- 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Lunch and browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm
"Are You Prepared for the 1930 Census"
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm
Coffee and browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm
"After the Civil War: Grand Army of the Republic"
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm
Closing remarks

Door prize drawings throughout the day

Lyal Swenson

Lyal E. Swenson, 98, of Rock Island died Wednesday, July 3, 2002, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Rock Island.



Services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the chapel in Friendship Manor, Rock Island, where visitation will be one hour prior to services. Burial will be in Memorial

Park Cemetery, Rock Island. Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island, is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island.

Lyal was born Oct. 14, 1903, in Orion, the daughter of Perry and Selma Edmund Westerlund. She graduated from Orion High School in 1921. She then attended Augustana College from 1921 to 1924 and the University of Illinois in 1925, where she received her B.A. degree. She later completed her graduate studies at Northwestern University and received her M.A. degree in 1939.

She married Birger Swenson Aug. 14, 1943, in Orion. He preceded her in death Jan. 18, 1990.

She and her late husband were instrumental in establishing the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana.

Lyal was an English teacher. She first taught in Lovington, Ill., and later in Farmer City, Ill. for a time. She retired from teaching after 25 years at Rock Island Senior High School.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island, and its WELCA; member and past president of Church Women United; former board member of Illinois Lutheran Church Women; member and past president of the YWCA, Rock Island, where she also served as chairperson of the building committee; former member of the national YWCA, where she also served on the nominating committee; member and past president of Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary; member and past president of Augustana Endowment Society; and member and past president of Chapter GQ of PEO, Rock Island. Other memberships included Augustana Historical Society, Rock Island County Historical Society, American Scandinavian Society, Putnam Museum, Davenport, and the Eva B. Clarkson Circle of King's Daughters.

She and Birger enjoyed traveling very much. Lyal was an avid bridge player and was active in several bridge clubs.

She is survived by a sister-in-law, Ruth Westerlund, Orion; nephews, Marcus Westerlund, Orion, David Westerlund, Coal Valley, and Perry Westerlund, California; nieces, Phyllis Toshikian and her husband, Charles, Soquel, Calif., and Margaretha Magnusson and her husband, Brian, Moline; and a number of great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Mahlon Westerlund and Forrest Westerlund; and nephew, Tom Westerlund.

A tribute cast in stone

A bee landed on the artificial flower arrangement draped over the black stone monument.

About 10 feet away, Dorothy Barber stood looking at the stone that depicts her life with her late husband. She will rest beside him someday.

"Death is not an ending," Mrs. Barber said. "We look at death as something awful. At the funerals, everyone is broken up, and we're lost. But really, a funeral is a celebration of life."

Just as a funeral should be a celebration of a person's life, the tombstone should be a tribute, an expression of that life, Mrs. Barber said.

When her late husband, Harold, died, she wanted that for him and for herself someday.

A 100 years from now, people will look at the monument and know what the couple looked like. Their picture is etched in the dark stone. They will suspect Mr. Barber loved to hunt. Two deer, standing on a hillside beneath a tree, are carved in the stone.

Mr. Barber is pictured with his beloved coon dog, a huge trophy standing in front of the pair as they posed for a picture after winning a field trial.

They will know he drove a truck. Mr. Barber's truck is depicted on the stone. A keen observer will see Mr. Barber in the truck, smiling as he pre-



Pam Berenger / correspondent

Dorothy Barber of Illinois City kneels by the tombstone she had placed at her husband's grave. The stone is a reflection of their lives together.

pares to pull out with a load.

"The truck was the love of his life," Mrs. Barber said.

Mr. Barber worked 31 years at J.I. Case and later IH. He retired in 1990 and bought the semi in 1997.

They knew he was ill when he took off Jan. 3, 1999. He had been told to take two weeks off and had only taken one.

"I told him to stay home,"

Mrs. Barber said. "But, he said he had to get the load delivered. I knew, and he knew, he shouldn't go."

Mrs. Barber said she heard from her husband Tuesday morning.

When she didn't hear from him at the usual time Tuesday night, she became worried. At-



Country-side

Pam Berenger

tempts to reach him were fruitless.

A call to him Wednesday morning was answered by a click on the cell phone as if he tried to answer. She called the trucking firm he drove for and the search was on.

He was found, dead in his truck, at a truck stop in Marion County, Ind.

It was only right that the truck be included in the scene. Just as her life is there, A school bus is part of Mrs. Barber's life and is etched on the stone. Also on the stone is a real-estate "for sale" sign, which stands in front of the home the Barbers shared.

Their children's names are on the stone.

Some might find it a bit odd to see such a detailed stone. But others in the Illinois City Cemetery have similar stones. On one monument is a depiction of a tractor in a field, surrounded by barbed-wire fence. In another, a combine and tractor sit ready to move.

"It's a tribute to a person's life," Mrs. Barber said, and it doesn't bother her to see her life already laid out. "We're all going there someday. We were born to die."

Bush, Churchill, Diana may be distant relatives

LONDON (AP) — President Bush, Princess Diana and Winston Churchill are distant relatives whose ancestry can be traced back to a 15th century English squire, genealogists say.

Researchers for the U.S.-based company MyFamily.com, which has a license to publish British census records from 1841 to 1901 on the Internet, found that the trio's roots can be traced to Henry Spencer of Badby, Northamptonshire, who lived between 1420-1478 and was married to Isabella Lincoln.

According to a family tree



George Bush



Winston Churchill



Princess Diana

published on the company's Web site, one of their two sons, William, founded the line that would produce Winston Churchill, and Diana, Princess of Wales, whose maiden name was Spencer.

The daughter of the other son, John, married Sir William

Cope and the descendants of this line settled in the New World. They included Anne Marbury, who moved from Lincolnshire, England to Massachusetts during the 1600s. A direct descendent, Harriet Fay, married James Bush, the great-great-grandfather of the current president, the company said.

Bush is an admirer of Churchill and keeps in the Oval Office a bronze bust of the British leader — a loan from

Prime Minister Tony Blair.

When he received the bust in July 2001, Bush joked that he hoped to develop a personal relationship with the late wartime premier.

"I look forward to visiting with him," Bush said. "Sometimes he'll talk back and sometimes he won't, depending on the stresses of the moment."

Bush's apparent royal connections have been revealed before.

According to Gary Boyd Roberts, a genealogist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston,

Bush is descended from British royalty going as far back as 12th century King Henry I, the son of William the Conqueror.

Mother Goose and Grimm



Mounties get their man

Cemetery ceremony Tuesday honors Inspector Dickens, son of famous author

By Doreen Lemmon
Staff writer

MOLINE — It took 116 years, but the Canadian Mounties finally got one of their own men on Tuesday.

Inspector Daun Miller and four other uniformed members

of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police dedicated a headstone Tuesday at the grave of Francis J. Dickens, a mountie in the 1800s who was a son of famous author Charles Dickens.



Francis J. Dickens

After researching the history of Inspector Dickens with historian David Carter, Inspector Miller finally honored his 19th century predecessor.

"As the saying always goes, the mounties always get their man," Inspector Miller said, drawing laughter from the crowd at Tuesday's dedication.

Led by two bagpipe players, Inspector Miller and four other mounties marched through Riverside Cemetery Tuesday morning to the grave of Inspector Dickens. A large crowd, including some local police, gathered at the top of the bluff to watch the dedication on a terrace a few feet below.

The new headstone joins another at the site that was refurbished and rededicated in 1986, 100 years after Inspector Dickens' death, said Mr. Carter, who presided over the ceremony.

Inspector Dickens was a world traveler, who as a young man spent time in France, Germany and India, as well as in his native England. He moved later to North America.

He was born in January 1844, a month after the release of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol," Mr. Carter said during the dedication ceremony.

The inspector died of a heart attack in Moline in 1886, shortly after arriving here with a friend, Dr. A.W. Jamieson of Moline, whom he'd met in Ottawa, Ontario. His brother, Charles Dickens Jr., later visited the Moline grave.

Inspector Dickens joined the North West Mounted Police, which became the modern Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in 1872, a year after it formed, and served 12 years before retiring in 1884. He served in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan during a time of rebellion and resistance by the Cree Indians.

He was in command of 25 mounties at Fort Pitt on the North Saskatchewan River when he ordered a retreat while

Please see ■ Dickens, C2



Todd Mizer / staff

Retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police superintendent Peter Curley, left, and superintendent Bernie House unveil the new headstone for the grave of Inspector Francis J. Dickens, son of famed author Charles Dickens, during a ceremony Tuesday in Moline's Riverside Cemetery. Inspector Dickens, who was a member of the North West Mounted Police (the precursor to the current RCMP) from 1872 to 1884, died of an apparent heart attack in Moline June 11, 1886.

Dickens

From Page C1

under fire from more than 200 Indians, Mr. Carter said. He received a medal for his service during the siege, but not until 16 months after his death. The RCMP didn't get the medal to his family until 40 years later.

The night Inspector Dickens died, he was guest of honor at a dinner party held by Sam Kennedy, editor of the Moline Republican newspaper. He drank a glass of ice water, complained of feeling ill and lay down.

Mr. Carter said the heat that day apparently got to Inspector Dickens and may have played a role in his death.

As a final tribute to the inspector, Mr. Carter asked everyone at Tuesday's ceremony to recite a famous line from "A Christmas Carol." Mr. Carter placed his hand on the new headstone, and the crowd of about 100 recited the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one."

For more information on Inspector Dickens, visit www2.memlane/djcarter/dickens.

Mounties bring stone for Dickens

By Tory Brecht
Staff writer

Betty Hagberg's great-great-grandfather had the misfortune of hosting former Canadian Mountie and famous author's son Francis Dickens shortly before Mr. Dickens died of a heart attack in Moline in 1886.

Ms. Hagberg hopes fortune shines brighter on the Mounties coming to Moline Sept. 24, 116 years after his death, to unveil an official Royal Canadian Mounted Police headstone at their fallen comrade's grave in Riverside Cemetery.

The visit should bring some closure to the rather melancholy life and death of Francis Dickens, Ms. Hagberg said.

Mr. Dickens joined the North West Mounted Police — the precursor to today's modern RCMP — in part to escape the shadow of his famous father, Charles. He served as an inspector in the mounted police in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan in the 1870s and 80s during a time of rebellion and resistance by the Cree Indians.

Commanding Fort Pitt on the North Saskatchewan River, Inspector Dickens oversaw the retreat of besieged Mounties that preceded the capture of dozens of Canadian civilians. They were later freed when some



and laid down their lives.

The residence for and put on a trip to Moline to receive a grave marker. Years later, a widow never met and only his son Francis Dickens Jr. made a trip to Moline to give a lecture tour, days with the

It wasn't until historian, co-author Daun Miller, employee served Northwest RCMP recently that he decided to honor member but border.

"Every so often the RCMP is on a mental head where they're they died," Miller, who

trip to Moline Inspector Miller, famous "red" will be on his unveiling. A tired Mountie costume with to the one who Dickens.

Mounties bring stone for Dickens grave

By **Tory Brecht**
Staff writer

Betty Hagberg's great-great-grandfather had the misfortune of hosting former Canadian Mountie and famous author's son Francis Dickens shortly before Mr. Dickens died of a heart attack in Moline in 1886.

Ms. Hagberg hopes fortune shines brighter on the Mounties coming to Moline Sept. 24, 116 years after his death, to unveil an official Royal Canadian Mounted Police headstone at their fallen comrade's grave in Riverside Cemetery.

The visit should bring some closure to the rather melancholy life and death of Francis Dickens, Ms. Hagberg said.

Mr. Dickens joined the North West Mounted Police — the precursor to today's modern RCMP — in part to escape the shadow of his famous father, Charles. He served as an inspector in the mounted police in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan in the 1870s and 80s during a time of rebellion and resistance by the Cree Indians.

Commanding Fort Pitt on the North Saskatchewan River, Inspector Dickens oversaw the retreat of besieged Mounties that preceded the capture of dozens of Canadian civilians. They were later freed when some 4,000 militia and mounted police came west, but Inspector Dickens' career ended shortly after the military setback.

Increasing deafness and stress from the rebellion forced him into early retirement at age 42, according to Dickens historian David Carter, a former provincial Speaker of the Canadian Legislative Assembly who is coming to the Moline dedication ceremony.

It was in Ottawa, while looking for a civil service job and attempting to collect his pension, that Inspector Dickens met Dr. A.W. Jamieson of Moline.

"We don't know exactly how they became acquainted," said Ms. Hagberg, who has a collection of correspondence between the Jamieson and Dickens families. "But the story is the Jamieson family had the complete collection of Charles Dickens work at home and Francis promised to read from it to the Jamieson's nine children."

Francis Dickens wrote a letter to two of Dr. Jamieson's sons prior to his fateful visit to



Chuck Thomas / staff

Betty Hagberg holds two Charles Dickens novels at the gravesite of Dickens' son Francis in Moline's Riverside Cemetery. Francis Dickens read these two books to Ms. Hagberg's descendants when he stayed with her great-great-grandfather Jamieson in their South Moline Township home in 1886.

Moline.
"As I have become acquainted with your father during my sojourn in this city (Ottawa) and as he tells me you are possessors, and also readers of the works of my dear father, I thought it might give you some little pleasure to receive a short letter from one of his sons," Inspector Dickens wrote to Guy and Norman Jamieson in 1885. "I have spent some pleasant hours with your papa and shall be sure to call and see you if

ever it is my fortune to visit Illinois."
Family legend says Inspector Dickens made good on his promise, Ms. Hagberg said, spending several evenings reading from the worn copies of his father's greatest works.
The evening of June 18, Inspector Dickens was the guest of honor at a dinner party held by Sam Kennedy, editor of the Moline Republican newspaper, when he drank a glass of ice water, complained of feeling ill

and laid down. He died 15 minutes later.

The residents of Moline paid for and put on a big funeral, but Inspector Dickens did not receive a gravestone until several years later, also paid for by private parties in Moline. His widow never visited the grave, and only his brother, Charles Dickens Jr., and sister-in-law made a trip to the burial site. They arrived in 1888, during a lecture tour, and stayed several days with the Jamiesons.

It wasn't until Mr. Carter, the historian, contacted Inspector Daun Miller, the RCMP's employee service officer for the Northwest Region in Edmonton recently that the Mounties decided to honor their former member buried south of the border.

"Every serving member of the RCMP is entitled to a regimental headstone, no matter where they're buried or when they died," said Inspector Miller, who also will make the trip to Moline.

Inspector Miller and several other Mounties, dressed in the famous "red serge" uniforms, will be on hand for the marker unveiling. Additionally, two retired Mounties will be in period costume, with uniforms similar to the one worn by Inspector Dickens.

A motorcycle escort will be given to the Mounties by the Moline Police Department, after their arrival in a Canadian military transport plane at the Quad City International Airport.

The U.S. Marine Corps League will present an honor guard at the cemetery and bagpipers will play a processional. The RCMP personnel will "march on" to the grave site where the Union Jack will be draped over the new marker.

Inspector Miller will give remarks, and a brief history of the life of Inspector Dickens will be read prior to the unveiling and dedication of the headstone.

Then Mr. Carter — who is an Episcopalian minister — will say a prayer, "Taps" will be played and the Mounties will "march off."

The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m., and the public is welcome to attend.

Staff writer **Tory Brecht** can be reached at 786-6441, Ext. 271, or by e-mail at toryb@qconline.com.

Grave details

Symbols possess form of language beyond words

By Mark Campbell

ROCK ISLAND — Beyond their beauty, intricate designs carved on gravestones have a deeper meaning that often tells the story of the lives they commemorate.

Historian Loren Horton made the trip from his home in Iowa City Saturday morning to reveal the deeper meanings and symbolism found in the stones during a presentation at Rock Island's Chapel-amount Cemetery.

"These days it isn't uncommon to find a picture of a motorcycle on the grave marker of a bikie or a guitar for a musician," he said. "During the Victorian era, the designs were crafted as a form of language beyond mere words."

For the past 30 years, Mr. Horton has traveled to cemeteries across the country studying designs carved in stone, cast in bronze and carved into wooden markers.

"My main focus is the designs that were used during

the Victorian period, which lasted from about 1817 until the turn of the century," he said.

"Fortunately, there are many books of etiquette, plain books for carvers and other sources that are still available today."

Mr. Horton explained the meaning of the symbols to more than 25 area cemetery heads who took part in Rock Island's Chippelennock Cemetery tour Saturday morning.

"The whole idea is fascinating, especially to those of us who are researching our family lineage," Fonda Gibson of Rock Island, said. "So many of the stones are just beautiful, but when you know what the design stands

Portrayals resurrect departed

By Mark Campbell

MOULINE — Suddenly she stood beside the grave that bears her name, feeling those that came to listen the tale that was her life.

"Being the first woman elected to the school board of Moline is considered to be quite an accomplishment," said Hannah Dinmock Gould, who died in 1900. "Even though I'm not allowed to write on any markers concerning names."

The lives of nine inhabitants of Moline's Riverside Cemetery were resurrected Saturday through a series of five-minute presentations at their gravesites.

"You have to respect the person you are portraying," said Regina Thomas, a drama teacher who portrayed Mrs. Gould. "I think that it really helps people to understand how things started

here along the Mississippi once they know at least a little about the people who built what we have today."

Nearly 500 people took part in Saturday afternoon's "Echoes From Riverside VIII — Good But Not Forgotten" sponsored by the Moline Park and Recreation Depart-

ment and the Moline Press-vidian Society.

"We try to portray the lives of people who weren't necessarily famous residents of the area," said event director Kathleen Senay. "This year I am portraying Sara M. Please see **Echo**, D5



Above: From roses to trumpets, symbols found carved into grave markers often tell a story that still can be understood today. Loren Horton explained the mystery of many of those symbols Saturday at Rock Island's historic Chippelennock Cemetery. **Above left:** Hannah Dinmock Gould was a woman who helped bring about change in Moline before her death in 1900. Her spirit was given new life Saturday by Regina Thomas, who spirit the day portraying her during Moline's Riverside Cemetery walk.

Echo

From Page D1

M. Atkinson, the wife of a prominent business leader who died in 1907 just months after drafting her will.

Nearly half of the lives portrayed during this year's event represented women. Ms. Senay, who spent nearly 100 hours researching the lives of the people portrayed this year, said that made the project even more of a challenge.

"With women, there is often few written records to tell us about how they lived," she said. "With my character, all we could locate was her will."

Each researcher took on the persona of some of Moline's past

pillars of society, presented through a first-person replication of their lives.

Jennifer Toddlen of Moline brought her 10-year-old son Jacobo to the tour to help him understand a little more about the area's unique past.

"It helps the history come to life for the kids when they can see it presented like this," she said. "This is our second year, and it just keeps getting better."

Todd Staver, manager of centers for the Moline Park and Recreation Department, said the event continues to grow.

"So far, there have been 64 lives portrayed during the cemetery walks," he said. "They are enjoyed by a lot of people and are a great way to expose people to the past."

Grave

From Page D1

for, it makes it even more exciting.

During the Victorian era, stone carvers used a variety of common symbols ranging from roses to wheat to tell a little about the life of the person beneath the stone. Mr. Horton said.

"During that time, if you wanted to compliment a lady, you sent her roses. The same rule was to be applied when she died," Mr. Horton said, pointing out a number of headstones decorated with carefully crafted flowers. "Back then, each type of flower conveyed a special sen-

timent. The thought put into selecting those designs can still be read today."

Many people commonly assume that an anchor would be used to symbolize a love for the sea, but according to Mr. Horton the symbol was more often used as a symbol of hope. Angels were often used to represent either messages from God or to represent the deceased's soul being carried to Heaven.

Books other than the Bible were often carried to represent the Book of Life where family members hoped the deceased's name would be found. "Mr. Horton explained, "Chains with a broken link were also symbols used to represent a break in the family chain that resulted when a loved one died."

In search of the supernatural



These brave souls 'witch' for lost graves

An abandoned burial ground on a misting, mushy day is an unearthly place — especially when one is witching for graves in the spooky season of Halloween.

We were witching for the forgotten dead, six feet under. Some call it dowsing, others say it is water witching. Not too many have tried grave witching. Skeptics

may laugh at this, but I found that witching for hidden graves is a force that — at least for believers — actually works. Dowsing is the belief of finding, through unexplained means, objects deep within the ground. For most, the reason is to find underground pipes or a water source for a well. In our case, we're doing some Halloween-time dowsing — although witching seems the more appropriate word today — for lost graves.

In its simplicity, one takes two L-shaped wires, holds them very loosely outright in his hands, and paces slowly across the grass at a place like forgotten Essex Cemetery near Illinois City in Rock Island County. You may walk forever and nothing happens. But if some bizarre force is with you, the wires will move eerily into an "X" before your eyes.

You then will know, ostensibly, that a grave is beneath your feet because Mother Nature's earth had at some



Photos by Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

TOP: One of the early burials in Essex Cemetery was Benj. Essex. He died in 1866 at age 75, 11 months, meaning that he was born sometime in the first part of George Washington's first term as president of the United States. **ABOVE:** Bent wires, often called divining rods, are crossed for George Carpenter, a dowser, while exploring an old cemetery near Illinois City. The crossed wires are said to indicate the site of a burial.

— WUNDRAM
Please turn to Page A2

■ Trick-or-treat hours, parades, parties: A3-4

Word of the day: the noun 'progenitor'

■ **Pronunciation:** [pro-JEN-i-ter]

■ **Definition 1:** (1) The originator or original ancestor of a line of descent, a direct ancestor; (2) the founder of a family; (3) the originator of anything, a founder, as the progenitor of a philosophical school.

■ **Usage 1:** A progenitor produces progeny, the descendants of a single ancestor (or pair thereof). Back when English was allowed to distinguish between males and females, a female progenitor was known as a progenitrix (plural "progenitricēs"). The state or stature of being a progenitor

is "progenitorship" and the adjective for this noun is "progenitorial."

■ **Suggested Usage:** The white families who claimed President Thomas Jefferson as their progenitor were recently confronted by black families who claimed (with reason) to be the progeny of the same man. Jefferson was certainly one of the progenitors of our system of government.

Printed by permission of YourDictionary.com. For e-mail delivery, visit www.yourdictionary.com/register.html.

land. The Blackhawk Genealogical Society Library collection is located at the Rock Island County Historical Research Library, 822 11th Ave., Moline, (309) 764-8599. The Web site is www.rootsweb.com/~lrbgarrin/index.html.

President — Marilyn Mix; Vice President — Eileen Nelson; Second Vice President — Pam Lawson; Treasurer — Pat McCoy; Recording Secretary — Lois Larson; Corresponding Secretary — Diane Lovell; Member-at-large 2003 — Marlene Wehltitz; Member-at-large 2004 — Kim Jones; Member-at-large 2005 — Linda Pollich

Meetings are 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through October, at South Park Presbyterian Church, 1501 30th St., Rock Is.

New officers installed at genealogical society

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties held its 30th anniversary celebration and recognition ceremony at the annual dinner. New officers for 2003 include:

John Quincy Adams

BRUNSWICK, Maine (AP) — John Quincy Adams, an architect, conservationist and the direct descendant of two presidents, died April 30 from complications related to a broken hip. He was 95.

Adams, who went by Quincy, was the great-great grandson of the country's sixth president and the great-great-great-grandson of the second.

Adams lived most of his life on the family's Lincoln, Mass., estate, where he raised horses. He was for many years the master of hounds at the Nashoba Valley Hunt in Pepperell, Mass.

He became a member of Lincoln's Conservation Commission in 1960 when he made a persuasive argument to protect the town's water supply by banning development in the area. He said in a 1978 interview that he hoped to stop rapid development in any way possible.

***Blackhawk
Genealogical
Society***



***Annual Dinner Meeting
November 19, 2002
Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church
Moline, Illinois***

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

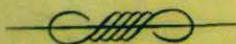
April 26th, 2003

Viking Club, Moline

Mark Lowe, CG, president of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society, who has implemented a year-long series of genealogical skill-building workshops for it's members will speak on:

1. Finding your landless ancestors.
2. Here comes the bride, and there she goes!
3. Out on a limb, and trapped by bad research.
4. Over the mountains, across the plain.

For further information contact Eileen Nelson at 309-796-2134 or Pam Lawson at 309-799-3372.



Blackhawk Genealogical Society
30th Anniversary

This is the 30th anniversary of Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties Illinois. There were 110 charter members who founded this society in 1972. Thanks to their efforts we are a thriving genealogical organization with 171 members today. And our quarterly has been continuously printed since March, 1974. Our meetings have consistently had interesting genealogical programs, and our genealogical library collection continues to expand. We also have a new web site with information about our area, and the surnames being researched by our members. Listed below are the BGS Charter Members, and BGS Past Presidents. Let's say a big thank you to each of them for their foresight, and hard work preserving the genealogical records of our ancestors.

BGS Charter Members

Anna Albrecht, Berkshire, New York
Durward Allaman, Abingdon, Illinois
Mrs. George Baker, Rock Island, Illinois
Kenneth & Lorraine Baker, Rock Island, Illinois
Gertrude E. Becker, Geneseo, Illinois
Sven & Evelyn Benson, Rock Island, Illinois
Scharlott Blevins, Davenport, Iowa
William J. Blick, Geneseo, Illinois
Hazel Blockinger, Rock Island, Illinois
Jesse Boone, East Moline, Illinois
Mrs. Walter Bristow, Savanna, Illinois
Jon Brodd, Moline, Illinois
Marge Buel, Moline, Illinois
Helen Burgess, Rock Island, Illinois
W. H. Clark, Milan, Illinois

Mary Clifford, Colona, Illinois
Phyllis Coopman, Moline, Illinois
Lawrence & Joyce Cornelius, Peoria, Arizona
Byrle & Aletha Cosner, Woodhull, Illinois
Allen & Bradley Curtis, Coal Valley, Illinois
Cornelia & Harriet Darling, Moline, Illinois
Vicki L. Davis, Chicago Heights, Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Dawson, East Moline, Illinois
Walter & Eva Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, Illinois
Sally Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, Illinois
Leslie Griffin, Moline, Illinois
Mary Lou Hall, Davenport, Iowa
Delores Hauger, Milan, Illinois
Sally Henry, East Moline, Illinois
Ruth Herrick, Abingdon, Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hilligross, Milan, Illinois
Virginia Hinrichs, Sun City, Arizona
Jean Houston, Davenport, Iowa
Margaret Hudson, Davenport, Iowa
L. E. Humberstone, Rock Island, Illinois
Florence D. Hutchison, Jacksonville, Illinois
Helen Hutchison, Rock Island, Illinois
Bernice O. Irwin, New Boston, Illinois
Madaline Isaacson, Rock Island, Illinois
Patricia Kinney, Rock Island, Illinois
Ina Kuzel, Moline, Illinois
Joan Loete, Moline, Illinois
Jane Lundeen, Moline, Illinois
Harry Lyon, East Moline, Illinois
Mrs. Earle McBride, Austin, Texas
Helen McMurry, Oak Park, Illinois
Maurite Mahlstadt, Geneseo, Illinois
Mrs. Robert Martin, Moline, Illinois
Mrs. Wm. Budd Matlock, Oak Harbor, Washington
Sister Francis Marie Melroy, Davenport, Iowa
Robert & Laura Millet, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Lois Mitchell, Moline, Illinois
Gilman & Helen Mitten, Moline, Illinois
Glenn & Jeannene Moffitt, Aledo, Illinois
Mary Morrissey, Moline, Illinois
Dennis & Bernice Moseley, Milan, Illinois
Verna Mumma, Hillsdale, Illinois
L. P. Neuerburg, Rock Island, Illinois
Mrs. Jim Newman, Milan, Illinois
Joseph & Phyllis Normoyle, Rock Island, Illinois
Darlene Paxton, Bettendorf, Iowa
Janet K. Pease, Arvada, Colorado
Thyra Perry, Moline, Illinois
Harold & Kitty Pierce, Milan, Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Pittman, Abingdon, Illinois
Barbara Resser, Gatesville, Texas
Orin & Irene Rockhold, Milan, Illinois
Clarence & Margaret Ruud, Moline, Illinois
Lucille Sampson, Rock Island, Illinois
Rachelle Schopp, Geneseo, Illinois
Mrs. Sidney Sisson, Milan, Illinois
Marjorie Smith, Thompson, Illinois
Louis & Eileen Spaeth, Davenport, Iowa
Mrs. Fredrick Steiner, Bettendorf, Iowa
Dorothy G. Stimpson, Rock Island, Illinois
Gladys Treadway, Bettendorf, Iowa
Gerald & Linda Walker, Rock Island, Illinois
Mrs. John T. Walsh, Davenport, Iowa
Mrs. Richard Welch, Rock Island, Illinois
Mrs. Cecil Whiteside, Milan, Illinois
Mildred Wiggers, Eldridge, Iowa
Dorothy Williams, Rock Island, Illinois
Flora D. Wilson, Davenport, Iowa
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wood, Rock Island, Illinois
Sylvia B. Young, Moline, Illinois
Virginia Young, Creve Coeur, Illinois
Robert, Winifred, & Steven Ziegler, Palatine, Illinois

BGS Presidents

1972-73 Phyllis Normoyle
1974 Gerald Wood
1975 Virginia Hinrichs
1976 Kenneth Baker
1977 Joyce Cornelius
1978 Scharlott Blevins
1979 Dennis Strieder
1980 James Lannoo
1981 Eulalia Garrett
1982 Joseph Normoyle
1983-84 Grace Eastland
1985-86 Edward Jordan
1987 Dean Ring
1988-1989 Christine Lage
1990-1991 Zelma Hendricks Stufflebeam
1992-1993 Louise Davis
1994-1995 Virginia Horton
1996-1997 Judy Rueckert
1998-1999 Dorothy Darland
2000-2001 Pamela Langston
2002 Marilyn Mix



Welcome -
Marilyn Mix

Invocation -
Lois Larson

Menu -
Apricot Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Relish Tray
Yum-Yum Salad
Rolls/Coffee/Tea
Assorted Pies

Installation of 2003 Officers -
Zelma Stufflebeam

Recognition of BGS
30th Anniversary

Program -
Richard Hamer on
John Looney



29th Annual

Quad Cities
Genealogical
Conference

Saturday

April 26, 2003

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

at the

Viking Club of Moline

1450 - 41st Street

Moline, Illinois



Quad-Cities USA



Directions: Take I-74 to the Ave. of the Cities (23rd Ave.) exit in Moline, then go East on 23rd Avenue to 41st Street. At 41st Street go North (left) to the Viking Club entrance. Look for the sign on the east (right) side of 41st Street (1400 block)

PLEASE NOTE: The conference committee plans to begin and end the program on schedule for the convenience of those who are attending from out of town.

Commercial Genealogical
Exhibitors Have Been
Invited

Doors open to the public at 8:00 am

**No Cell Phone Use Allowed While the
Speaker is Talking**

For more information call:

Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134
Pam Lawson 309-799-3372

Get caught up in genealogy

And watch your family tree take root

Registration Form
29th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Clip and Send

The registration fee is \$22.00 per person and includes conference handouts, coffee and a buffet luncheon. Any registrations received after April 21st will not include the luncheon. Cancellations will not be honored after April 22nd. A waiting list will be kept in case of cancellations. You must include your telephone number on your registration form. Mail this form and check(s) made payable to:

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference
PO Box 0943
Moline IL, 61266-0943

Your cancelled check will be your confirmation and receipt. If you desire other confirmation from the registrar, enclose a SASE or postcard. For additional registrations, list names and addresses on a separate sheet.

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code + 4

Area Code

Phone Number

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 240

Genealogical Society plans research trip

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society will sponsor a bus trip/research trip to Allen Co. Library, Fort Wayne, Ind., April 1-3, 2003.

Cost includes bus and two nights at Hilton Inn. Single room is \$206; double, \$129; and triple, \$110. Reservations are due Thursday.

For information, contact Eileen Nelson, (309) 796-2134, den@revealed.net, or check Web site at rootsweb.com/illgscim/index.html.

By Harry Jackson Jr.
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — "I seek dead people."

That's a hobby?

For Ted Steele, it is. He's head of technology for the St. Louis Genealogy Society and an expert on genealogical research using Internet and genealogy software.

That's a relatively new position with the 30-year-old organization. But with the onset of the computer age, genealogists have found a love affair with technology.

On the Web, for example, genealogy is the second-most-researched area after pornography. It's The No. 2 Hobby in America After Gardening, and The No. 1 Year-Round Hobby. Genealogy makes up about 6 percent of online traffic on the Web, says Rhonda McClure, online columnist for Genealogy.com and author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy."

The production of genealogy software has become its own industry. Dozens of programs are available to help searchers find their ancestors, document them properly and put them in the right order. Web sites dedicated to genealogy number in the thousands. Sites with a genealogy component number in the millions.

This is why Steele spends most of his time teaching members and visitors at the Genealogy Society offices how to use computers to research their ancestors.

What is genealogy?

Genealogy is the search for ancestors and the details of their lives. The moment you begin the search, you're a genealogist — with a small g.

The process first involves a search for a name, then the search for evidence linking the name to your family. After that comes validation of the information through records and cross-checking, then mapping each person's place in the family lineage.

You earn your capital G when you learn, through research, how to place every person into a context. This entails showing the life he or she led, their challenges, struggles and sagas. The result is publishing your work in a book or on a CD to share with your family or the public.



The search for ancestors ostensibly could go back to the primordial Serengeti when human beings first walked upright — or to Adam and Eve, whichever suits your comfort level. Most people only make it back a couple of dozen generations.

Please see **Genealogy**, B2

Genealogy

From Page B1

But being able to do this means finding, copying, validating and storing records.

Modern genealogy

Until a decade ago, the term "genealogy" evoked images of older adults sitting in libraries thumbing through page after page of obscure records beneath the dim glow of an antique lamp.

While that's not too far from the process, modern genealogists may be just as likely to gaze into the face of a computer monitor at home, sending search engines to flip through millions of documents in a matter of seconds. Or they may be in a library searching private collections of electronic documents.

"Databases reach in all directions," said Joyce Loving, manager of special collections where genealogy records are stored for the St. Louis County Library. "It draws from a huge collection and comes up with hits you may not have thought of."

In both the traditional and modern means of research, the end product is people — related, connected, from as far back as the centuries can recall, as wide as the cultures and colors of humankind.

And once the job is started, it's never done.

Steele is the perfect example. Nearly 30 years of research yielded the 600-page "A Steele Family History, Planters of Old England, New England and the American West." The chronicle maps 15 generations of Steeles and includes the highlights (and low points) of their lives and the motivations that pushed or pulled them to their destinies.

The work has won numerous awards, and much of the work was done with computers.

And that's just his father's side of the family.

Why do it?

"You won't know it's fun until you get started, and then you can't quit," said Mary Van Doren, a self-proclaimed newbie at genealogical research.

"It's a combination of history, detective work and discovery," she said. "It's a keyhole glimpse into the struggles and determination of humanity, but brought down to a personal level."

"I've gained an appreciation for my ancestors. They prevailed against war, pioneer poverty, plagues and the early deaths of loved ones."

Steele echoed the experience with an extra twist: "I love my family. I really enjoyed the company of my parents, every aunt and uncle, and all of my known grandparents. They were fun, interesting people. When I was about 33 years old, I got curious about who had come before them."

"I figured that, except for the aspect of time — my earlier ancestors had all lived and died before I got a chance to know them — I probably would have liked them, too. So, I wanted to find out who were these guys and what were they like? What were they up to, and why?"

"After almost 30 years of work, I now know in detail the actions and the lives of every one of my paternal ancestors for 15 generations over 500 years. Considering that when I started I had never laid eyes on my own grandfather, I think that's saying a lot."

Three decades accumulated 10,000 names in his database of ancestors.

"Do I know them all? Absolutely not. But I definitely know every one of my direct Steele ancestors from Robert Steele, who died in 1550 in Fairstead, England, down to my own elusive grandfather."

Robert F. Emmett is retired from 40 years of, among other things, programming comput-

Getting started on your family tree

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Getting started on your family tree actually isn't all that technical.

The goal is to map your family so you and your relatives can get a picture of where they came from and even get a feel for where they're going—or don't want to go.

While computers, the Web, software and CD databases have brought millions of individuals into genealogy, software programs, Web sites, digital record keeping by libraries and archives, and machines have made beginning a lot easier, at least for preliminary information.

Ted Steele, head of technology for the St. Louis Genealogy Society, reminds beginners that technology is a bunch of tools, not the end result. Technology adds speed and range, but not the smarts or tenacity.

For a beginner, the following suggestions are good places to start:

■ Start with yourself

Record everything you know and can recall about your family, things you've heard and things you suspect. Keep them in order under names, places and generations.

Tools: Any computer with a word processing program will work. The range is wide: \$300-\$1,600.

Alternative: Pen, yellow pad of paper, sticky notes and file folders. \$4 and whatever you can lift from your office.

■ Talk to your family

This means mom and dad first, then aunts, uncles, grandparents and so forth. Older people like to talk about the old days.

Tools: A digital recorder that can download information into a computer: \$95 to \$800.

Alternative: Cassette tape recorder from Radio Shack: \$29.95-49.95

■ Make a preliminary family tree from the names you have

It will look like a binary chart where one name connects to two, two becomes four and so forth. Make separate charts for other relatives who aren't directly on your lineage, such as cousins.

Tools: Software programs such as Family Tree Maker, Family Origins or Generations, for \$30 to \$100 depending on the amount of data in the program.

Alternatives: A ruler and blank white paper, pencil (with an erasure) and a three-ring binder. \$10.

■ Start the real detective work after the great-grandparent level of mapping

Once you identify a relative, you need to check and double-check information to verify that that person is a relative. Do this through census, Social Security, military, cemetery and tax records — as many places as people have to sign public records.

Challenges arise: Immigration laws, slavery, war and so forth, and there are special databases on CD and on the Web that can help.

Tools: Databases on CD are available from hundreds of Web sites for \$10 to \$50. They also come as part of the software packages at purchase or by mail order. That's one of the differences in software packages: Those with more information cost more.

Alternatives: The public library.

■ Stay in touch

The most important element in technology for genealogical research is e-mail, Steele says. Sharing information is a cornerstone of genealogical research. When you find something, put it somewhere publicly where others can find it. This means you'll need an Internet Service Provider (ISP) such as AOL, MSN or Earthlink. The information can be posted on these genealogical bulletin boards in special formats.

Tools: An ISP to check Web sites and records that might be on the Web.

Alternatives: Sadly, this is where a lack of technological moxie can add years to your research—writing letters that may not be answered, driving endless miles to places that may not exist, seeking interviews with people who may be gone or dead. The Web cuts a lot of legwork off the process.

■ Rise to the true genealogist

As you map your family, write about them. Explain their times, their challenges, speculation about their lives that you gather from their addresses, schools, churches, jobs and other information you find.

Tools: Books.

Alternatives: Books.

ers in one form or another. Retirement gave him the time to get into his family tree, he said.

He's been interested in genealogy for a while. One prod was his son years ago earning a genealogy merit badge for the Boy Scouts. Another was hearing stories of his grandfather.

Emmett says technology has

been both the good news and a drawback for researchers.

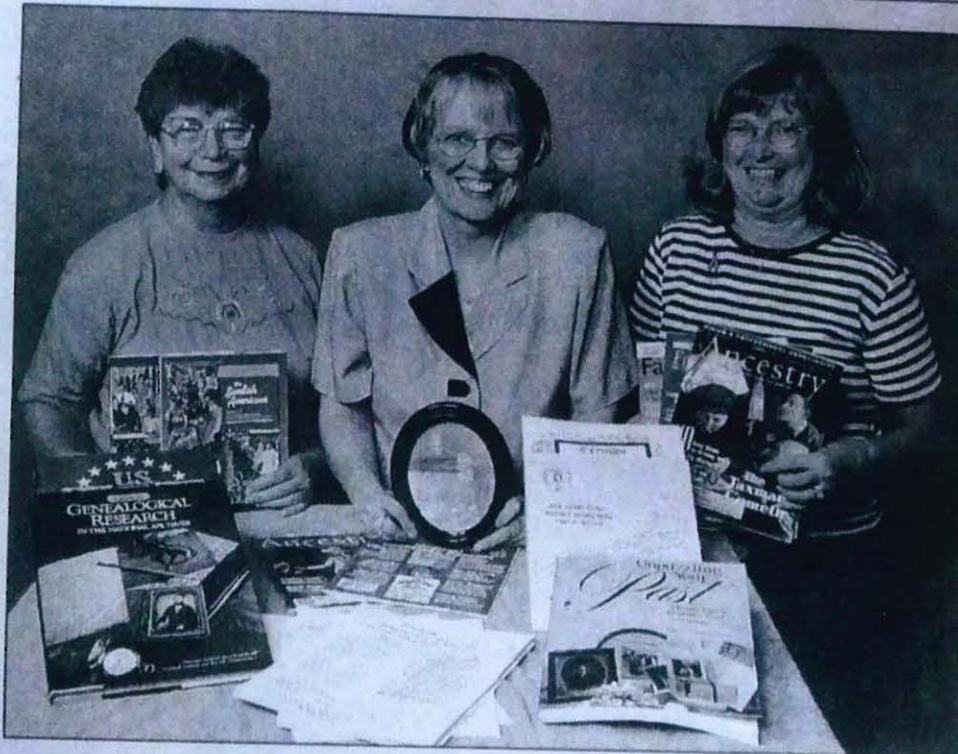
"Speed and convenience," Mr. Emmett said. "Using computers, it is much easier and faster to generate family charts and all kinds of diagrams and relationships."

However, he says, inherent

with speed and ease is the risk of errors.

"It is often easy — especially for beginners — to mistake recording and presentation of names with actual documented research," he said. "The biggest issue with quality of research is documentation of sources."

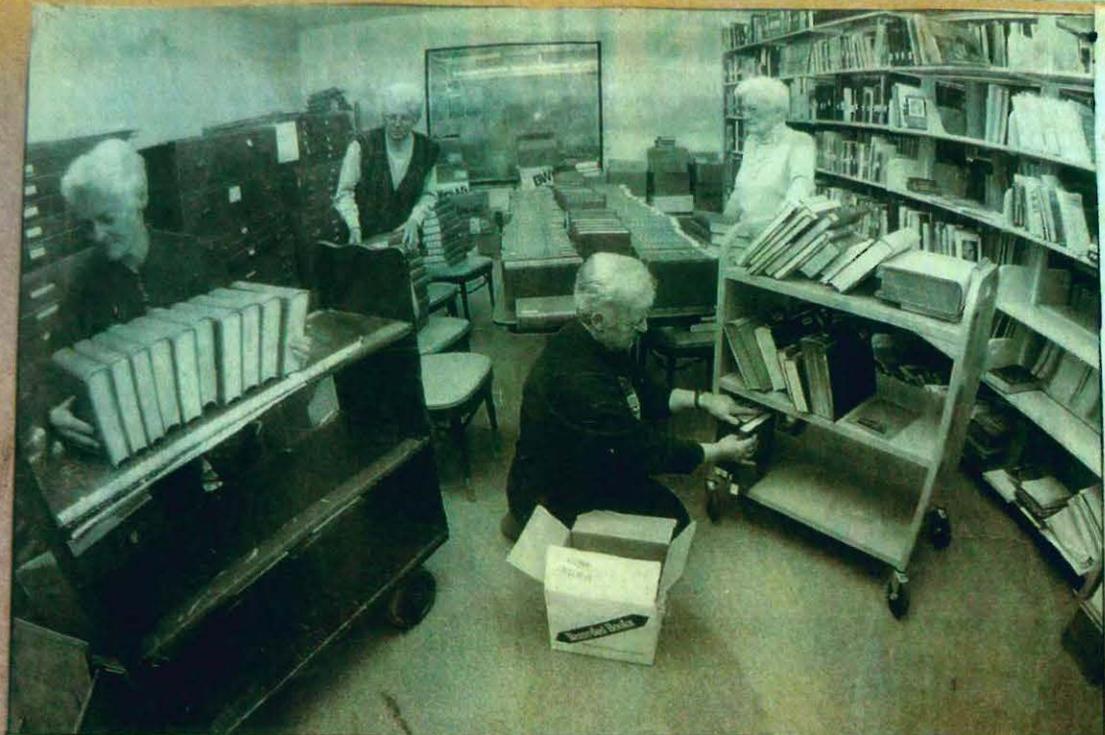
Daily Planner



John Greenwood / staff

Start climbing that family tree

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society is celebrating Family History Month by sponsoring four Beginning Genealogy Workshops from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22. The workshops will be held at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, 822 11th Ave., Moline. Cost is \$5 per session or all four sessions for \$15. Sessions include: Oct. 1, Getting Started by Lorraine Hathaway; Oct. 8, Locating Vital Records by Ken and Shirley Plumb; Oct. 15, Using Federal Records by Bev Francque; Oct. 22, Computer Genealogy by Bill Burrows. Space is limited to 40 people. Deadline for reservations is Sept. 26. Send name, address, phone number and check to Blackhawk Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3912, Rock Island, IL 61204-3912. For further information, contact Linda Polich at (309) 234-5151 or Lorraine Hathaway at (309) 787-1826. Promoting the workshop are, from left, Marilyn Mix, Lorraine Hathaway and Linda Polich.



Volunteers with the Rock Island County Historical Society, from left, Kathleen Seusy, Joyce Hanna, Phyllis Witherspoon and Kathryn Felsman, prepare books from the Moline Public Library for the shelves at the society's center.

John Schultz/QUAD-CITY TIMES

County consolidates genealogy records

By John Willard
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Family history buffs tracing their roots in the Illinois Quad-Cities now have a "one-stop" center for all their genealogy research needs — the Rock Island County Historical Society.

The society recently acquired the genealogy collection of the Moline Public Library. The collection includes more than 1,600 volumes of information ranging from pension records to county histories.

Joyce Hanna, the society's vice president, said volunteers have been busy cataloging the books and putting them on the shelves since they arrived packed in 126 boxes last fall. About a fourth of the books are on the shelves of the society's research library, located at 822 11th Ave., Moline, she said.

"They broaden our research capabilities," she said.

The acquisition, combined with another genealogical collection housed at the library, makes the historical society's

FYI

Genealogy materials donated by the Moline Public Library to the Rock Island County Historical Society include more than 1,600 volumes.

Materials include pension records, immigration records,

books on descendants of families who sailed to the New World on the Mayflower, books on Revolutionary War veterans and compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution, marriage indexes and county histories from throughout the United States.

library the Illinois Quad-Cities' premiere place for genealogy research.

In fact, the entire Quad-Cities is a good place to do genealogy research.

The materials available at the Rock Island County Historical Society and the vast genealogy collection in the Davenport Public Library's Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center should give family history researchers plenty of footholds to climb their family trees. Among the genealogy resources at the Davenport Public Library are birth, death and marriage records; census data, 22,000 books and 18,000 rolls of newspaper microfilm.

In addition to its latest genealogy acquisition from the Moline

Public Library, the Rock Island County Historical Society houses the genealogy collection of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties. The collection, still owned by the genealogy society, formerly was housed at the Rock Island Public Library.

Pamela Langston, the librarian for the Blackhawk Genealogical Society, said her group wanted its genealogy collection housed at the historical society as a convenience to users. The acquisition of the Moline Public Library's genealogy collection is yet another plus for family history researchers, she said.

"Now people don't have to drive from one building to another. All the material is

under one roof," she said.

Chad Eng, head reference librarian at the Moline Public Library, said the library retains its local history collection, its newspaper microfilm collection and basic "how to" books on genealogy but has transferred specific record-type genealogy information to the historical society.

The change made sense, he said, because the library has no genealogy experts and often referred family history researchers to the historical society.

Leslie Kee, director of the Moline Public Library, said budget restraints have cut the library's reference staff from seven to five, all of whom are based at the library's southeast branch.

"The main thing is that the materials are still available and that people will be better served," she said.

Reservations due Tuesday for Genealogical Conference

Renowned author and lecturer Mark Lowe of Springfield, Tenn., will be the featured speaker at the Rock Island and Scott County Genealogical Conference, scheduled for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 26 at the Viking Club, Moline.



Mark Lowe

Cost is \$22, which includes four seminars and lunch.

Reservations must be made by Tuesday by mailing a check to Blackhawk Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 0943, Rock Island, IL 61201.

For more information, call (309) 796-2134.

John Willard can be contacted at (503) 383-2314 or jwillard@qctimes.com.

29th Annual
Quad Cities
Genealogical
Conference

Here she comes



And there she goes!!!

Saturday 26 April 2003
8:00 am to 4:00 pm Viking Club of Moline
1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois
Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois



Oldest Illinois resident celebrates 113 years

Walter Lohse greets 113-year-old Mary Crombie of Dixon, Ill., Monday at her birthday celebration. Crombie is the oldest Illinois resident and the fourth oldest in the world.

Laura Millett

Laura A. (Mrs. Robert) Millett, 79, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, formerly of Rock Island, died Monday, June 9, 2003, at her home following a lengthy illness.



Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church, Rock Island, with the Rev. Jack Smith officiating. Visitation will be 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island. Burial will be in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island. Memorials have been established for the Institute of Cancer Research, the Stom Kettering Cancer Research, the Daughter's of the American Revolution and Crossroads Hospice of Southeast Iowa.

Laura Alpha Millett was born May 23, 1924, on a farm near Dunkerton, Iowa, the first daughter of George F. and Mamie Jean Livingston Westlie. She graduated from Dunkerton High School in 1942. Laura attended the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, where she received her teachers' certification.

For two years, she taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Black Hawk County, Iowa. On Sept. 7, 1946, she was united in marriage to Robert E. Millett at the Dunkerton Baptist Church.

After their marriage, the couple moved to Ames, Iowa. Later they lived in Pittsburgh, Pa., Waterloo, Iowa, and Davenport. The couple then spent the next 37 years in Rock Island. In 2000, the couple moved to Mount Pleasant to be near their daughter, Suzette, and her family.

Mrs. Millett was a homemaker and the wife of former Rock Island Mayor Robert E. Millett.

She was very active in many civic organizations. Her memberships included a charter member, past president and board member of RICAB (Rock Island Clean and Beautiful); president of the Rock Island County Women's Club, an active member of the Davenport Women's Club; president of the Garden Club, where she also served as a judge for the flower shows; president of Y-Wives and the YMCA; Rock Island board member of the Friends of the Library; DAR registrar, regent, committee chairwoman and member on the state and local levels; state and regional representative for the Republican Party for the Iowa caucuses; election judge for Rock Island County for 15 years; a major contributor to the SAR Library in Louisville, Ky., in which a memorial garden has been named for her; a two-time recipient of the Martha Washington Award from the SAR; a member of the Wives Auxiliary California Society of SAR; a major contributor to the Revolutionary War Monument in Des Moines, Iowa; contributor to the Rock Island Botanical Foundation Garden; a member of the Rock Island County Historical Society; a former and charter member of several genealogical societies, of which she had been active in genealogy research for 40 years; an active member of the First Baptist Church; president of the American Baptist Women; a moderator for the 25 churches of the Rock Island County Baptist Association; and she was a co-founder of the senior group XYZ (Extra Years of Zest).

Laura also enjoyed traveling, gardening, art, hand crafts, sewing and rug making, as well as her greatest joy of spending time with her family.

Her family includes her husband, Robert Millett, Mount Pleasant; two daughters, Suzette Wilkins, and her husband, Darrell, Mount Pleasant; and Michele Nelson, and her husband, Christopher, Pekin, Ill.; five grandchildren, Natalie Dyenson, Orlando, Fla.; Valarie Wilkins, Mount Pleasant; Tiffany Nelson, Tanya Nelson and Tasha Nelson, all of Pekin; one great-grandson, Dylan Wilkins, Mount Pleasant; and one sister, Donna Haight, and her husband, Bruce, Minneapolis, Minn. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Glendola Millett.

Grace Eastland

Grace B. Shager Eastland, 94, of Rock Island, passed away Aug. 14, 2003, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.



A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Congregational Church, Moline. It was Grace's wish to be cremated. Visitation is 1 p.m. to service time in the parlor of the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, Moline, Scott County Humane Society, Davenport, or the church, Wendt Funeral Home, Moline, will handle arrangements.



Grace was born March 27, 1919, in Rockford, Ill., to Pearl and Bernise Shager. Grace attended schools in Rockford and Chicago prior to moving to Moline in 1934. Grace was a 1936 graduate of Moline High School and earned her bachelor of arts degree at Augustana College, Rock Island, in 1940.

Memberships and volunteer activities Grace enjoyed included Gleaners Guild, Alice Kennedy King's Daughters Circle, Mary Little Deere Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The Rock Island Preservation Society. Grace was an active member and a quarterly editor of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society. She helped organize Rock Island's first Labor Day parade in 1936 and was a lifetime member of the Friends of the Rock Island Public Library. In the late '60s, one of Grace's most rewarding life experiences was teaching art for three years at Franklin Junior High, Rock Island.

Among Grace's many interests were dining out with her husband, Dick; arranging flowers from Dick's lovely garden; cooking, particularly Oriental, needlecrafts, quilting, and spending time with her husband, children and cat, Bootsie. She loved researching family history and reading about Chicago and local history.

Grace is survived by her husband, Dick; daughter, Sizzan Eastland Rowley; son, John Eastland and wife Liane; daughter, Patti DeVore and husband Drake; son, Larry Eastland and life partner, Mary Jackson; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Special friends who will miss Grace are sister-in-law and friend, Jerry Bohman, her "Lunch Bunch," Cynthia Bliss Eastland and Lajuan Gault. Her parents, Pearl and Bernise Shager, and Dick's parents, Carl and Nell Eastland, preceded her in death. The family extends special thanks to Grace's Home Instead caregivers.

LOOKING FOR AN OLD OBITUARY?

Quad-Cities Online® has archived obituaries dating back more than five years. To view any archived obituary, go to www.qconline.com, click on "obituaries" and follow instructions that will take you back to the desired date.

Wundram: Dowsing is centuries-old craft

Continued from Page A1
time or another been disturbed for a burial.

Grave witching, in this silent place, was a supernatural experience. There was no explicable reason for us to be there, other than to see what happens when one grave witches in an almost forgotten cemetery on an eerie day.

Using wire-like rods, grave witching worked repeatedly for me. I believe that I located some of those who were buried perhaps a century ago or longer in unmarked graves, or whose markers were destroyed, lost or disintegrated.

Grave witching worked, too, on this day for George Carpenter, who lives near Illinois City, a retired Deere & Co. engineer and a respected dowser.

The divining rods, or wires — held freely — would cross supernaturally for both of us while we walked through wet

patches of horse weeds and tiger lilies locating what we believed were forgotten, unmarked graves. No twisting, no turning of the rods. No cheating.

For two others with us, the grave witching was futile, zip. The same divining rods that we used remained straight, uncrossed as they walked our paths of the hidden graves.

Crazy? Bunk? Real? Take your choice. It's said the spectral success of a dowser comes from the subconscious of the person doing the dowsing, meaning that person is sensitive to changes in the earth. The original earth in a cemetery is sensitive to changes caused by digging to bury the dead. It makes no difference how long ago the burial took place, the reference books say.

Dowsing for anything underground has been occurring for centuries. An 8,000-year-old

cave painting in North Africa shows a dowser, divining rods in hand. Old-timers of the last century or so preferred thin peach branches to locate well water, but Carpenter says that even bent coat hangers will work, if in the proper hands.

Most call it water witching, searching water for where to dig a well, or to find underground pipes. Grave witching is more unusual, says Carpenter as the two of us walk slowly between the century-old stone markers of Mary and John Butler. At what we presumed were their burial sites alongside their stones, the divining rods in our hands instantly crossed. In three wide plots between the two Butler markers, the rods in our hands instantly crossed again — once, twice, three times.

"That is probably where their three children are buried," says Dwight Mohlenbruck, a leader

of the Rock Island County Historical Society and a dean among area genealogists. "Often, there were no markers for children." He is roaming this lonely cemetery with us on this gray drizzly day that seems to suit our mission.

Essex Cemetery, in a cove of trees, is named for a pioneer farmer named Isaac Bowen Essex, who died in 1877 and is buried in this lonely cemetery along with many relatives who died before and after him. It is not publicly accessible, and no burials have been conducted there for years because morticians fear the hearse will get stuck in the cornfield.

We were admitted through two closed gates, driving onto a lane through a soggy cornfield so misty that we turned on the car's headlights. A dozen cows eyed us suspiciously; then, a black one boldly began kicking its rear feet at the car's front

end, aiming for the headlights.

"While dowsing at Essex Cemetery one day," Carpenter says, "my witching rods instantly crossed in one spot covered with earth and thick grass. We shoved down a thin rod and hit something hard."

Mohlenbruck had a shovel that day and uncovered the large tombstone of Isaac Essex, the cemetery's namesake. Somehow, it had been knocked over and buried maybe a half-century or so ago.

Nearby, the stone of his widow, Isabella, was uncovered, and while grave witching near the markers, Carpenter was convinced he located the exact burial spots of Isaac and Isabella.

Mohlenbruck contacted members of the Essex family in Michigan. "They were so thrilled that they came to the cemetery to clean the marker and help pay for fencing," he

says.

Carpenter and I repeatedly strolled the cemetery, grave witching, watching our rods mysteriously cross. The rods in the hands of Mohlenbruck and Quad-City Times photographer Jeff Cook stayed straight forward.

"Death is a mystery we don't understand," Mohlenbruck says, and along with Carpenter — while standing in a chilly rain — we tried to grasp the reasons why dowsing will work for some and not others, and why it is trusted by so many.

Mohlenbruck calls it intuition, a gut feeling. "It is believing. I don't know in what, but dowsing is to believe in a force."

Maybe that is why I can easily balance eggs on the vernal equinox, the first day of spring

Bill Wundram can be contacted at (563) 383-2049 or bwundram@qclines.com.

Featured Speaker

J. Mark Lowe

J. Mark Lowe has been researching for over 26 years. Mark is currently the president of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society, and implemented a year-long series of genealogical skill building workshops for members.

Innovative and enthusiastic, Mark shares personal experiences that help beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. His experience as a classroom teacher, principal and professional researcher help him relate to a variety of groups with a dynamic style. Mark is active in the USGenWeb project as a county coordinator in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Mark has recently joined Linda Woodward Geiger, CGRSSM, CGLSM, and Pamela Boyer Porter, CGRSSM, CGLSM to form a new partnership, the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance) to direct week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives.

Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties,
Illinois

Program Schedule

Saturday April 26, 2003

Door open to public at 8:00 am

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

"Finding Your Landless Ancestors"

10:05 - 10:25 am

Coffee and browsing

10:25 - 11:30 am

"Over The Mountain, Across The Plains --- Using Electronic Records To Trace Our Ancestors"

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Lunch and browsing

1:00 - 2:00 pm

"Here Comes The Bride, And There She Goes!!!"

2:00 - 2:25 pm

Coffee and browsing

2:25 - 3:25 pm

"Out On A Limb, Trapped By Bad Research"

3:25 - 3:45 pm

Closing remarks

NO TAPE RECORDING PERMITTED

Door prize drawings throughout the day

Registration Form 29th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Clip and Send

The registration fee is \$22.00 per person and includes conference handouts, coffee and a buffet luncheon. Any registrations received after April 21st will not include the luncheon. Cancellations will not be honored after April 22nd. A waiting list will be kept in case of cancellations. You must include your telephone number on your registration form. Mail this form and check(s) made payable to:

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference
PO Box 0943
Moline IL, 61266-0943

Your cancelled check will be your confirmation and receipt. If you desire other confirmation from the registrar, enclose a SASE or postcard. For additional registrations, list names and addresses on a separate sheet.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code + 4 _____

Area Code _____

Phone Number _____

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 240



J. Mark Lowe, CG

Mr. Lowe is a full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer. He shares personal experiences that help the beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. Mark lives in Robertson Co., Tennessee which lies in Northern Middle Tennessee along the Kentucky border. With family history in both states, a knowledge of the interaction of citizens along borders helps Mark resolve difficult issues using often over looked records. As a national and regional speaker, he has brought these areas of expertise along with his unique humor and southern style to many diverse audiences. As the Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance), Mark has developed and directed week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives.

NO TAPE RECORDING PERMITTED

**NO CELL PHONE USE ALLOWED WHILE THE
SPEAKER IS TALKING**



Program

- 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
"Finding Your Landless Ancestors" ✓
- 10:05 - 10:25 am
Coffee and browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am
"Over The Mountain, Across The Plains—Using Electronic Records To Trace Our Ancestors"
- 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Lunch and browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm
"Here Comes The Bride, And There She Goes!!!"
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm
Coffee and browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm
"Out On A Limb, Trapped By Bad Research"
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm
Closing remarks

PLEASE

return to your chair by the time set out in the schedule. This avoids distractions and inconvenience to our speaker and other conference attendees.
Thank you

EXHIBITORS and/or CONTRIBUTORS

- Blackhawk Genealogical Society
Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois
- Clatsop County Genealogical Society
Clatsop, Oregon
- Family Chronicle Magazine
- Genealogy Publishing Company
- German American Heritage Center
- Heritage Books, Inc.
- Hopkinson Book Company
- Modern Women of America
- National Genealogical Society
- Origins
- New England Historical & Genealogical Society
- Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Quad City Heritage League
- Scott County Historical Society
- Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
- Mary Storbeck of Storbecks
- Southern California Genealogical Society
- The Gold Bug
- Reunions Magazine
- Tuttle Antiquarian Books
- Ye Olde Genealogy Shoppe

THANK YOU

The Quad Cities Genealogical Conference Committee appreciates your support and cooperation which makes a conference of this stature possible. Your attendance is more than adequate compensation for the time and effort we devote to arranging this conference.

Eileen Nelson, Pam Lawson 2003 Co-Chairs

- Exhibits.....Janet Greenlee
Finance.....Eulalia Garrett
Hospitality.....Kathryn Foulkes, Marilyn Mix
Mailing labels.....Sandra Luse
Registration.....Eulalia Garrett, Carol Sachs

101-year-old woman outlives grave details

RICHLAND CENTER, Wis. (AP)—A woman who outlived the inscription on her tombstone died at the age of 101 after a company corrected the monument for free.

Gladys Briggs' tombstone in Basswood Cemetery listed her birth year of 1901 and "19" for the century in which she was expected to die.

She said in August at the time that she never thought she would outlive the 20th century when she bought the stone with her second husband, Buford, who died in 1988. "No, I sure didn't," she said. "Who ever would have thought that way back then?"

Family marking 85th family reunion

By Andrew Green
Staff writer

A family history is usually a collection of stories and old photographs. Generally, it does not mean three binders filled with carefully clipped articles, pictures and letters nestled in a wicker basket.

But that's exactly what Elinor Griffin has collected to keep track of the history — not just of her family — but of her family's family reunions.

Her clan, the Larsons, will celebrate their 85th family reunion Sunday at Riverside Park in Moline.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "I just hope we can keep it going."

The first reunion was in 1917 when the seven Larson brothers, including Mrs. Griffin's father, and their sister gathered at a brother's farm. The reunion became a tradition as the Larsons have gathered every year since then, except once in the late 1940s in the middle of the polio scare.

"I guess they just got on the phone and canceled it," Mrs. Griffin said. "Because I know they had been planning on having it until everyone realized that polio was so bad."

She has photos from decades of reunions, including several

from the 1917 gathering.

Of the 30 people who crowded into the group shot, only one — a small girl tucked into the bottom left of the picture — is still alive. That little girl, Louise Eastburg, is now in her 90s, Mrs. Griffin said, and plans to attend Sunday's event.

Mrs. Griffin and her husband, Don, have been busy preparing for the day, keeping one eye on the weather. Although he married into the Larsons, Mr. Griffin chairs the reunions.

"They just nominate people for the position," he said. "I guess I opened my mouth at the wrong time."

"They expect to draw at least 80 aunts, uncles and cousins of varying degrees from across the Midwest. When the guests arrive Sunday, they will get color-coded nametags linking them to one of the original seven siblings, making it easier to determine relationships.

Each family also must check in with Russell Larson, the official secretary. Each year, he records births, deaths and other happenings and plots them on a chart.

The planned activities include games for the kids, a potluck meal and an auction of homemade crafts, which helps



Todd Muenner / staff

Elinor and Don Griffin of Moline hold two photographs from Mrs. Griffin's first family reunion in 1917. The Griffins are organizing an 85th reunion Sunday at Riverside Park in Moline.

subsidize the reunion's cost.

Mrs. Griffin is auctioning off pictures she made from dried flowers.

"We had an auction 10 years ago, and we haven't needed to have one since," Mr. Griffin said. "But postage for that many people can get expensive."

The dinner will be followed by a short meeting "to remember those who went before us and any recent deaths," he said, and for special recognition of the

oldest and youngest guests and those who traveled the farthest.

The last award is not so competitive, Mrs. Griffin said, because most of the family still lives in Illinois, where her grandparents settled after emigrating from Sweden. The reunions are still named in honor of her grandfather — the C.W. Larson reunions — who died before the tradition was started.

Families given opportunity to write history

By Carol Loretz
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — History is what happened yesterday, or even earlier today.

People who plan to be buried in Rock Island's Chippiannock Cemetery or have relatives there can write their own personal histories for a series of books called "Passages: A Collection of Personal Histories of Chippiannock Cemetery."

"Every life has done something they want to be remembered for," said cemetery superintendent Greg Voegel. "When we wrote my father's obituary, it was difficult for us kids to determine what he would have wanted us to put in there and what was most important to him."

"Passages" gives people the opportunity to write about their own lives for a project to commemorate the cemetery's 150th anniversary in 2005.

Mr. Voegel said his friend, Gordon Cundiff of Peoria, came up with the idea, which converged with the national popularity of people writing their own histories. The idea also meshes with Chippiannock's mission to keep more data and genealogical information about its inhabitants than other cemeteries.

Each personal history can

reach about 350 words, which will be published on two pages with a black-and-white head shot. The hardback books will sell for \$19.99 apiece. Each volume will contain 125 profiles, so the first book will be published as soon as 125 profiles are collected. One day, they may be online.

Individuals can write one history for immediate publication adjacent to their family members' pages, then update it in later years, Mr. Voegel said. They will be asked to sign a release, so the information can be published and edited. Content will not be checked for accuracy.

Participation is limited to histories of those already interred at Chippiannock or those who intend to be. Inclusion is free to anyone making a pre-need purchase of goods or services. Otherwise, it's \$150 to honor fam-

ily and friends already interred.

Chippiannock won't make money on the books, but it does not want to subsidize them either, Mr. Voegel said.

Many, many people have expressed interest in writing personal histories, but Mr. Voegel is unsure how many will take time to do it. The cemetery will provide model guidelines that can get them started.

People also can enroll in the free Tuesday personal-history writing workshop by Terri Miller-Boyd of Bettendorf. She will edit the submissions for spelling and grammar.

The histories can focus on one event, list achievements or encompass a philosophy of life. They will become a resource for historians and genealogists.

Participation in the book is not required to attend the workshop.

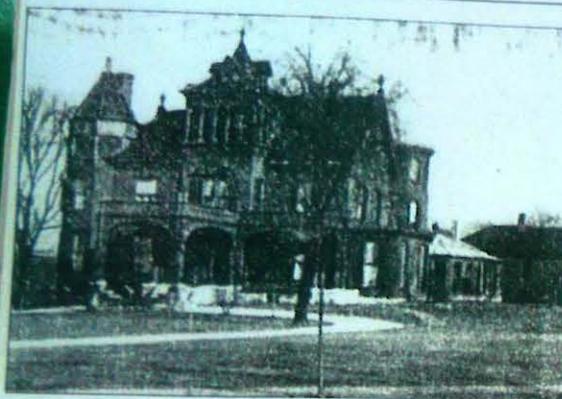
"We want to encourage people to write about themselves by recording what they have done in their lifetime," Mr. Voegel said.

"Create your own journal of family history that can be handed down to the next generation."

For more information, call (309) 788-6622.

Staff writer Carol Loretz can be reached at 786-6441, Ext. 209, or by e-mail at loretz@qconline.com.

Q-C Area



Submitted

This early 1900s postcard from Shannon Hall shows the front of the house purchased and remodeled by Philander Lathrop Cable, who came to Rock Island to be a banker and became a major owner of railroad interests. The home at 2915 5th Ave. was home to the Cable family until 1934, and, after being vacant for seven years, fell to vandals and the wrecking ball in 1941. The Mid-American Energy building now occupies the site.

Vandals, wrecking ball claimed famous Cable home

Philander Lathrop Cable died on May 21, 1886, less than a week after John Deere was laid to rest. The Argus stated that, "What Mr. Deere was to Moline, Mr. Cable was to Rock Island."

Both men were born elsewhere, but reached their business, financial and personal heights in their adopted cities. Each was an indisputable genius and civic benefactor.

P.L. Cable arrived in Rock Island in 1856 with his friend, Philemon Mitchell, carrying cash to buy a bank. They bought the bank, but Cable soon decided opportunity lay elsewhere.

He sold his bank stock to Cornelius Lynde in 1860 and invested instead in local coal mining. But coal is worthless until it is reaches someone who needs it. Railroads were the perfect way to transport this heavy black gold — and other commodities as well.

Cable saw the potential. He began buying railroad stock, starting with the small Rock Island and Peoria line. Eventually, he and his nephew, Ransom, were major owners of railroads throughout the country, including the famed Rock Island Line.

Around the time he sold his bank interest, Mr. Cable bought a brick house that had been built by Lemuel Andrews on the north side of Moline Avenue at an address that later would be known as 2915 5th Ave.

According to Pamela Langston, writing in the local history book "Joined by a River," the Andrews house was completely renovated and redecorated for the Cable family, which also included wife Mary, son Ben T. and daughter Luise.

Postcards from Home

he hoped to find a more healthful climate.

En route, he stopped in San Antonio, Texas. The San Antonio climate proved so comfortable that he bought a thousand-acre ranch and, in 1883, built an 18-room home where the family wintered for the next 35 years.

After Mr. Cable's death in 1886, his wife, Mary, remained in their Rock Island house until she died in 1895. The house then was known as it is captioned on our postcard — the residence of Hon. Ben T. Cable. The title came from his 1890 election to the House of Representatives where he served one term.

When Ben became an invalid around 1920, he added a three-story elevator at the northwest corner, but only used it for three months before he died in 1923.

Ben's wife remained at the home until her death in 1934. Their son, Philander, who had been born in France, had already left the Rock Island area. He graduated from Harvard and joined the State Department in the Foreign Service. He was only 49 when he died in 1940.

After Mrs. Cable's death, the house was vacant for seven years. Then, on June 7, 1941, Argus columnist George Wickstrom wrote the "obituary for Rock Island's most famous house." The Cable house was going to be demolished and the land used for industry.

The profusely illustrated article is worth reading in its entirety. Although the home had

29th Annual
Quad Cities
Genealogical
Conference

Here she comes



And there she goes!!!

Saturday 26 April 2003

8:00 am to 4:00 pm Viking Club of Moline

1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois

Sponsored by

Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois



Oldest Illinois resident celebrates 113 years

Walter Lohse greets 113-year-old Mary Crombie of Dixon, Ill., Monday at her birthday celebration. Crombie is the oldest Illinois resident and the fourth oldest in the world.

Laura Millett

Laura A. (Mrs. Robert) Millett, 79, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, formerly of Rock Island, died Monday, June 9, 2003, at her home following a lengthy illness.



Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church, Rock Island, with the Rev. Jack Smith officiating. Visitation will be 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Wheelan Funeral Home, Rock Island. Burial will be in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island. Memorials have been established for the Institute of Cancer Research, the Stom. Kettering Cancer Research, the Daughter's of the American Revolution and Crossroads Hospice of Southeast Iowa.

Laura Alpha Millett was born May 23, 1924, on a farm near Dunkerton, Iowa, the first daughter of George F. and Mamie Jean Livingston Westlie. She graduated from Dunkerton High School in 1942. Laura attended the Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, where she received her teachers' certification.

For two years, she taught school in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Black Hawk County, Iowa. On Sept. 7, 1946, she was united in marriage to Robert E. Millett at the Dunkerton Baptist Church.

After their marriage, the couple moved to Ames, Iowa. Later they lived in Pittsburgh, Pa., Waterloo, Iowa, and Davenport. The couple then spent the next 37 years in Rock Island. In 2000, the couple moved to Mount Pleasant to be near their daughter, Suzette, and her family.

Mrs. Millett was a homemaker and the wife of former Rock Island Mayor Robert E. Millett.

She was very active in many civic organizations. Her memberships included a charter member, past president and board member of RICAB (Rock Island Clean and Beautiful); president of the Rock Island County Women's Club; an active member of the Davenport Women's Club; president of the Garden Club, where she also served as a judge for the flower shows; president of Y-Wives and the YMCA; Rock Island board member of the Friends of the Library; DAR registrar, regent, committee chairwoman and member on the state and local levels; state and regional representative for the Republican Party for the Iowa caucuses; election judge for Rock Island County for 12 years; a major contributor to the SAR Library in Louisville, Ky., in which a memorial garden has been named for her; a two-time recipient of the Martha Washington Award from the SAR; a member of the Wives Auxiliary California Society of SAR; a major contributor to the Revolutionary War Monument in Des Moines, Iowa; contributor to the Rock Island Botanical Foundation Garden; a member of the Rock Island County Historical Society; a founder and charter member of several genealogical societies, of which she had been active in genealogy research for 40 years; an active member of the First Baptist Church; president of the American Baptist Women; a moderator for the 35 churches of the Rock Island County Baptist Association; and she was a co-founder of the senior group XYZ (Extra Years of Zest).

Laura also enjoyed traveling, gardening, art, hand crafts, sewing and rug making, as well as her greatest joy of spending time with her family.

Her family includes her husband, Robert Millett, Mount Pleasant; two daughters, Suzette Wilkins, and her husband, Darrell, Mount Pleasant; and Michele Nelson, and her husband, Christopher, Pekin, Ill.; five grandchildren, Natalie Dymson, Orlando, Fla.; Valarie Wilkins, Mount Pleasant; Tiffany Nelson, Tanya Nelson and Tasha Nelson, all of Pekin; one great-grandson, Dylan Wilkins, Mount Pleasant; and one sister, Donna Haight, and her husband, Bruce, Minneapolis, Minn. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Glendola Millett.

Grace Eastland

Grace B. Shager Eastland, 84, of Rock Island, passed away Aug. 14, 2003, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.



A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Congregational Church, Moline. It was Grace's wish to be cremated. Visitation is 1 p.m. to service time in the parlor of the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, Moline, Scott County Humane Society, Davenport, or the church, Wendt Funeral Home, Moline, will handle arrangements.



Grace was born March 27, 1919, in Rockford, Ill., to Pearl and Bernise Shager. Grace attended schools in Rockford and Chicago prior to moving to Moline in 1934. Grace was a 1936 graduate of Moline High School and earned her bachelor of arts degree at Augustana College, Rock Island, in 1940.

Memberships and volunteer activities Grace enjoyed included Gleaners Guild, Alice Kennedy King's Daughters Circle, Mary Little Deere Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The Rock Island Preservation Society. Grace was an active member and a quarterly editor of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society. She helped organize Rock Island's first Labor Day parade in 1936 and was a lifetime member of the Friends of the Rock Island Public Library. In the late '60s, one of Grace's most rewarding life experiences was teaching art for three years at Franklin Junior High, Rock Island.

Among Grace's many interests were dining out with her husband, Dick; arranging flowers from Dick's lovely garden; cooking, particularly Oriental, needlecrafts, quilting, and spending time with her husband, children and cat, Bootsie. She loved researching family history and reading about Chicago and local history.

Grace is survived by her husband, Dick; daughter, Suzan Eastland Rowley; son, John Eastland and wife Liane; daughter, Patti DeVore and husband Drake; son, Larry Eastland and life partner, Mary Jackson; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Special friends who will miss Grace are sister-in-law and friend, Jerry Bohman, her "Lunch Bunch," Cynthia Bliss Eastland and Lajuan Gault. Her parents, Pearl and Bernise Shager, and Dick's parents, Carl and Nell Eastland, preceded her in death. The family extends special thanks to Grace's Home Instead caregivers.

LOOKING FOR AN OLD OBITUARY?

Quad-Cities Online® has archived obituaries dating back more than five years. To view any archived obituary, go to www.qconline.com, click on "obituaries" and follow instructions that will take you back to the desired date.

Wundram: Dowsing is centuries-old craft

Continued from Page A1
time or another been disturbed for a burial.

Grave witching, in this silent place, was a supernatural experience. There was no explicable reason for us to be there, other than to see what happens when one grave witches in an almost forgotten cemetery on an eerie day.

Using wire-like rods, grave witching worked repeatedly for me. I believe that I located some of those who were buried perhaps a century ago or longer in unmarked graves, or whose markers were destroyed, lost or disintegrated.

Grave witching worked, too, on this day for George Carpenter, who lives near Illinois City, a retired Deere & Co. engineer and a respected dowser.

The divining rods, or wires — held freely — would cross supernaturally for both of us while we walked through wet

patches of horse weeds and tiger lilies locating what we believed were forgotten, unmarked graves. No twisting, no turning of the rods. No cheating.

For two others with us, the grave witching was futile, zip. The same divining rods that we used remained straight, uncrossed as they walked our paths of the hidden graves.

Crazy? Bunk? Real? Take your choice. It's said the spectral success of a dowser comes from the subconscious of the person doing the dowsing, meaning that person is sensitive to changes in the earth. The original earth in a cemetery is sensitive to changes caused by digging to bury the dead. It makes no difference how long ago the burial took place, the reference books say.

Dowsing for anything underground has been occurring for centuries. An 8,000-year-old

cave painting in North Africa shows a dowser, divining rods in hand. Old-timers of the last century or so preferred thin peach branches to locate well water, but Carpenter says that even bent coat hangers will work, if in the proper hands.

Most call it water witching, searching water for where to dig a well, or to find underground pipes. Grave witching is more unusual, says Carpenter as the two of us walk slowly between the century-old stone markers of Mary and John Butler. At what we presumed were their burial sites alongside their stones, the divining rods in our hands instantly crossed. In three wide plots between the two Butler markers, the rods in our hands instantly crossed again — once, twice, three times.

"That is probably where their three children are buried," says Dwight Mohlenbruck, a leader

of the Rock Island County Historical Society and a dean among area genealogists. "Often, there were no markers for children." He is roaming this lonely cemetery with us on this gray, grizzly day that seems to suit our mission.

Essex Cemetery, in a cove of trees, is named for a pioneer farmer named Isaac Bowen Essex, who died in 1877 and is buried in this lonely cemetery along with many relatives who died before and after him. It is not publicly accessible, and no burials have been conducted there for years because morticians fear the hearses will get stuck in the cornfield.

We were admitted through two closed gates, driving onto a lane through a soggy cornfield so misty that we turned on the car's headlights. A dozen cows eyed us suspiciously; then, a black one boldly began kicking its rear feet at the car's front

end, aiming for the headlights.

"While dowsing at Essex Cemetery one day," Carpenter says, "my witching rods instantly crossed in one spot covered with earth and thick grass. We shoved down a thin rod and hit something hard."

Mohlenbruck had a shovel that day and uncovered the large tombstone of Isaac Essex, the cemetery's namesake. Somehow, it had been knocked over and buried maybe a half-century or so ago.

Nearby, the stone of his widow, Isabella, was uncovered, and while grave witching near the markers, Carpenter was convinced he located the exact burial spots of Isaac and Isabella.

Mohlenbruck contacted members of the Essex family in Michigan. "They were so thrilled that they came to the cemetery to clean the marker and help pay for fencing," he

says. Carpenter and I repeatedly strolled the cemetery, grave witching, watching our rods mysteriously cross. The rods in the hands of Mohlenbruck and Quad-City Times photographer Jeff Cook stayed straight forward.

"Death is a mystery we don't understand," Mohlenbruck says, and along with Carpenter — while standing in a chilly rain — we tried to grasp the reasons why dowsing will work for some and not others, and why it is trusted by so many. Mohlenbruck calls it intuition, a gut feeling. "It is believing. I don't know in what, but dowsing is to believe in a force."

Maybe that is why I can easily balance eggs on the vernal equinox, the first day of spring

Bill Wundram can be contacted at (562) 383-2249 or bwundram@qctimes.com.

Featured Speaker

J. Mark Lowe

J. Mark Lowe has been researching for over 26 years. Mark is currently the president of the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society, and implemented a year-long series of genealogical skill building workshops for members.

Innovative and enthusiastic, Mark shares personal experiences that help beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. His experience as a classroom teacher, principal and professional researcher help him relate to a variety of groups with a dynamic style. Mark is active in the USGenWeb project as a county coordinator in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Mark has recently joined Linda Woodward Geiger, CGRSSM, CGLSM, and Pamela Boyer Porter, CGRSSM, CGLSM to form a new partnership, the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance) to direct week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives.

Sponsored by

Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
of Rock Island & Mercer Counties,
Illinois



Program Schedule
Saturday April 26, 2003
Door open to public at 8:00 am

- 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
"Finding Your Landless Ancestors"
- 10:05 - 10:25 am
Coffee and browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am
"Over The Mountain, Across The Plains --- Using Electronic Records To Trace Our Ancestors"
- 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Lunch and browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm
"Here Comes The Bride, And There She Goes!!!"
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm
Coffee and browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm
"Out On A Limb, Trapped By Bad Research"
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm
Closing remarks

NO TAPE RECORDING PERMITTED

Door prize drawings throughout the day

Registration Form 29th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



The registration fee is \$22.00 per person and includes conference handouts, coffee and a buffet luncheon. Any registrations received after April 21st will not include the luncheon. Cancellations will not be honored after April 22nd. A waiting list will be kept in case of cancellations. You must include your telephone number on your registration form. Mail this form and check(s) made payable to:

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference
PO Box 0943
Moline IL, 61266-0943

Your cancelled check will be your confirmation and receipt. If you desire other confirmation from the registrar, enclose a SASE or postcard. For additional registrations, list names and addresses on a separate sheet.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code + 4 _____

Area Code _____ Phone Number _____

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 240



J. Mark Lowe, CG

Mr. Lowe is a full-time professional genealogist, author, and lecturer. He shares personal experiences that help the beginning and experienced researchers gain new skills and insights for research. Mark lives in Robertson Co., Tennessee which lies in Northern Middle Tennessee along the Kentucky border. With family history in both states, a knowledge of the interaction of citizens along borders helps Mark resolve difficult issues using often over looked records. As a national and regional speaker, he has brought these areas of expertise along with his unique humor and southern style to many diverse audiences. As the Director of the Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance), Mark has developed and directed week-long interactive learning sessions and hands-on research focusing on original documents and manuscripts at regional archives.

NO TAPE RECORDING PERMITTED

**NO CELL PHONE USE ALLOWED WHILE THE
SPEAKER IS TALKING**



Program

- 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
"Finding Your Landless Ancestors" ✓
- 10:05 - 10:25 am
Coffee and browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am
"Over The Mountain, Across The Plains—Using Electronic Records To Trace Our Ancestors"
- 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Lunch and browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm
"Here Comes The Bride, And There She Goes!!!"
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm
Coffee and browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm
"Out On A Limb, Trapped By Bad Research"
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm
Closing remarks

PLEASE

return to your chair by the time set out in the schedule. This avoids distractions and inconvenience to our speaker and other conference attendees.
Thank you

EXHIBITORS and/or CONTRIBUTORS

Baltimore Genealogical Society	New England Historical & Genealogical Society
Bay Islands, Mexico Counties, Illinois	Quad Cities Consortium of Veterans Bureau
California Genealogical Society	Quad City Heritage Center
Creative Memories	Scott County Historical Society
Family Connection Magazine	Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society
Genealogy.com	Mary Storbeck of Storbeck's
Genealogical Publishing Company	Southern California Genealogical Society
German American Heritage Center	The Gold Bug
Heritage Books, Inc.	Reunions Magazine
Hughson Book Company	Tuttle Antiquarian Books
Modern Waxmen of America	
National Genealogical Society	
Origins	Ye Olde Genealogy Shoppe

THANK YOU

The Quad Cities Genealogical Conference Committee appreciates your support and cooperation which makes a conference of this stature possible. Your attendance is more than adequate compensation for the time and effort we devote to arranging this conference.

Eileen Nelson, Pam Lawson 2003 Co-Chairs

Exhibits.....	Janet Greenlee
Finance.....	Eulalia Garrett
Hospitality.....	Kathryn Foulkes, Marilyn Mix
Mailing labels.....	Sandra Luse
Registration.....	Eulalia Garrett, Carol Sachs

101-year-old woman outlives grave details

RICHLAND CENTER, Wis. (AP) — A woman who outlived the inscription on her tombstone died at the age of 101 after a company corrected the monument for free.

Gladys Briggs' tombstone in Basswood Cemetery listed her birth year of 1901 and "19" for the century in which she was expected to die.

She said in August at the time that she never thought she would outlive the 20th century when she bought the stone with her second husband, Buford, who died in 1968. "No, I sure didn't," she said. "Who ever would have thought that way back then?"

Family marking 85th family reunion

By Andrew Green
Staff writer

A family history is usually a collection of stories and old photographs. Generally, it does not mean three binders filled with carefully clipped articles, pictures and letters nestled in a wicker basket.

But that's exactly what Elinor Griffin has collected to keep track of the history — not just of her family — but of her family's family reunions.

Her clan, the Larsons, will celebrate their 85th family reunion Sunday at Riverside Park in Moline.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "I just hope we can keep it going."

The first reunion was in 1917 when the seven Larson brothers, including Mrs. Griffin's father, and their sister gathered at a brother's farm. The reunion became a tradition as the Larsons have gathered every year since then, except once in the late 1940s, in the middle of the polio scare.

"I guess they just got on the phone and canceled it," Mrs. Griffin said. "Because I know they had been planning on having it until everyone realized that polio was so bad."

She has photos from decades of reunions, including several

from the 1917 gathering.

Of the 30 people who crowded into the group shot, only one — a small girl tucked into the bottom left of the picture — is still alive. That little girl, Louise Eastburg, is now in her 90s, Mrs. Griffin said, and plans to attend Sunday's event.

Mrs. Griffin and her husband, Don, have been busy preparing for the day, keeping one eye on the weather. Although he married into the Larsons, Mr. Griffin chairs the reunions.

"They just nominate people for the position," he said. "I guess I opened my mouth at the wrong time."

They expect to draw at least 80 aunts, uncles and cousins of varying degrees from across the Midwest. When the guests arrive Sunday, they will get color-coded nametags linking them to one of the original seven siblings, making it easier to determine relationships.

Each family also must check in with Russell Larson, the official secretary. Each year, he records births, deaths and other happenings and plots them on a chart.

The planned activities include games for the kids, a potluck meal and an auction of homemade crafts, which helps



Todd Moener / staff

Elinor and Don Griffin of Moline hold two photographs from Mrs. Griffin's first family reunion in 1917. The Griffins are organizing an 85th reunion Sunday at Riverside Park in Moline.

subsidize the reunion's cost.

Mrs. Griffin is auctioning off pictures she made from dried flowers.

"We had an auction 10 years ago, and we haven't needed to have one since," Mr. Griffin said. "But postage for that many people can get expensive."

The dinner will be followed by a short meeting "to remember those who went before us and any recent deaths," he said, and for special recognition of the

oldest and youngest guests and those who traveled the farthest.

The last award is not so competitive, Mrs. Griffin said, because most of the family still lives in Illinois, where her grandparents settled after emigrating from Sweden. The reunions are still named in honor of her grandfather — the C.W. Larson reunions — who died before the tradition was started.

Families given opportunity to write history

By Carol Loretz
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — History is what happened yesterday, or even earlier today.

People who plan to be buried in Rock Island's Chippiannock Cemetery or have relatives there can write their own personal histories for a series of books called "Passages: A Collection of Personal Histories of Chippiannock Cemetery."

"Every life has done something they want to be remembered for," said cemetery superintendent Greg Voegel. "When we wrote my father's obituary, it was difficult for us kids to determine what he would have wanted us to put in there and what was most important to him."

"Passages" gives people the opportunity to write about their own lives for a project to commemorate the cemetery's 150th anniversary in 2005.

Mr. Voegel said his friend, Gordon Cundiff of Peoria, came up with the idea, which converged with the national popularity of people writing their own histories. The idea also meshes with Chippiannock's mission to keep more data and genealogical information about its inhabitants than other cemeteries.

Each personal history can

reach about 350 words, which will be published on two pages with a black-and-white head shot. The hardback books will sell for \$19.99 apiece. Each volume will contain 125 profiles, so the first book will be published as soon as 125 profiles are collected. One day, they may be online.

Individuals can write one history for immediate publication adjacent to their family members' pages, then update it in later years, Mr. Voegel said. They will be asked to sign a release, so the information can be published and edited. Content will not be checked for accuracy.

Participation is limited to histories of those already interred at Chippiannock or those who intend to be. Inclusion is free to anyone making a pre-need purchase of goods or services. Otherwise, it's \$150 to honor fam-

ily and friends already interred.

Chippiannock won't make money on the books, but it does not want to subsidize them either, Mr. Voegel said.

Many, many people have expressed interest in writing personal histories, but Mr. Voegel is unsure how many will take time to do it. The cemetery will provide model guidelines that can get them started.

People also can enroll in the free Tuesday personal-history writing workshop by Terri Miller-Boyd of Bettendorf. She will edit the submissions for spelling and grammar.

The histories can focus on one event, list achievements or encompass a philosophy of life. They will become a resource for historians and genealogists.

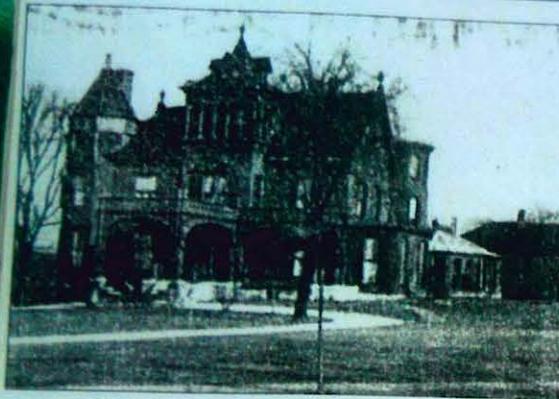
Participation in the book is not required to attend the workshop.

"We want to encourage people to write about themselves by recording what they have done in their lifetime," Mr. Voegel said. "Create your own journal of family history that can be handed down to the next generation."

For more information, call (309) 788-6622.

Staff writer Carol Loretz can be reached at 786-6441, Ext. 209, or by e-mail at loretz@qconline.com.

Q-C Area



Submitted

This early 1900s postcard from Shannon Hall shows the front of the house purchased and remodeled by Philander Lathrop Cable, who came to Rock Island to be a banker and became a major owner of railroad interests. The home at 2915 5th Ave. was home to the Cable family until 1934, and, after being vacant for seven years, fell to vandals and the wrecking ball in 1941. The Mid-American Energy building now occupies the site.

Vandals, wrecking ball claimed famous Cable home

Philander Lathrop Cable died on May 21, 1886, less than a week after John Deere was laid to rest. The Argus stated that, "What Mr. Deere was to Moline, Mr. Cable was to Rock Island."

Both men were born elsewhere, but reached their business, financial and personal heights in their adopted cities. Each was an indisputable genius and civic benefactor.

P.L. Cable arrived in Rock Island in 1856 with his friend, Philemon Mitchell, carrying cash to buy a bank. They bought the bank, but Cable soon decided opportunity lay elsewhere.

He sold his bank stock to Cornelius Lynde in 1860 and invested instead in local coal mining. But coal is worthless until it reaches someone who needs it. Railroads were the perfect way to transport this heavy black gold — and other commodities as well.

Cable saw the potential. He began buying railroad stock, starting with the small Rock Island and Peoria line. Eventually, he and his nephew, Ransom, were major owners of railroads throughout the country, including the famed Rock Island Line.

Around the time he sold his bank interest, Mr. Cable bought a brick house that had been built by Lemuel Andrews on the north side of Moline Avenue at an address that later would be known as 2915 5th Ave.

According to Pamela Langston, writing in the local history book "Joined by a River," the Andrews house was completely renovated and redecorated for the Cable family, which also included wife Mary, son Ben T. and daughter Lucie.

Postcards from Home

he hoped to find a more healthful climate.

En route, he stopped in San Antonio, Texas. The San Antonio climate proved so comfortable that he bought a thousand-acre ranch and, in 1883, built an 18-room home where the family wintered for the next 35 years.

After Mr. Cable's death in 1886, his wife, Mary, remained in their Rock Island house until she died in 1895. The house then was known as it is captioned on our postcard — the residence of Hon. Ben T. Cable. The title came from his 1890 election to the House of Representatives where he served one term.

When Ben became an invalid around 1920, he added a three-story elevator at the northwest corner, but only used it for three months before he died in 1923.

Ben's wife remained at the home until her death in 1934. Their son, Philander, who had been born in France, had already left the Rock Island area. He graduated from Harvard and joined the State Department in the Foreign Service. He was only 49 when he died in 1940.

After Mrs. Cable's death, the house was vacant for seven years. Then, on June 7, 1941, Argus columnist George Wickstrom wrote the "obituary for Rock Island's most famous house." The Cable house was going to be demolished and the land used for industry.

The profusely illustrated article is worth reading in its entirety. Although the home had

known as 2915 5th Ave.

According to Pamela Langston, writing in the local history book "Joined by a River," the Andrews house was completely renovated and redecorated for the Cable family, which also included wife Mary, son Ben T. and daughter Lucie.

A new gabled roof and portico with marble steps were added to the exterior. The interior was gussied-up with marble mantles and elegant cornices. Bathrooms were added as well, including perhaps the first built-in bathtub in Rock Island.

Our early 1900s postcard from Shannon Hall shows the front of the house as viewed from the southwest. The center tower that faced 29th Street was likely original, but the gabled roof and "new" portico at the front were added by the Cables.

We can see two other towers and, according to Sanborn maps, there was yet another tower at the far rear. A large glass conservatory is visible at the right rear of the house.

Two buildings, both residences, are in the right background. The closer one was a large home that Mr. Cable reportedly built for "Aunt Rachel," a former slave whose freedom he had purchased. After her death, the building was converted to private billiard rooms.

The farther building was the gardener's house. The Cable property also had an icehouse and large carriage house.

A siding from the several rows of railroad tracks at the rear of the property extended right into the carriage house so the Cables' personal railroad coach could glide inside.

In his later years, P.L. Cable was afflicted by disabilities resulting from a fall. He set out for Monterrey, Mexico (in his private coach, of course), where

Wickstrom wrote the "obituary for Rock Island's most famous house." The Cable house was going to be demolished and the land used for industry.

The profusely illustrated article is worth reading in its entirety. Although the home had been vandalized during its vacant years, many of its fine details, from the mahogany-paneled original bathtub to the rare, perfectly circular, three-story staircase, were intact.

Family furnishings that had been left in the house were unaccounted for, although vintage carriages, many from France, were still in the carriage house.

A few days later, Mr. Wickstrom wrote another story, reporting that the vandalism was now complete — not by the paid housewreckers, but rather by the community.

After his first story, an estimated 4,000 citizens had descended upon the house like locusts, ripping out or destroying everything of value.

The staircase was carried off in pieces by souvenir seekers. Outside, railings from the first to the third stories were stolen. Shards of glass hung from the steel framework of the conservatory roof. The wrecking ball was an anticlimax.

The site of P.L. Cable's mansion is occupied by a Mid-American Energy building, and the surroundings are industrial. The railroad tracks at the rear, although fewer in number, still are in the same place, but the private Cable siding is gone.

Postcards from Home features vintage Rock Island postcards with text that has been researched and prepared by the Rock Island Preservation Society as a public service. Readers are invited to make suggestions to the The Dispatch or Rock Island Argus for this series.

Obituary will be accurate if you write it yourself

Dear Abby: I read with interest the letter from the man who wondered if it was all right to write his own obituary. As an editor who has written obituaries for several community newspapers for more than 20 years, I can say that obituaries are causing more and more headaches in newsrooms. They are a potential can of worms.

Not long ago, a man in our small town died. His young widow brought in his obituary, naming herself and their children as his survivors. After confirming with the funeral home that the man had indeed died, we printed the obituary as she presented it.

Within hours, a woman came



Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

storming into the office. It was the deceased's former wife. She still lived in our town, and she was furious that her children — who had been fathered by her former husband — were not mentioned in the obituary written by the second wife.

Editors everywhere will bless you, Abby, if you remind the

public of this: If you want to have control over what's printed in the newspaper, you have to buy an ad. I think the more control a person has over his or her obituary, the better. — **Ms. M. in Northern Calif.**

Dear Ms. M: I concur. Read on:

Dear Abby: In 1992, at the age of 53, I not only wrote my own obituary, but also had it published in the local newspaper. I did it because I wanted people to remember what I wanted them to remember about me, rather than leaving that decision to someone else.

That same year, I also prepared my memorial service, which I have updated several times. I plan to hold it during

my 80th year — I am now 73 — and I plan to attend. I am inviting my enemies, for whom I will include Gene Watson's song, "Farewell Party," which includes the line, "I know you'll be glad when I've gone."

I am a published author, and at present I have originated more than 400 sayings. No, I won't read all of them at my memorial.

Following my actual death, I have requested that my ashes be scattered over Olivia Newton's ranch. For 30 years, I have attempted to have my picture taken with her, but so far, I have failed. It's good to have a goal. — **Wayne K., Puyallup, Wash.**

Dear Wayne: I agree that it's

good to have a goal, but you shouldn't have to make an "ash" of yourself in order to achieve it. Assuming that Ms. Newton-John knows nothing about your goal, clip this column and send it to her fan club. Maybe she'll "honestly love it."

Dear Abby: I wrote both my and my husband's obituaries a long time ago. I did it because my last job was dealing with death certificates, and I know from experience that when a death occurs and emotions run high, important information can inadvertently be omitted.

I have even filled out blank death certificates with all the necessary information except, of course, the date of death and

cause. Our funerals have also been pre-arranged and paid for.

In case you haven't guessed, I was a Girl Scout when I was a kid — and I guess I took to heart their motto, "Be Prepared." — **We Do Have the Last Word, Springfield, Ohio**

Dear "We Do": And bless you for it. You have taken all of the guesswork out of a wrenching task that otherwise your survivors would have faced. I'm sure they will thank you for it in their prayers when the time comes.

Dear Abby: is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

John Hauberg Jr. dead at 85

By Leon Lagerstam
Staff writer

The death of a Seattle man ends an era in the Quad-Cities, Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert said Saturday.

John Hauberg Jr., 85, died Friday in Seattle, ending a line of descendants from two famous pioneering families

and philanthropists with direct ties to Rock Island and the Quad-Cities.

Mr. Hauberg was born in Rock Island in 1916. His parents were Sue Denkmann Hauberg and John Hauberg Sr. The Hauberg, Denkmann, Weyerhaeuser and Davis families had made Rock Island



John Hauberg Jr.

Hauberg

From Page D1

one of the lumber capitals of the world in the latter half of the 19th century.

Mr. Hauberg Jr. moved his lumber business from the Quad-Cities to Seattle about 50 years ago, where he also became a noted philanthropist to match his parents' fame, friends recalled Saturday.

"John's life and his role as a major supporter of his community, particularly his support of the arts and preservation of Indian heritage, was an interest and a concern he inherited from his family, and it blossomed full-flower in the Northwest where he was behind so many of Seattle's important building projects," said Betsey Brodahl, former Augustana College dean of students.

The Seattle Times and a museum of history and industry last year named Mr. Hauberg as one of the 150 most influential people who shaped Seattle. He served as a former president of the Seattle Art Museum, founded the renowned Pilchuck Glass School on part of his family's 16,000-acre farm, and was a noted collector of Native American artifacts.

"He was like his father and mother when it came to his interest in philanthropy," Jim Burke, of Rock Island, said. "He believed in it and had the courage of his convictions."

Mr. Burke's wife, Ada Mary Burke, is a first cousin to Mr. Hauberg.

Mr. Hauberg's interest in Native American art came naturally, Mayor Schwiebert said. His

father's interest in it led to the creation of the Hauberg Indian Museum at the Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island.

"John Jr. carried forth that tradition," Mayor Schwiebert said.

"He also was very vigorous in his concern and care for the forests, staying attuned to the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann philosophy," Ms. Brodahl said.

Mr. Hauberg had owned and operated an experimental tree farm in Seattle, geared to finding ways to regenerate growth of Douglas firs.

"John Hauberg Jr. will be missed," said Judy Belan, director-archivist of the Rock Island County Historical Society. "He grew up in Rock Island, and respected his family's roots in Rock Island County, and shared his father's interest in history."

"The name 'Hauberg' is magical to me," Ms. Brodahl said. "It opened so many doors for me when I became a student at Augustana and when I came back to teach."

She wished she would have gotten to know Mr. Hauberg better, but didn't get the chance to meet him until he was in the Quad-Cities to settle his father's estate. In 1956, he and his sister, Catherine Hauberg Sweeney, gave the family's 20-room mansion to the city of Rock Island to use as a civic center.

The Hauberg Civic Center remains a lasting tribute to the family's generosity, Mayor Schwiebert said.

The community needs to remember the Hauberg family out of respect for the city's future made possible by the past, he said.

Please see **Hauberg, D5**

Weyerhaeuser returns to R.I.

By Rita Pearson
Staff writer

Weyerhaeuser Co. of Federal Way, Wash., has returned to its birth city of Rock Island after completing a \$2.45 billion acquisition of MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.

The Nov. 1 closing created the leading forest products company in North America.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia granted final approval for the merger Oct. 29.

MacMillan Bloedel, one of Canada's largest forest products companies, has 112 Quad-Cities employees at its corrugated container operation at 690 Mill St., Rock Island.

The MacMillan Bloedel operation became known as a Weyerhaeuser operation upon closing, although the public will not see name changes on building signs "for some time," com-

pany spokesman Bruce Amundsen said. "We're in the process of taking inventory to see how many signs we need," he said.

Weyerhaeuser officials announced plans to buy MacMillan Bloedel June 21. The \$2.45 billion acquisition makes Weyerhaeuser the world's largest producer of softwood lumber and market pulp, and the world's largest owner of softwood timber.

Members of the Weyerhaeuser board said they planned to elect Richard F. Haskayne, former chairman of MacMillan Bloedel, to their company board.

Weyerhaeuser's return to Rock Island occurs on the eve of its centennial Jan. 18, 2000.

The Weyerhaeuser Co. dates to 1860 in Rock Island, when Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Frederick

Denkmann bought the failed Mead, Smith and Marsh sawmill.

They formed the Mississippi River Logging Co. in 1871 with 17 charter members, including mill owners from Davenport and Moline. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was its president for more than 30 years.

In 1878, the two men formed the Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Co. to encompass other sawmills they bought. By 1888, their two firms employed 1,000 men and had annual sales of \$175 million.

As Midwestern timber supplies diminished, Mr. Weyerhaeuser looked to the West. In January 1900, he and 15 partners formed Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. in the Northwest.

The Denkmann family remained in Rock Island. Mr. Denkmann died at age 81 in early 1905. The Rock Island mills closed six months later.

building signs "for some time," com- Weyerhaeuser and Frederick land mills closed six months later.

Weyerhaeuser closes R.I. plant

By Rita Pearson
Staff writer

Weyerhaeuser Co. will close its Rock Island packaging plant by May 1 and offers its 105 workers the chance to transfer to other plants or receive a severance package, company officials said Wednesday.

The plant at 690 Mill St., as well as plants in Cleveland, Ohio; Houston, Texas; and Jersey City, N.J., will close as Weyerhaeuser consolidates operations to save up to \$150 million a year in operating costs, according to company officials. The Rock Island building will then be sold.

Weyerhaeuser, based in Federal Way, Wash., bought the former MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. Nov. 1, 1999, to create North America's leading forest products company.

The closings will remove excess capacity from Weyerhaeuser's packaging-plant system, the company said. The work will move to another Weyerhaeuser plant.

First-shift workers learned of the closing Wednesday morning. Weyerhaeuser hopes Rock Island workers will move to its other packaging division plants, said John Fox, Weyerhaeuser's regional vice president. Those who do

not will get a severance package.

The company has six plants within a 200-mile radius of the Quad-Cities, he said. The closest ones are in Cedar Rapids and Waterloo in Iowa and in Belleville, Rockford, Aurora and Chicago in Illinois, he said.

The company also will encourage its customers to fill their orders at other Weyerhaeuser plants, he said.

Greg Douglas, past president of Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union Local 191, said workers had varied reactions to the news.

Some hoped improvements in safety, production, quality and waste would save their jobs, he said.

"We showed significant improvement in all four areas, but it wasn't enough, I guess," he said.

While management commended workers for the improvements, the building was too old and cost too much to run, Mr. Douglas said workers were told.

"A lot" of workers indicated interest in transferring to other Weyerhaeuser plants, he said.

The union, which represents about 79 of the 105 workers, also asked the Quad City Federation of

Labor and local job-training programs for help to re-train its members, Mr. Douglas noted. Plant wages averaged about \$13.25 an hour, he said.

Company officials tried to contact Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert Wednesday morning, but he was with a Quad-Cities delegation in Washington, D.C.

The Weyerhaeuser Co., was founded in 1860 in Rock Island.

City officials had many questions.

"Obviously, this is not very good news," said Greg Champagne, community and economic development director. "Weyerhaeuser was founded in Rock Island, and we realize the need for their business decisions, but it's disappointing they are severing their presence in the community."

The mayor told Weyerhaeuser officials last fall the city would work with the company to keep the plant open, Mr. Champagne said.

City officials will help Weyerhaeuser market the riverfront site, which is in an Enterprise Zone and has good access to rail service, the Centennial Expressway and interstate highway systems.

The site is also in the Crescent



Todd Mauer / staff

Weyerhaeuser Co. plans to close its corrugated packaging plant at 690 Mill St., Rock Island, by May 1. The Washington-based lumber giant, which moved from Rock Island after it was founded here in 1860, will transfer or offer severance packages to the plant's 105 workers.

Area Study, aimed at revitalizing the area for industrial use. Consultants Parsons Harland

Bartholomew of St. Louis, which is reviewing the plan, will be told of the closing, Mr. Champagne said. The May 1 closing date could shift

slightly, depending upon customers' needs, Mr. Fox said. He hoped other area packaging companies would consider hiring Weyerhaeuser workers who do not wish to move.

At least one worker, the union

president, has been employed by the company or its predecessors for 34 years, dating to the Container Corp., Mr. Fox said.

The closing costs will have little effect on the company's quarterly earnings, the company said.

Weyerhaeuser comes home

Container plant in \$2 billion buyout

By Jonathan Turner
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — One of the world's largest lumber companies, with its roots in Rock Island, announced a \$2.45 billion acquisition Monday that will return it to the Quad-Cities for the first time in 94 years.

Weyerhaeuser Co., based in Federal Way, Wash., has agreed to buy MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. in a stock transaction. Weyerhaeuser is the world's biggest producer of softwood lumber and market pulp. MacMillan Bloedel, a lumber and packaging firm, has a corrugated-container plant at 690 Mill St., Rock Island.

"We believe this combination will create the powerhouse in the industry," said MacMillan Bloedel president and chief executive officer Tom Stephens, who will step down when the buyout is completed this fall.

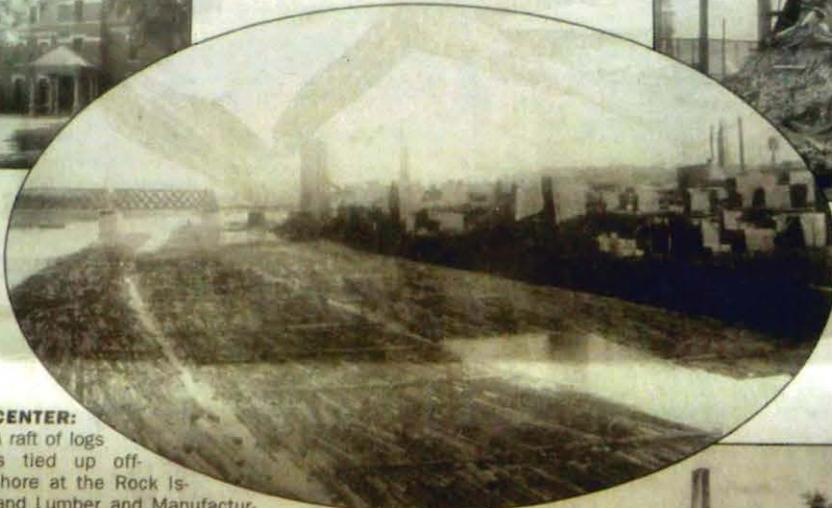
"While we were not seeking a merger of this nature, the terms of this agreement provide an attractive premium to our shareholders, plus the opportunity to maintain an interest in the clear leader in the business.

"We're excited about the opportunity for our employees to be part in the creation of what is, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the most powerful forest-products company in the world."

MacMillan Bloedel, based in Vancouver, B.C., has 9,500 employees, including 112 at the operation in the Crescent Industrial Area of Rock Island.

Steven Rogel, Weyerhaeuser

The Weyerhaeuser years Rock Island, 1860-1905

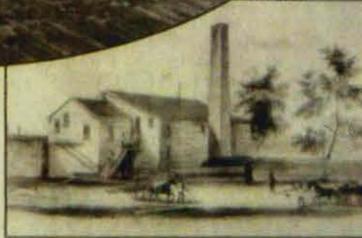


CENTER: A raft of logs is tied up off-shore at the Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Co. mill along Sylvan Slough in Rock Island.

UPPER LEFT: The Weyerhaeuser-Davis family home on Rock Island's 10th Avenue, now part of the Augustana College campus.

UPPER RIGHT: A huge pile of scrap and sawdust rises outside an old-style lumber mill in the days before pulp mills began utilizing the waste.

LOWER RIGHT: The old Mead, Smith and Marsh sawmill in Rock Island's West End, which Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann bought in 1860 to create a lumber empire.



Photos from "Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann" by John H. Hauberg, Augustana Book Concern, 1957

Lumber giant was born in R.I.

Weyerhaeuser Co. dates back to 1860 in Rock Island, when German immigrants Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Frederick Denkmann bought the failed Mead, Smith and Marsh sawmill.

They formed the Mississippi River Logging Co. in 1871 with 17 charter members, including mill owners from Davenport and Moline. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was its president for more than 30 years.

In 1878, the two men formed the Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Co. to encompass other sawmills they had bought. By 1888, their two firms employed 1,000 men and had annual sales of \$175 million.

As Midwestern timber supplies gave out, Mr. Weyerhaeuser looked toward the forests of the West. In 1891 he moved to Minnesota, and in January 1900, at age 66, he and 15 partners organized the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. in the Northwest. That's when the present Weyerhaeuser Co. places its birthday.

The Denkmann family stayed in Rock Island. Mr. Denkmann died in early 1905 at age 81; the Rock Island mills closed six months later.

The Weyerhaeuser family home at 3052 10th Ave., Rock Island, which Mr. Weyerhaeuser bought in the 1860s, was donated to Augustana College after his daughter, Apollonia Weyerhaeuser Davis, died in 1953. It's used for student housing and special events.

chairman, president and CEO, said at a Monday press conference that it's "much too early in the process" to discuss possible layoffs. He emphasized, however, that very little of the expected \$150 million in annual operating savings would come from personnel changes.

"Tom and his team have been very good at bringing MacMillan Bloedel to the point of efficiency," he said of Mr. Stephens.

Savings are expected to come mainly from transportation, distribution, and improved purchasing practices, he said.

Calls to MacMillan Bloedel's

Rock Island plant were referred to a Vancouver spokeswoman, who said no layoffs are planned.

Weyerhaeuser Co. today has 35,000 employees, owns or manages 5.3 million acres of U.S. timber-

PLEASE SEE LUMBER, A2

Tiffany recovered

FBI finds \$400,000 window

By John Marx
Staff writer

ROCK ISLAND — After 21 years, The Case of The Rock Island Window is closed.

The FBI has returned an authentic Tiffany-crafted, stained-glass window, valued at \$2,000 when it disappeared from the Denkman family mausoleum at Chippinnock Cemetery in 1976, to family control. It has come back with a new price tag — valued at \$400,000.

No charges are expected in the case, which involved a New York collector, a Colorado collector, a Florida museum and a relentless search by Chippinnock superintendent Greg Vogele before the piece was recovered earlier this month. The window now is under 24-hour security in the Quad-Cities as family members debate what to do next.

The disappearance and recovery of the window weave a tale perhaps more suited to an Agatha Christie novel. It apparently began with a mysterious call to Mr. Vogele's father, then-superintendent Joseph Vogele, days before the 50-inch-by-40-inch work of art by Louis Comfort Tiffany was reported stolen April 5, 1976.

"There was a man who called, said he was a member of the family and wondered where the 'Denk-a-man' family mausoleum was," Greg Vogele said Monday. "He said he was a member of the family, but no one ever showed up to get directions."

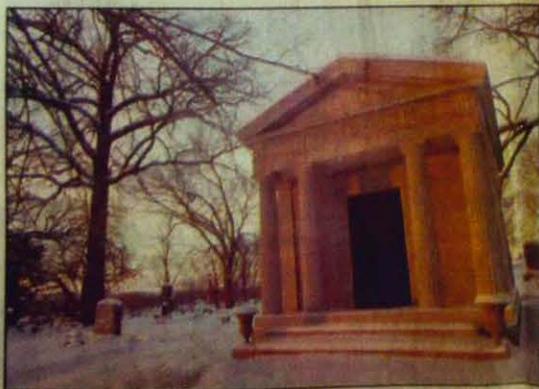
Instead, the glass fixture, 78 years old at the time according to the elder Mr. Vogele's report to police, disappeared. A second window, not Tiffany-designed, was stolen from the Reimer family tomb at the same time. It has not been found.

Sergeant Roy Melton, hired by the Rock Island Police Department just that month, was part of the team investigating the theft.

"I recall walking with Detective Roy West at the time and talking with Greg's father about what had happened," he said. "We walked around the grounds and later found tools that were part of the robbery, tools that



Submitted



The FBI recovered this Tiffany window stolen from the Denkman mausoleum, in Chippinnock Cemetery in 1976. Greg Vogele, cemetery superintendent, has continued a 20-year search for the work of art, estimated to be worth \$2,000 when it was stolen. Today it is valued at \$400,000. An art museum, which had received one of Mr. Vogele's fliers, contacted him when it was offered to it for sale. Denkman heirs say the window will probably stay in the Quad-Cities.

Police admit killing Biko

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — After two decades of denials, South African police have admitted killing Steve Biko, the activist who came to symbolize victims of apartheid brutality.

Five former policemen were finalizing amnesty applications to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Port Elizabeth Herald reported today, citing sources close to one of the men.

The former government labeled Biko a terrorist for saying that blacks should take pride in their culture and fight for control of their



Steve Biko

PLEASE SEE **WINDOW**, A2

▶ WINDOW

FROM PAGE A1

had been purchased locally because they still had the price tag from a local shop on them.

"It was unusual, because of the kind of robbery that it was," he said. "We didn't deal too much in those kinds of things — art thefts. There was a second piece stolen, and an attempt at a third was unsuccessful. We found the tools in an area behind the third tomb."

Rock Island police, the FBI and the Vogeles ran into repeated dead ends until another try by Greg Vogeles *two years ago finally turned up lead. He periodically had sent prints of the stained-glass work to art museums around the country, and a story on Tiffany glass in The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus led him to send out fliers again.*

"This is my home," he said of Chippiannock. "I don't own it, but I felt as though I had a responsibility to the family to get it back."

On June 20, 1995, Mr. Vogeles received a letter from an attorney representing an art museum in Florida. The letter said his client had received offers to sell a piece from a collector based in Jamaica, N.Y., matching the description of the stolen Denkmann window.

According to police, the window apparently had been purchased in the late 1970s by a Colorado man who bought Tiffany-style pieces in large numbers with little or no knowledge of their value.

Following the letter from the Florida-based museum's attorney, the FBI contacted the New York collector, and it was determined the window was the stolen Denkmann piece. The collector soon surrendered the piece to the FBI, who contacted Mr. Vogeles and Rock Island police.

The FBI shipped the window to a Denkmann family representative 13 days ago.

"Greg Vogeles should receive a great deal of credit because he did not give up," Rock Island Police detective Steve Harder said. "He sent fliers all over the country since

1976, and finally something came of it."

Det. Harder said it was the longest-running case with which he ever had been involved.

"Nothing's been longer since I've been working here, and I started in 1984," he said. "It's nice to see the window get back to where it belongs."

John Hauberg, son of Susanne Denkmann-Hauberg and the Denkmann family spokesman, paid for the return of the window from New York to the Quad-Cities. He confirmed Monday that the mausoleum was built around the turn of the century and the window would be about a century old.

"I applaud the effort of the FBI, the Rock Island police department and Greg Vogeles," he said from his Palm Desert, Calif., home. "I believe Greg Vogeles went to great lengths to secure the return of the window."

Mr. Hauberg said his family has discussed what will come of the glasswork, but has not decided.

"Lots of ideas have been bantered about by some 150 living descendants," he said. "Selling it just wouldn't be right. We have talked about the Davenport Museum of Art, as well as Augustana College, as recipients. Our problem is bringing on a security problem for someone like Augustana, which is not in that kind of business.

"Regardless," he said, "I can tell you it will remain in the Quad-Cities."

Meanwhile, Sgt. Melton was marveling that it was back in the Quad-Cities. He remembered Monday that he originally could not understand why anyone would want a window from a tomb.

"Once we talked to Greg's father, and he told us it was an authentic Tiffany window, everything made sense," he said. "I was aware something of that nature was worth a great deal of money — but nothing like it turned out to be."

Sgt. Melton said a case going full-circle over two decades and being solved just amazes him.

"Something that happened that far back and can be solved," he said, "makes you glad no one gave up."



Logging was big business in the late 1800s along the Mississippi River. This photo shows rafts of logs floating down the river to the Rock Island Lumber Co.

TIMBER!

remembering lumber kings of the Q-C

By Lisa Mohr
Staff writer

Logging on the Mississippi? With today's lock and dam system, it's hard to imagine huge rafts of cut pine floating downriver into the Quad-Cities from the heavy timber stands of the northwoods.

But during the 19th century, logging on the Mississippi was a major enterprise. No one was more responsible for this than two German-born immigrants who, by the turn of the 20th century, had turned a rundown Rock Island sawmill into the largest lumber holdings in the United States, comprised of six major companies and 85 lesser corporations.

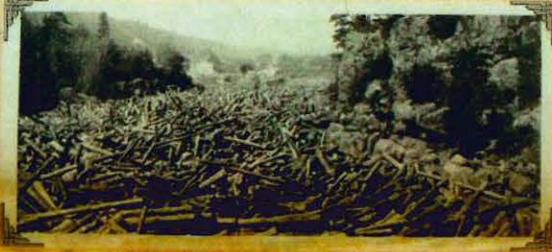
One-room log cabins still dotted the farm country of western Illinois when a 22-year-old German immigrant named Frederick Weyerhaeuser arrived in Rock Island in March 1856. He came seeking adventure in the west after brief stints working in a brewery and as a farmhand in Erie, Pa. A cousin living in Edgington Township beckoned him to the area now known as the Quad-Cities.

Weyerhaeuser was no stranger to hard work. He was born on a farm near the village of Niedersaulheim in Germany, and his father died when he was 12, making him head of a family that included his mother and four sisters. At age 18 in 1852, he followed relatives to America.

Once in Rock Island, Weyerhaeuser carried a chain for a surveyor and worked for a short time at the Atlantic Brewery. But he soon found work at the Mead, Smith & Marsh sawmill located at 1st Street



Frederick Weyerhaeuser, left, and Frederick Denkmann turned a rundown Rock Island sawmill into the largest lumber concern in the United States.



During the lumber boom, logjams like this on the St. Croix River were common.

and 4th Avenue, one of many sawmills in Rock Island, Moline and Milan.

In the early sawmill days, the land along the Mississippi and Rock rivers was abundantly supplied with standing hardwood timber of the finest quality. The sawmills took their hardwood from the bluffs "on the hill," where thousands of homes now stand. The hardwood logs were hauled to the mills by two-wheeled ox carts with wheels 12 feet in diameter.

Enterprising and outgoing, young Weyerhaeuser worked his way up to become manager of the lumberyard in a matter of weeks, launching him on a career in lumber.

It was also during this time that Weyerhaeuser met — for the second time — a young woman who would soon become his wife. While in Erie, Weyerhaeuser had met a young woman also from Niedersaulheim named Sarah Bloedel. Ironically she had moved to Rock Island just months before his arrival there to help her sister, Catherine Bloedel Denkmann, with a new baby.

Frederick Carl August Denkmann was born in 1821 at Salzwedel, Prussia. Unlike Weyerhaeuser, he was born from a line of prosperous brewers. He came to the United States in 1849 and first settled in Erie, Pa. He soon had a job in a machine shop and in a short time was made foreman. There he married Catherine Bloedel, but, dissatisfied with working in another man's shop, he ventured west in 1851 to

PLEASE SEE LUMBER, G3



At left are the office, warehouse and yards of the Rock Island Lumber Co. at 8th and 1st Streets.



Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann mill in Rock Island.

Q-C Mormons remember the STREET OF TEARS

By Julie Jenson
Correspondent

One hundred and fifty years ago, on Feb. 4, 1846, Charles Shumway led his Mormon brethren down the "Street of Tears" in Nauvoo, Ill., to the Mississippi River and an unknown future somewhere in the West at the end of the Mormon Trail they would blaze.

Mr. Shumway's great-great-grandson, Dr. H. Ron Frogley of Davenport, will participate in a two-day commemoration of that event in Nauvoo today and Sunday.

Other participants from the Quad-Cities area will be Dr. Frogley's wife, Lee, and his son, Dr. Chris Frogley. Mr. and Mrs. Val Dean Riggs and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Twitchell, all of Davenport; Mr. and Mrs. Joel Orgil, Bettendorf; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kerry Blue Grass; Kenneth and Margaret Dietz, Walcott; and Gale and Janice Lewellen and family, DeWitt.

Lee Frogley's is a great-great-great-granddaughter of Hyrum Smith, the brother of Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church. Her lineage also embraces the Wood, Morrison, Allen and Woodland families who left Nauvoo in 1846.

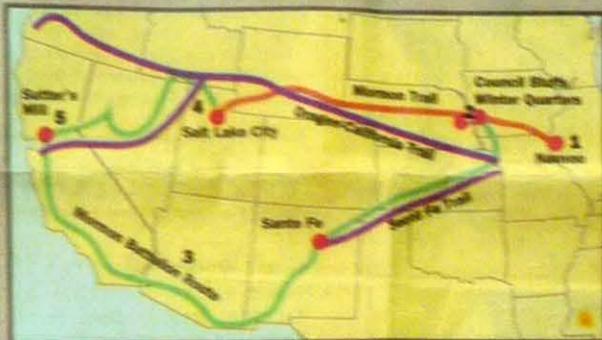
The Smith brothers were killed by an angry mob at Carthage, Ill., on June 27, 1844, while in the protective custody of the town jailer and his wife.

Why did Smith's followers wait so long before abandoning their beautiful city of Nauvoo to seek safety? Lee Frogley says, "They were building the temple and wanted to finish it."

Charles Shumway guided the wagons to flatboats that made many trips to what is now Montrose, Iowa. It was then called Sugar Creek. The brand-new state of Iowa gave them refuge.

Some of the people were

Major trails to the West



1. Nauvoo

After building the city of Nauvoo, the Latter-day Saints were forced to leave their homes in 1846 and journey westward.

2. Council Bluffs

During the winter of 1846-47 the Mormon pioneers camped in the area near Omaha. Council Bluffs served as the eastern terminus on the Mormon Trail between 1847 and 1852.

3. Mormon Battalion

During the westward trek, 500 young Latter-day Saint men were

recruited by the U.S. Army to march to the southwest and give aid in the war with Mexico.

4. Salt Lake Valley

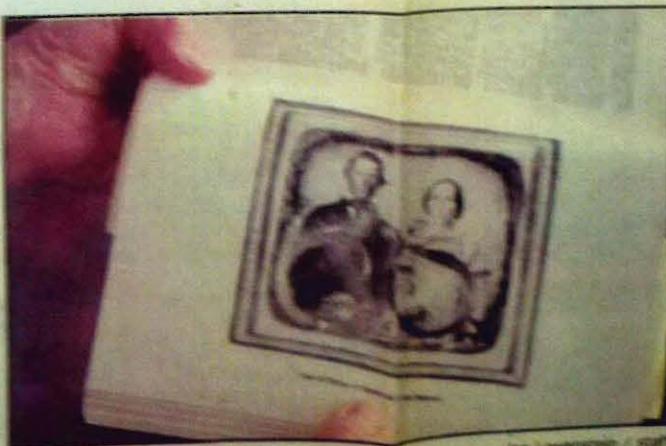
Led by Brigham Young, the Mormon pioneers entered the valley of the Great Salt Lake in July of 1847.

5. Sutter's Mill

Many members of the Mormon Battalion were instrumental in the 1848 discovery of gold in California. They then journeyed to the Great Basin to join their families.

Source: "Nauvoo: The Beautiful and Historic Carthage Block"

Kathy Bush / staff



H. Ron Frogley's parents are pictured here. Dr. Frogley's great-great-grandfather, Charles Shumway, led his Mormon brethren from Nauvoo, Ill., 150 years ago.

Jon Lowenstein / staff

without provisions, and Mr. Shumway and a companion heard of a group of Shawnee Indians 100 miles away who had corn to sell. After they started out, Brigham Young had a dream that they were in danger and sent a rider to warn them. They left the Indian camp, and the following morning they looked back to see it in flames, ignited by a Sioux war party. Mr. Shumway often told the story with its moral, "A prophet of God should be followed without question."

Mrs. Frogley says, "It took them a long time to cross Iowa because of the bitter cold."

Her son, Dr. Chris Frogley, who plays the part of Joseph Smith in the annual Nauvoo Pageant, adds, "Mud was the big thing. During the spring thaw, the mud bogged them down and socked their shoes off."

And the Street of Tears became a Trail of Tears. Dr. Frogley says, "At least 2,500 people died and are buried between Montrose and Council Bluffs, Iowa."

They suffered other losses, as well. Joel Johnson, an ancestor of Kiffany Twitchell of Davenport, had land worth \$5,000. The mob gave him a month to dispose of it, and the best deal he could make was a trade for teams of horses and oxen worth \$75.

Daniel Wood, an ancestor of Lee Frogley is credited with saving the life of a baby girl who fell from a wagon. A wheel rolled over her head. Mrs. Frogley says, "He prayed for her and touched her head, and she lived. Brigham Young asked him to stay behind at Winter Quarters and grow food, and later he founded a town called Woodcross north of Salt Lake City."

PLEASE SEE **MORMON**, B2

► **MORMAN**

FROM PAGE B1

At Winter Quarters, now a town called Florence north of Omaha, many died from exposure, disease and lack of nourishment.

While the Mormons were at Council Bluffs, the U.S. Army asked them to form a unit to help fight the Mexican-American War, and 500 men became the Mormon Battalion, marching to San Diego in July 1846. This was the longest overland movement of troops in U.S. history.

The Saints, as they were called, set out in waves, crossing Nebraska and Wyoming. Later, two major railroads followed the trail they blazed along the north side of the Platte River for almost 1,000 miles. The Saints covered 1,400 miles in their exodus from Nauvoo.

The first contingent of the first party arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake on July 22, 1847, and the faith expressed in the hymn composed by William Clayton in April near Seymour, Iowa, seemed fully justified.

The third verse of "Come, Come Ye Saints" says, "We'll find the place which God for us pre-

pared, Far away in the West
Where none shall come to hurt or
make afraid; There the Saints
will be blessed. We'll make the
air with music ring, Shout praises
to our God and king; Above the
rest these words we'll tell — All is
well! All is well!"

An 80-voice choir will sing the hymn both days of this weekend's commemoration.

After the first wave of 3,000 trekkers, the migration went on for two decades, involving more than 70,000 Mormons in wagons, pushing handcarts and on foot. About 6,000 died en route and were buried in "The Longest Graveyard in the World."

Today, bonfires will blaze at 7 p.m. in 12 southern Iowa counties to set off the commemoration of this historic trek, but the re-enactment of the wagon trains will wait until summer (the early Saints didn't have the luxury of choosing their travel season).

Some wagons and tents will be in evidence this weekend, however. Another attraction will be the reorganized Pitt's Brass Band, the outgrowth of a drum and pipe corps founded in 1842 to accompany the city's militia.

Other Quad-Citians with Mormon pioneer ancestors are the following Davenporters: Rich and

Lisa Andreason, Mark Belnap, Julie Binford, Jennifer Callis, Chris Chapman, Sharol Frogley, James Hampton, Bishop Steven Harris, Andrea MacKay and Tracy McCuiston.

Bettendorfers are Bishop Frederick Bignall, Alma Bignall, Lynn D. Hintze, David Huntington, Peggy Huntington, Dean Davis, Nelda Beitz, Carolyn Hall, Theresa Terry, Ircin Eyre, Joel Orgill and Carol Ann Teeple.

Jenny Stoker and Dale Robinson of Eldridge and Long Grove descend from the trekkers, as do Lee Ann Wilson and LeMar Terry of LeClaire.

In Moline, that distinction belongs to Bishop Julius Black, Irene Black, and George Stevens and in East Moline to Garn and Eunice Penford and Kay Luthy. Gayla McClellan of Taylor Ridge and Brian McClellan of Rock Island have common ancestors who made the journey. Shari Moran, Andalusia, and Nixalene Arnette, Coal Valley, also claim this family history.

In Geneseo, descendants are Kathleen Nebeker Evans, Arthur M. Evans and Tawnya Hatcher. Others are Robert K. Clarke, Fulton, Ill.; Louise Radke and Gerldine Shamp, Savanna, Ill.; and Margi Owens, Camanche, Iowa.

In April 2003, our Society
sponsored a Bus Trip to Fort
Wayne, Indiana to research at
the Allen County Public Library!

Please join
Blackhawk Genealogical Society
for a
Bus Trip to the
Allen County Public Library
Fort Wayne, Indiana
April 1st - 3rd, 2003



Cost for bus trip and 2 nights at the
Hilton Garden Inn, Fort Wayne
Single room \$206 per person
Double room \$129 per person
Triple room \$110 per person
Meals not included.

Reservation deadline is February 15th, 2003

Full payment **MUST** be included for reservation.

No refund after February 28th, 2003, but cancellations
received by that date will receive full refund.

Trip will be canceled March 1st with full refund if there are not enough people to pay for the bus.

For further information, call Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134.

Bringing the dead — TO LIFE



Gary Krambeck / staff



Gary Krambeck / staff

You'll get a taste of local history during cemetery tour

By John Marx
Staff writer

Rock Island actress Anne Smith, a person full of vim and vigor, is ready to portray a woman who made her mark on a community with the same sort of enthusiasm.

But the woman she's portraying made her mark in an era when life, not just business, was dominated by men.

Anne Smith, meet Minnie Potter

Mrs. Smith, a Rock Island educator with an extensive and successful local stage background, will join 14 other actors in portraying memorable Rock Island citizens in "Epitaphs Brought To Life" Saturday at Rock Island's Chippianock Cemetery. The event is being presented by the Rock Island Preservation Commission and the Chippianock Cemetery Association.

The 15 dramatic vignettes will highlight the annual walking tour of the historical cemetery.

Last year, the first "Epitaphs" drew about 650 onlookers over a two-hour span and captured the statewide Richard H. Dreihaus Education Award from the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. This year's program will run 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.

"Epitaphs Brought to Life" will be presented Saturday at Chippianock Cemetery in Rock Island. It is a walking tour of the cemetery in which actors portray memorable citizens listed above. At top, Anne Smith of Rock Island portrays Margaret Davenport, above, Miss Elliott of Davenport, director of the program, above, Charles C. Knell, a furniture dealer and manager of a former Rock Island theater.

PLEASE SEE ▶ CEMETERY, B2

Digging for roots

by William F. Keeffe

Joan Kitchen Murray of Chicago decided to unearth her family roots 15 years ago. She had been talking to her maternal grandmother, the late Elizabeth Seibert Brown, absorbing interest in history and family.

Tracing those roots, Murray dug deeper. She traveled to Pennsylvania four times, researching birth, marriage, death, probate and other records in different repositories, including county seats. The search led to Germany, England and other parts of the United States. Fifteen years later, the sleuthing goes on.

The rest is family history. Murray has traced one bloodline back to about the year 1500. Two other lines go back to the end of the 18th century. She has found that veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War are included among her ancestors.

Genealogy, which is the study of family ancestries and histories, consumes about 25 hours of Murray's week. She serves as president of the 1,200-member Chicago Genealogical Society, and she volunteers two days a week at the National Archives, Great Lakes Region facility, at 7358 S. Pulaski Road in Chicago.

She belongs to no less than 14 genealogical and historical societies. She also works for hire as a professional genealogical researcher.

"Anybody can do it," she says. "But you need persistence. It's like working as a private eye. In this kind of research, you open one door and there are five other doors that you want to explore."

Murray is not alone. A survey by a marketing research firm has shown that half of all American adults over 45 say they are "somewhat" involved in genealogy. Nearly six in 10 say they have created a family history or researched their family records.

Like Murray, they are learning about themselves by becoming acquainted with their ancestors. Also, says Murray, they are having fun in the research process.

How do you start your "attic archeology" project? David T. Thackery, curator of local and family history at the Newberry Library on Chicago's Near North Side, suggests people first decide what they are looking for.

"The basic elements are names, dates, places and relationships," says Thackery. "You need this kind of information in detail — full names, exact dates and so on just to pin down who any individual is in a genealogical sense."

Knowing what you are looking for, the work can start.

"You would be wise to start with what is immediately at hand," says Thackery. "First of all, there is your own knowledge, your own memory. Then there are the memories and recollections of family members. You should talk to as many family members as you can find."

"You have to remember that people who live at a distance from

you may have information that might not be available to you otherwise."

Do not overlook family papers, photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings and family Bibles.

"A death certificate may be a critical first link. It may give the names of the parents of the deceased and, often, the decedent's place of birth," says Thackery. "If you can think in terms of cemetery records, you may learn a lot. That means not only what is on the gravestone but what may be in the sexton's office."

Are there ways to organize the findings from your spadework? The Newberry, says Thackery, offers two of the most basic ones for sale in the library bookstore. The two are the Pedigree Chart and the Family Group Sheet.

Both are standard forms and both are useful throughout a family research project.

City and regional historical societies

"With these forms you can think in terms of a very steady and methodical linking movement back into your family history," says Thackery.

"It isn't often helpful if you target someone who lived way back. You should first try to find out about the people who lived between your own time and some distant ancestor."

Having done all that, are you ready to take the plunge into institutional records, including those at the Newberry, which is ranked, according to Thackery, among the top 10 or so genealogical research repositories in the United States?

"The longer a family has lived in North America, the more likely it is that we will have materials that are genealogically useful," says Thackery.

"We do have some 17,000 genealogies — histories of families by family names. Very important are the census records that we have for the early 20th century," says Thackery.

The Newberry also has ship-passenger lists to periodicals, gazetteers, atlases, land records, military records and local histories. The latter may be county histories, town histories, even church and business histories.

"Remember that keeping vital records like those on births, deaths and marriages has never been a federal responsibility. You find different things in different collections."

Among other outstanding Illinois sources of genealogical information, according to Thackery, are the National Archives, Great Lakes Region and the Illinois State Historical Li-

brary in Springfield. The latter is part of a complex of state and local genealogical collections in the state capital, including the Illinois State Archives.

Other sources are the Harold Washington Library at 400 S. State St. in Chicago, which has, among other holdings, indexes to State Department transcripts of immigration-passenger lists for selected ports at various periods.

The Wilmette Genealogical Society Branch Library at 2802 Lake St. in Wilmette also has a limited number of ship-passenger lists. The Chicago Historical Society is also an outstanding resource.

"Very likely, no single repository has everything a genealogical researcher needs," says Thackery.

But the Family History Library of

The latter includes the Office of Defense Transportation, the U.S. Food Administration, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and more than three dozen others.

It is estimated that more than 10,000 people visit the Microfilm Reading Room at the National Archives facility annually.

"Here," Jackanicz says, "we have 32 microfilm readers that people can use on a reservation basis by calling 1-312-581-7816."

"Researchers can come in for four-hour periods in the morning or afternoon, and there is another four-hour reservation arrangement on Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It's a self-service arrangement — we have volunteers on hand to direct people to the proper records, but the research is the researcher's responsibility."

"It's important to remember that only U.S. government records and microfilm are kept in National Archives facilities," notes Jackanicz.

"The 1920 census is the last decennial census available to the general public. The reason is that there is a law that 72 years have to elapse before general access can be granted where census records are concerned."

The 1920 census is arranged according to a "soundex" coding system.

"Soundex is a way of taking a family name and putting it into a four-unit code — a letter and three numbers — just as you would have on your driver's license," says Jackanicz.

"You can take a name like Smith, which can be spelled in four or five different ways. Soundex will direct you to any of the variant spellings, and that can save hours of work. It has been shown that this is a very efficient way to search for names when you are not quite sure of the spelling of a last name."

"This is also useful when an ancestor has come from a tradition that doesn't use the Roman alphabet. Many names had to be transliterated into Roman spellings."

Today with soundex it can be researched using Roman alphabet assumptions.

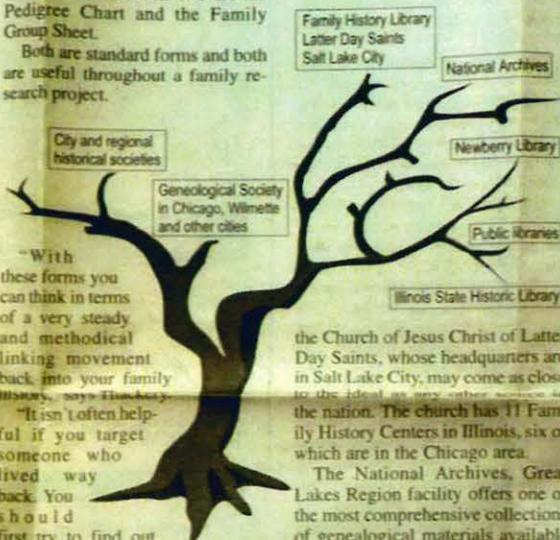
Like the Newberry Library and other sources of genealogical information, Chicago's National Archives facility offers aid to researchers in various forms.

"We offer workshops annually for people in the beginner, intermediate and advanced categories," says Jackanicz.

"The subjects range from ways of preserving old records and documents to research techniques."

The National Archives also has a number of directories and reference books that researchers use to find out what a family tree looks like, or that provide information on methods of conducting genealogical research. A rack offers bulletins of area genealogical societies as well as information on Chicago-area meetings, seminars and workshops for people who are tracing their family backgrounds.

More genealogy information on page 5.



the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, whose headquarters are in Salt Lake City, may come as close to the ideal as any other source in the nation. The church has 11 Family History Centers in Illinois, six of which are in the Chicago area.

The National Archives, Great Lakes Region facility offers one of the most comprehensive collections of genealogical materials available in the six-state area of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"We have about 64,000 cubic feet of original records," says Donald W. Jackanicz, an archivist at the facility.

"Generally we have only U.S. government records and microfilm — not files relating to surnames, marriages, births and deaths of specific individuals or families," he says.

Other important materials relate to military service in various wars, and to immigration and naturalization records.

You can track the ancestor who served in any of the nation's early wars.

With one of four different forms available at the National Archives, you can enter a request for photocopies of specific census records; with another you can order copies of veterans' records. These requests go to the National Archives headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In these and other cases, you may have to prove that you are related to the subject of your inquiry.

"That is because the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act strike a balance between the right of members of the public to obtain information and the rights of individuals to protect their privacy," says Jackanicz.

AUG 24, 2002

DISA 21 15A

Letters to the editor

Genealogist shocked Moline may close downtown library

As a genealogist I am shocked by the thought of closing the downtown library. Many people go there only to use the genealogical collection and look at the microfilm of the newspaper. Many people come from out of town to look for records of their ancestors.

My husband and I do "look-ups" via the computer and "rootsweb" for people all over the USA and Europe and use the library for this research. This is the main source for people who have ancestors who came from Moline.

It is hard enough now for people who come from out of town to try to get here at a time the library is open. We have done research for people from Belgium and all over the USA. Some have traveled here from as far away as Seattle to only find the library closed. This does not give a good impression of Moline.

The Library ideally should be open every day of the week if you expect the public to use it.

If you must close the downtown library, then you should move all of the Genealogical Material and the Microfilms to the 41st Street Library. Since the branch library is rather crowded now that may be a challenge.

Therefore I have another suggestion. If we are going to abandon the historic downtown library and you feel that there is

no value in the Genealogical Material and Microfilm, please donate the entire collection to the Rock Island County Historical Society. There it will be used and appreciated.

**Marilyn B. Zimmer,
East Moline**



Lorraine Hathaway



Lorraine Hathaway



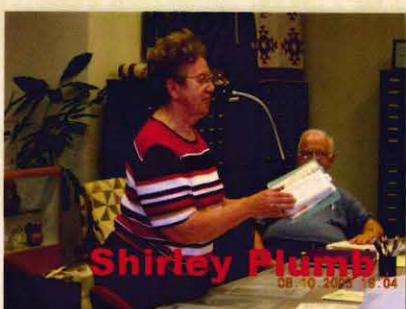
Lorraine Hathaway



Shirley Plumb



Shirley Plumb



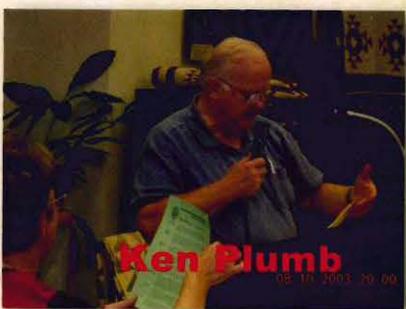
Shirley Plumb



Ken Plumb



Ken Plumb



Ken Plumb



Bev Francque



Bev Francque



Bev Francque



Bev Francque



Bill Burrows



Bill Burrows

October 2003 Beginning Genealogy classes

OBITUARY

Rock Island

Grace Eastland

Grace B. Shager Eastland, 84, of Rock Island, passed away Aug. 14, 2003, at Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, Rock Island.



A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Congregational Church, Moline. It was Grace's wish to be cremated. Visitation is 1 p.m. to service time in the parlor of the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, Moline, Scott County Humane Society, Davenport, or the church. Wendt Funeral Home, Moline, will handle arrangements.



Grace was born March 27, 1919, in Rockford, Ill., to Pearl and Bernise Shager. Grace attended schools in Rockford and Chicago prior to moving to Moline in 1934. Grace was a 1936 graduate of Moline High School and earned her bachelor of arts degree at Augustana College, Rock Island, in 1940.

Memberships and volunteer activities Grace enjoyed included Gleaners Guild, Alice Kennedy King's Daughters Circle, Mary Little Deere Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The Rock Island Preservation Society. Grace was an active member and a quarterly editor of the Black Hawk Genealogical Society, helped organize Rock Island's first Labor Day parade in 1986 and was a lifetime member of the Friends of the Rock Island Public Library. In the late '60s, one of Grace's most rewarding life experiences was teaching art for three years at Franklin Junior High, Rock Island.

Among Grace's many interests were dining out with her husband, Dick; arranging flowers from Dick's lovely garden; cooking, particularly Oriental; needlecrafts; quilting; and spending time with her husband, children and cat, Bootsie. She loved researching family history and reading about Chicago and local history.

Grace is survived by her husband, Dick; daughter, Suzan Eastland Rowley; son, John Eastland and wife Liane; daughter, Patti DeVore and husband Drake; son, Larry Eastland and life partner, Mary Jackson; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Special friends who will miss Grace are sister-in-law and friend, Jerry Bohman, her "Lunch Bunch," Cynthia Bliss Eastland and LaJuan Gault. Her parents, Pearl and Bernise Shager, and Dick's parents, Carl and Nell Eastland, preceded her in death. The family extends special thanks to Grace's Home Instead caregivers.

2004

Joseph Normoyle

Joseph A. Normoyle, 86, of Rock Island, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island.



Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at DeRoo Funeral Home, Moline, and 11 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island, where he was a member. Visitation will be 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home, with a rosary recited at 2 p.m. Memorials may be made to Alleman High School or Seton Catholic School. Private burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Rock Island.

Mr. Normoyle was born March 18, 1908, in rural Rock Island County, son of John L. and Clara Allen Normoyle. He graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic High School and attended the University of Illinois. He married Phyllis Catherine Stack on Aug. 7, 1933, in Chicago. She preceded him in death May 1, 1989.

Joseph was president of Normoyle Berg & Associates Inc., which he co-founded with Magnus Berg in 1948. They did municipal construction in a variety of cities in a five-state area around Illinois. He retired in 1983. Prior to 1948, he did topographical surveying of the Mississippi River and worked for the Corps of Engineers for 13 years on the lock and dam system. He was a layout engineer for Walsh Construction on the Alcoa plant in Bettendorf.

Mr. Normoyle was a 4th degree and charter member in Allouez Council 658, Knights of Columbus, a member of the Associated General Contractors of America, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, past board member of the National Utilities Contractors of America. Joseph was a former member of Mill Creek Country Club, Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club and the Elks.

Joseph enjoyed flying and was a member of the OX5 club and Quiet Birdmen Pilot's Association. He was a pioneer pilot, beginning his flying in an OX5 Jenny in 1928. He and his wife were among the founding members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society and belonged to the Rock Island Historical Society.

Survivors include daughter and son-in-law, Mary Kay and John Michalski, Moline; sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph and Faye Normoyle, Australia, Robert and Donna Normoyle, Cordova; daughter-in-law, Diane Normoyle, Moline; 13 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren. Mr. Normoyle was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Phyllis, son, Donald; grandson, Joseph; parents; brothers and sisters.

Judith Rueckert

Judith G. Rueckert, 72, formerly of Rock Island, died Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2004, at Trinity Medical Center, 7th St. Campus, Moline.



Memorial services are 9 a.m. Saturday at First Congregational Church, Moline. Her family will greet friends in the church's Colonial Parlor following the service until 11 a.m. Her body will be cremated. Trimble Funeral and Cremation Center, Moline, is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to First Congregational Church or the Crescent Fund of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, P.O. Box 6867, Arlington, TX 76005.

The former Judith Ann Gill was born Feb. 10, 1932, in Davenport, the daughter of Buford H.E. and Estella Shoptaug Gill. She attended Moline schools and graduated from St. Katharine's in Davenport. She was a graduate of the University of Iowa where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority. She married Keith L. Rueckert on Dec. 28, 1953, in Moline. He died Sept. 13, 2000. Mr. Rueckert was employed by Rath Packing Company and the couple lived in various cities where Judy was active in many volunteer activities.

She served in alumnae offices and district offices for Delta Delta Delta, and was named "Outstanding Woman of the Year" by the Quint City Panhellenic. She was a member of First Congregational Church, Moline, where she had served on the church council and the deaconate board. She was active in the Blackhawk Genealogical Society, St. Katharine's Alumnae Association, Florence Liebke Circle of King's Daughters, Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, and worked as a volunteer for the Quad City Open for 27 years. She served as a Republican Precinct Committeeman for over 30 years, as an election official in many capacities, and was a trustee of South Rock Island Township. She enjoyed doing handiwork, playing bridge, reading and golf.

Judy is survived by three children and their spouses, Margaret and David Slavish, Buena Vista, Colo., David and Theresa Rueckert, Phoenix, Ariz., and Gail and David Franck, Sherrard; 10 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Sally Smith, Las Cruces, N.M. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son, Robert John Rueckert.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.TrimbleFuneralHomes.com.

2004 BGS Meeting Programs

7pm at South Park Presbyterian Church, 1501 30th Street, Rock Island in the basement fellowship hall unless otherwise stated

- January 27th - Kris Leinicke on "Rock Island Arsenal Prison Barracks"
- February 24th - Lilly Setterdahl on "Researching Swedish History in Moline"
- March 23rd - Linda Polich on "Croatian History & Research"
- April 27th - Betty Kulas on "Writing Your Memories & Personal Stories"
- May 25th - Visit the Center for Belgian Culture, 712 18th Avenue, Moline
- June 22nd - Visit the German American Heritage Center, 712 West Second Street, Davenport
- July 27th - Visit the Mercer County Historical Societies Essley-Nobel Museum, 1400 SE 2nd Avenue, Aledo
- August 24th - Jill Seaholm on the "Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center"
- September 28th - Lorraine Hathaway & Kathy Carey on "Getting into the DAR and other Lineage Organizations"
- October 26th - Shar Blevins on "Analyzing a Research Project"
- November 16th - Annual Dinner at Bethel Wesley Methodist Church, 1201 13th Street, Moline, Dick and Doris Balzer on "Col. Davenport and his Historic Home"

2004 BGS Board Meetings

6:30 pm at Moline Library Southeast Branch, 3130 41st Street, Moline unless otherwise stated

- January 8th ✓
- February 12th - 6:30 pm Rock Island Public Library, 401 19th Street, Rock Island)
- March 11th ✓
- April 8th ✓
- May 13th
- June 10th
- July 8th - Meeting 5:30
- August 12th
- September 9th
- October 14th
- November 11th
- December 2nd (one week early)

Special Events

- March 1st, 8th, 15th, 24th -- Beginning Genealogy Workshops at Moline Library Southeast Branch 3130 41st Street, Moline
- March 31st -- Beginning Genealogy Workshop at Rock Island County Historical Research Library, 822 11th Avenue, Moline
- June 12th -- Historic Cemetery Bus Tour

Dwight Mohlenbruck

Dwight Edward Mohlenbruck, 77, of Rock Island, died Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005, at his home.

As he wished, his body was cremated, and interment will be in the National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, on Sunday, Sept. 11, a celebration of life open house will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Word of Life Christian Center, 1804 7th Ave., Rock Island. Hodson Funeral Home, Rock Island, is helping the family. Memorials may be made to the Rock Island County Historical Society.

Dwight was born Jan. 19, 1928, in Brown County, Ill., son of John Edward and Eva May Wilson Mohlenbruck. He married Bernice Jewel Kleist Jan. 21, 1956, in Rock Island County. He married Virginia Lee Lawrence Dec. 28, 1962, in Rock Island County. He graduated from Western Ill. and transferred with BS and MS degrees. He taught in public schools and colleges for 40 years.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He served as 1st sergeant with a rifle company in Korea, where he received a battlefield appointment as a warrant officer. He received a direct commission as a 2nd lieutenant, Branch Infantry. He completed the Infantry Officer Career Course, Fort Benning, Ga. He retired as captain.

Mr. Mohlenbruck published Death Indexes for Rock Island County. He was recognized by local and national genealogical groups. He dearly loved his family and took special joy in the lives of his grandchildren.

Survivors (and spouses) include his wife, Virginia, Rock Island; daughter, Dwayne, Elaine Mohlenbruck, Rock Island; three stepchildren, Denise Dees and Carl Schmidt, Rock Island; Pamela (David) Donner, Rock Island; Todd (Pebble) Dees, Bettendorf; sister, Eva Marilyn (Bregid) Brooks, Xenia, Ohio; seven step-grandchildren, Justin, Joshua and Elizabeth Donner, Benjamin Cappert and his fiancée, Kristi Nossel; and Emily Cappert, Miranda and Shala Dees. His parents, a still-born daughter and a stillborn son preceded him in death.

LOOKING FOR AN OLD OBITUARY?

Quad-Cities Online has archived obituaries dating back more than five years. To view any archived obituary, go to www.qconline.com, click on "obituaries" and follow instructions that will take you back to the desired date.



ed opportunity lay elsewhere.

He sold his bank stock to Cornelius Lynde in 1860 and invested instead in local coal mining. But coal is worthless until it reaches someone who needs it. Railroads were the perfect way to transport this heavy black gold — and other commodities as well.

Cable saw the potential. He began buying railroad stock, starting with the small Rock Island and Peoria line. Eventually, he and his nephew, Ransom, were major owners of railroads throughout the country, including the famed Rock Island Line.

Around the time he sold his bank interest, Mr. Cable bought a brick house that had been built by Lemuel Andrews on the north side of Moline Avenue at an address that later would be known as 2915 5th Ave.

According to Pamela Langston, writing in the local history book "Joined by a River," the Andrews house was completely renovated and redecorated for the Cable family, which also included wife Mary, son Ben T. and daughter Lucie.

A new gabled roof and portico with marble steps were added to the exterior. The interior was gussied-up with marble mantles and elegant cornices. Bathrooms were added as well, including perhaps the first built-in bathtub in Rock Island.

Our early 1900s postcard from Shannon Hall shows the front of the house as viewed from the southwest. The center tower that faced 29th Street was likely original, but the gabled roof and "new" portico at the front were added by the Cables.

We can see two other towers and, according to Sanborn maps, there was yet another tower at the far rear. A large glass conservatory is visible at the right rear of the house.

Two buildings, both residences, are in the right background. The closer one was a large home that Mr. Cable reportedly built for "Aunt Rachel," a former slave whose freedom he had purchased. After her death, the building was converted to private billiard rooms.

The farther building was the gardener's house. The Cable property also had an icehouse and large carriage house.

A siding from the several rows of railroad tracks at the rear of the property extended right into the carriage house so the Cables' personal railroad coach could glide inside.

In his later years, P.L. Cable was afflicted by disabilities resulting from a fall. He set out for Monterrey, Mexico (in his private coach, of course), where

was known as it is captioned on our postcard — the residence of Hon. Ben T. Cable. The title came from his 1890 election to the House of Representatives where he served one term.

When Ben became an invalid around 1920, he added a three-story elevator at the northwest corner, but only used it for three months before he died in 1923.

Ben's wife remained at the home until her death in 1934. Their son, Philander, who had been born in France, had already left the Rock Island area. He graduated from Harvard and joined the State Department in the Foreign Service. He was only 49 when he died in 1940.

After Mrs. Cable's death, the house was vacant for seven years. Then, on June 7, 1941, Argus columnist George Wickstrom wrote the "obituary for Rock Island's most famous house." The Cable house was going to be demolished and the land used for industry.

The profusely illustrated article is worth reading in its entirety. Although the home had been vandalized during its vacant years, many of its fine details, from the mahogany-paneled original bathtub to the rare, perfectly circular, three-story staircase, were intact.

Family furnishings that had been left in the house were unaccounted for, although vintage carriages, many from France, were still in the carriage house.

A few days later, Mr. Wickstrom wrote another story, reporting that the vandalism was now complete — not by the paid housewreckers, but rather by the community.

After his first story, an estimated 4,000 citizens had descended upon the house like locusts, ripping out or destroying everything of value.

The staircase was carried off in pieces by souvenir seekers. Outside, railings from the first to the third stories were stolen. Shards of glass hung from the steel framework of the conservatory roof. The wrecking ball was an anticlimax.

The site of P.L. Cable's mansion is occupied by a Mid-American Energy building, and the surroundings are industrial. The railroad tracks at the rear, although fewer in number, still are in the same place, but the private Cable siding is gone.

Postcards from Home features vintage Rock Island postcards with text that has been researched and prepared by the Rock Island Preservation Society as a public service. Readers are invited to make suggestions to the The Dispatch or Rock Island Argus for this series.

ter, Dwinaica Mohlenbruck, Rock Island. She was preceded in death by two children in infancy. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.TrimbleFuneralHomes.com.

Dwinaica Mohlenbruck
1983, P.L. Cable

B.C.



Genealogy workshops available in March

Blackhawk Genealogical Society is offering a series of weekly beginning genealogy workshops on Wednesday evenings in March, from 7 to 9 p.m., starting on March 3rd. The cost is \$5 per session or \$15 for a five-session package. Workshops include: Getting Started, Locating Vital Records, Using Federal Records and Computer Genealogy.

Weeks 1-4 will be held in the Community Room of the Mt. Southeast Library, 3130, 41st

Far from forgotten

Memorial honors Confederate soldiers

For the living, the Confederate dead now serve as solemn reminders of a dark time in our nation's history but they weren't always so.

They came to the Confederate prison camp on Arsenal Island as captured sol-

are about a half-mile down the road from Arsenal Island's National Cemetery.

Now, standing guard over the graves is a 6-foot-high granite pillar set on a stone base. Its inscription reads, "In memory of the Confederate veterans who died at the Rock Island Confederate prison camp. May they never be forgotten. Let no man asperse the memory of our sacred dead. They were men who died for a cause they believed was worth fighting for and made the ultimate sacrifice."

The dead were among more than 12,000 prisoners held on Arsenal Island from 1863 to 1865. Early prisoners captured in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge brought smallpox to the unprepared prison camp. It, and other diseases like dysentery and pneumonia, would kill many in the months and years to come.

Mrs. Finnegan watched a friend crumble in tears upon finding the tombstone of a relative buried in the Arsenal cemetery. She had similar feelings when she came across the grave of a relative at a different Confederate cemetery.

"I was very moved by the experience," she says. "He fought for what he believed in, just a farm boy a long way from home, and died so alone, still a farm boy. Their lives were short. I'm sure there are

Please see **Memorial, D2**



Compass Points Chronicles

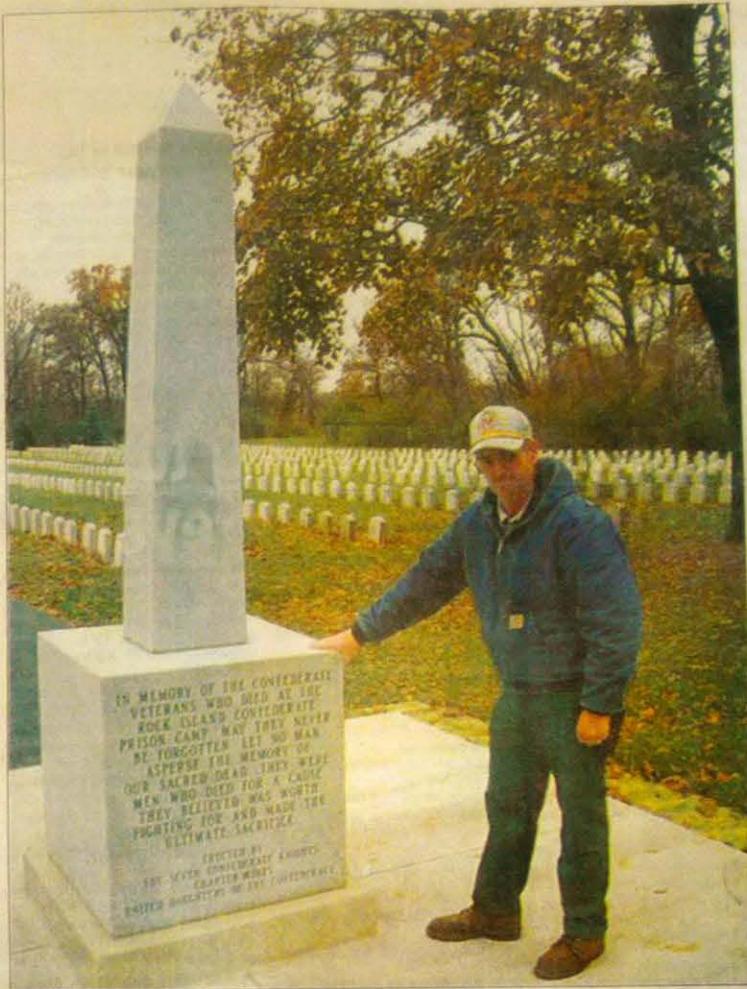
Todd Welvaert

diers from the other side of a chasm of geography and politics, but they were also fathers, brothers, husbands and sons.

The 1,964 buried there will be forever far from home, far from kin. But at least now, they're far from forgotten.

"It was our intent to honor the dead soldiers there," says Loretta Finnegan of Chicago, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy's Seven Confederate Knights Chapter 2625. Her group spearheaded fundraising efforts and dedicated a memorial to the Confederate dead at the cemetery earlier this month.

The Confederate graves are maintained by the National Cemetery Administration, and



Todd Welvaert / staff

Lester White, foreman at the National Cemetery on the Rock Island Arsenal, stands next to a recently dedicated memorial to the Confederate soldiers who died at the Rock Island Arsenal prison camp nearly 140 years ago.

More information about the Confederate Cemetery is available in a book on the history of the Rock Island Prison Barracks, published by The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office. Some copies

are available at the National Cemetery headquarters on Arsenal Island.

More information on the United Daughters of the Confederacy is available at www.hqudc.org.

Memorial

From Page D1

soldiers buried far from home who have never been visited, and that's very sad to me, whether they are from the Civil War, World War I or World War II, and it saddens me to think they have no visitors.

Mrs. Finnegan became interested in the United Daughters of the Confederacy after working on her family's history and learning

some of her kin fought in the Civil War. She had a great-great-grandfather who fought and lived, but his two brothers perished, one in battle and the other from disease.

"They were all so young, 16, 19, 23. Whether Union or Confederate, I think we have to honor them," she says.

The group raised money for the monument by hosting Civil War-era balls with silent auctions for handmade goods and sales at Civil War reenactments.

Mrs. Finnegan said it took about three years' work to raise enough cash.

The Daughters of the Confederacy was founded after the Civil War, when members volunteered to work at hospitals and cared for widows and families, she says. Now, a group whose members are descendants of the Confederate army, navy or civil service, it educates people about how and what the Civil War meant and why it happened.

Lester White, a foreman at the

Rock Island National Cemetery, said the Confederate Cemetery receives visitors throughout the year.

"Sometimes they leave flowers," he says. "A lot of people say they were working on their families' history and found a relative who died here."

They came as Confederate soldiers nearly 140 years ago, but also as fathers, brothers, husbands and sons. They remain here forever, far from home, but now, also far from forgotten.

1929 — 75 years ago: Frederick C. Denkmann, 69, died today in his home at 625 26th St., Rock Island. The eldest son of one of the founders of the Weyerhaeuser & Denkmann timber and lumber enterprises, he became a guiding influence in most of Rock Island's chief industries.

1879 — 125 years ago: O.J. Dimock has received a life-size stone image of his former Newfoundland dog. The stone will be placed over the grave of the Dimocks' two children, where the dog had lain on guard ever since the children died of diphtheria. F.G. Cross of Chicago was the sculptor.

They won a battle for remembrance



Larry McHenry, Katherine Huston and Don Lingafelter are among the volunteers who have fought for an access road to Mercer County's second-oldest cemetery, the Davis Cemetery in rural New Boston.

Lane opens to New Boston pioneer cemetery

By Jason M. Rodriguez
Staff writer

For 11 years, Don Lingafelter trekked through muddy fields each spring to raise the American flag at Davis Cemetery, and returned each fall to take it down.

This year was different. Instead of the 87-year-old Alamo man struggling through rough terrain to take down Old Glory, he had the luxury of driving his truck right to the open gate of the New Boston cemetery, Mercer County's second oldest, the

day after Veterans Day.

Mr. Lingafelter said he performs the ceremony for the four fallen Civil War veterans, including his father, William, who are buried in Davis Cemetery.

"New Boston Township used to keep this cemetery nice," he said. "Our fight is over. I think the young people will take over now."

The fight has been going on since 1992, when the Lucas Farm Agency of Matherville restricted road access to the

Please see **Cemetery**, A5



Nathan Williams / staff

Cemetery

From Page A1

cemetery. It is surrounded by farm ground. Scott Lucas rents from DVL Farms of Libertyville, Ill., a Chicago suburb.

Over the years, cornfields had taken over the original road to the cemetery. That road used to connect Knoxville and New Boston. New Boston Township officials thought they were traveling the original road when they went to mow the cemetery but actually were on a private road near the original one.

Township officials were told they were on private property in 1992.

Over the years, trees and weeds took over the historic cemetery, home to more than 200 gravesites. They include four Civil War veterans and one freed slave, who was a member of one of the first black families to settle in Mercer County.

After 11 years of unsuccessful

To reach Davis Cemetery:

The access road is off Bluff Road between Joy and New Boston. Go east at the intersection of Bluff Road and 65th Avenue. The hilly gravel road leads to flattened corn fields, which go north to the cemetery.

fully searching for the original roads on plat maps, officials finally found the road on a gas-pipeline map. In November, township officials were able to clear a path for the part-gravel, part-flattened-cornfield road. Volunteers could at last make it to the cemetery and clean it of brush.

"A lot of people who were buried here were pioneers of Mercer County," said Larry McHenry, Davis Cemetery Association secretary. "We take

real pride in having this cemetery open again. We thank the New Boston Township for all the help they gave us to get this road to the cemetery."

The Davis property once was owned by Adam Davis. On April 3, 1841, it was deeded to three Mercer County residents for creation of a cemetery. The last burial in the 162-year-old cemetery was in 1936.

The next step for the cemetery board is to repair the gravestones, which have sustained some damage. Mr. McHenry said they will try to develop a map of burial plots.

Organizers and historians are glad the battle over the road is over.

"You kept us going," Mr. McHenry told Mr. Lingafelter. "You were our inspiration."

Mr. Lingafelter smiled as he thought about an easier flag-raising.

"I'll drive up next year."

Staff writer Jason Rodriguez can be reached at (309) 582-5138, or by e-mail at jayrodriguez@oonline.com.

Editorials

A 'willkommen' site

The gorgeous building is the first thing you notice when you drive across the Centennial Bridge heading into Iowa.

As such, we're pleased to say that for those who haven't done so yet, a visit to it is an absolute must in the new year.

"It" is the beautifully renovated and refurbished German American Heritage Center, located in the former Germania Haus (later the Miller Hotel) at 2nd and Gaines streets in Davenport. The center is dedicated to preserving the heritage of German immigrants for present and future generations.

The issue

What's a must for all Quad-Citians in the new year?

We think

A visit to the German American Heritage Center, located in the former Germania Haus at 2nd and Gaines streets in Davenport.

This week, officials announced that, beginning today, the center will be open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Sundays. The center also is open other days and times by appointment.

"The center has a permanent exhibit on German immigration and development in the Quad-Cities," the officials said. "Current temporary exhibits include exhibits on the local Turner Society, Bix Beiderbecke's early years in the Quad-Cities, and the Voss Washing Machine Co."

Officials are proud to note that the establishment of the center, founded in 1994 as a non-profit corporation, adds another dimension to the wide range of ethnic facilities created to honor America's patchwork of people, and will take its place among them to preserve the memory of those who came before us.

We're thrilled with the restoration work that has been completed at the German American Heritage Center; it's a tremendous improvement for the entire community, and another symbol of Davenport's determination to improve the riverfront and its surrounding neighborhoods.

We encourage a visit to the center (there is no charge; donations are appreciated). Programming is also available for groups and may be held at the center or off-site.

We also support the Center's effort to broaden its membership base. Several membership levels are available for purchase, with money raised used to help the center tell the stories of German-American immigrants and to serve as a research facility and an educational center sponsoring workshops, symposiums, and exhibits.

For more information on the center, call (563) 322-8844.

Visit German American Heritage Center

100 million Americans have presidential roots

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Is there a president in your family tree? There's obviously one in George W. Bush's, but Family Tree Magazine says 100 million Americans also have some sort of presidential roots.

Almost anyone with New England ancestry is probably connected to dozens of presidents. Those with Quaker or Southern roots also have a good chance.

But no one's tree includes James Buchanan, the only bachelor president.

Nine-week course will introduce genealogy

DAVENPORT — The Davenport Public Library, 321 Main St., will sponsor a nine-week beginning genealogy course. Classes will meet from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 16 through May 11. Cost is \$30. Class size is limited to 18 participants.

To register, visit the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center at the library, or call (563) 326-7902.

Preserving memories since 1855

Chippinnock Cemetery
2907 12th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone 309-788-6622 www.chippinnock.com

Annual tree trimming honors memories

By Dawn Neuses
Staff writer

ANDOVER — Eighty relatives gathered Sunday to decorate a Christmas tree that is also a memorial for one Andover family.

The tree, which is in Andover Lake Park, was planted 11 years ago by some of the 14 Carey family siblings in memory of their parents, Leg Bradford Carey Sr. and Gertrude Carey.

Mr. Carey Sr. died in 1965, and his wife died in 1982. For the past 10 years, the Carey family has gathered at the Andover American Legion the Sunday after Thanksgiving for a potluck, and then they decorate the tree.

This year, about 80 relatives — most who live in the Quad-Cities area — gathered to help decorate the tree with strings of lights and more than 100 ornaments — many with their own special meaning.

"This year we asked everyone to bring an ornament that represents their family," said sibling Frances Staub, of Andover. "We always wanted it to become a family tradition for everyone to come and help decorate. This year we wanted everyone to get involved."

The blue spruce that the first Christmas they easily were able to put a topper on now towers 15 feet.

This year, Ms. Staub also created a memorial for all of those who have died in their family to place next to the tree.

"It makes you think about all of the happiness and the good times we've had in the past," she said. "A lot of fond memories and a lot of names came up today that haven't come up in the past."

Ms. Staub said relatives showed up Sunday who hadn't been to a family gathering in three to four years. "It is a real good family get together and an opportunity to be close to everybody. More than anything, that is what it means to me."

She said their tree is the only one in the park decorated by a family. The rest are decorated by the village of Andover.



Dan Videtich / staff

Gary Carey of Andover puts a star on the top of a holiday decorated evergreen at Andover Lake Park in Andover Sunday afternoon. Mr. Carey and nearly 70 people from his extended family came out to decorate the tree in memorial to family members who have passed away.

Staff writer Dawn Neuses can be reached at (309) 786-6441, Ext. 206, or by e-mail at dneuses@qonline.com.

Where ON THE Web

FINDING YOUR ROOTS

TRACING YOUR GENEALOGY doesn't have to mean wasting weekends in the attic rifling through dusty cardboard boxes, hoping the pack rats in the family hung on to important documents.

Want to find out about your great-grandfather Henry? Wondering whether twins run in the family? Curious about that long-lost cousin on your mother's side? RootsWeb.com is chockablock with information that'll get you up and running. Supported by Ancestry.com, it claims to be "the oldest and largest free genealogy site."

From the homepage, scroll down to "Getting Started" and choose "Roots-

The Internet makes genealogy easy and fun.

Web's Guide to Tracing Family Trees." Click on "Where to Begin?" for a thorough overview of how to trace your genealogy, covering everything from questions to ask when interviewing relatives to suggested readings. (This site is perfect for Black History Month, a time when we're reminded of the past's profound significance.)

"Discover your family story," touts a box on the homepage of Genealogy.com. Free services on the site include access to an archive of 175 printer-friendly how-to articles. The site also offers dozens of free classes from its online university, covering topics like genealogy societies, church records and networking. If you have cash to spare and want to go all out, memberships range from \$69.99 to \$199.99 and includes services such as Family Tree Maker software.

A few clicks of the mouse and your family's past will begin to seem like anything but ancient history. **EW**

—Anna Mantzaris

USA WEEKEND • Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2004 9

Phyllis Coopman

Phyllis J. Coopman, 88, formerly of Moline, passed away Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004, at Silver Cross Nursing Center, Friendship Manor, Rock Island.



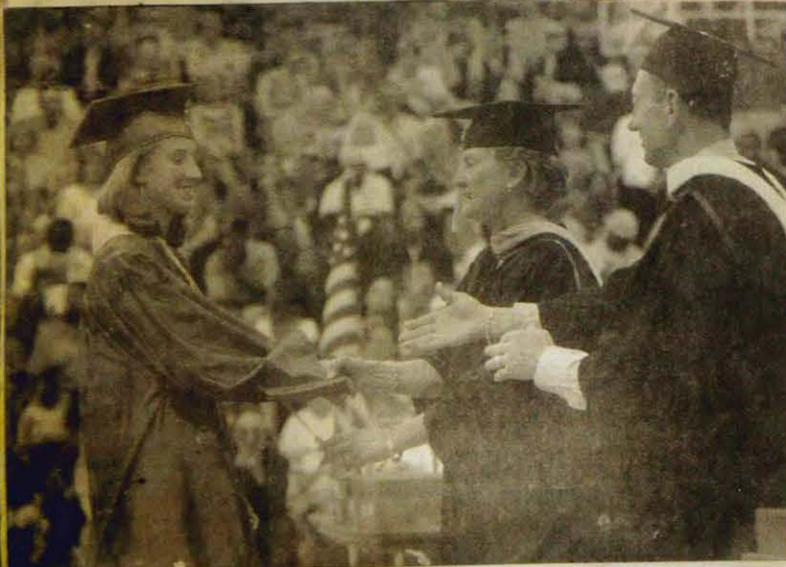
Services are 11 a.m. Saturday at Wendi Funeral Home. Visitation is 9 a.m. to service time. The Rev. Robert Lee will officiate. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. Memorials may be made to the Rock Island County Historical Society or the Col. Davenport Historical Society.

Phyllis was born April 15, 1915, the daughter of Albert and Vera Livingston Aswege. She married William M. Coopman on Nov. 2, 1940, in Moline. He preceded her in death on June 12, 1994.

In earlier years, she had been employed as a secretary at Royal Neighbors of America and the Rock Island Arsenal.

Phyllis had a longtime interest in antiques, local history and genealogy. She was a former member of the Rock Island County Historical Society and had served as a board member and assistant curator. She also had been a former member of the Col. Davenport Historical Society, Black Hawk Genealogical Society, Quakers and King's Daughters.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, William Jr. and Sandra, and son, David, all of Moline; granddaughter, Merry and husband, Volkan Sumner, Tremont, Ill.; grandson, Chris, Lockport, Ill.; and three great-grandchildren.



Toled Muzner / staff

Rock Island High School co-valedictorian Laura Westensee accepts the honor from principal Dr. Dawn Snyder and assistant principal Gary Flecker.

A black friend of mine asked me (I am white) if I knew any white people with the surname of Washington. I could not come up with even one! Since then, the two of us have asked many people—of both races, and in other areas of the country—if they knew of any. No luck. Do you know any white people with the surname of Washington?

—Janet Hankins, Laurel, Md.
Well, how about George?!

In the footsteps of our Illinois ancestors

"You can't rightly claim to be an Illinoisan unless you've traveled on the National Road to look in our state's beginnings," says Jerry Roll, executive director of the Illinois National Road Association, a grass-roots nonprofit organization in Toledo, Ill.

The drive along the old National Road or Pike, now U.S. Highway 40, is the final leg on the 800-mile National Road Scenic Byway, which begins in Baltimore, Md. and ends in Vandalia, Ill. — or in St. Louis, depending on which of several National Road historians you prefer. In the 1830s, the road united the Eastern states with the nation's Western frontier.

Before the road was built — through dark, dense woods, across streams and up mountains — pioneers traveled mainly by water and settled close to lakes and rivers.

"Illinois was first settled in the south and west parts of the state, mainly along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers," says Mr. Roll.

Before the road was built, existing pack-animal trails were impassable in wet weather and winter, and no one going to Illinois in a covered wagon could make it over the Allegheny Mountains without traveling far south, through the Cumberland Gap and then into Tennessee and Kentucky to finally reach Illinois.

"The surveyor for the National Road in Illinois wrote that the area was so sparsely settled he hadn't seen more than two houses and crossed two roads on the way through Illinois," says Mr. Roll.

Maps were so bad and forests so dense, the surveyor never was able to find Vandalia. "The surveyor commented, 'It's a poor state of affairs when you're one mile from a state capital and can't find it,'" says Mr. Roll.

In 1817, War of 1812 veterans began receiving 160-acre land grants in the Illinois Military Tract, a region between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

Traveler Edmund Flagg wrote in "The Fair Heart, or a Tour Beyond the Mountains."

"We are told that the first heads-towners who assembled in session at this place sought their way through the neighboring prairies as the manner shews over the trackless ocean, by his knowledge of the cardinal points, and many wore the robes of adventure and mishap. Some had been lost in the prairies, some had slept in the woods, some had been almost chilled to death, plunging through creeks and rivers."

Once the National Road was built, travelers covered the 800 miles on horseback, in stage coaches and wagons in order to stake claims in the land of Lincoln.

"A lot of people entering the state came on the National Road and then took Indian trails and port roads," says Mr. Roll. "For some, the first stop was Palestine, Ill., an early land office, where they registered a plot and then moved north or east. Some came to visit Vandalia, which was then the capital."

Most settlers came in a Conestoga-type wagon, pulled by a team of six draft horses that averaged about 15 miles a day.

Stops at the inn

Almost no one traveled without frequenting the rest stops — in those days called taverns — for food, drink and rest. Pork and beans were prepared in heavy iron pots over open hearths, a meal that cost 25 cents.

Taverns had their barrooms, and non-drinkers were "few and far between." The barrooms were noisy places where men traded tales of life on the road of politics and whiskey between sips of rye whiskey and puffs on a clay pipe or fat brown cigars. They dined and spit and played games of cards or checkers.

When spending the night in a tavern, one shared the bed with strangers — sometimes strangers of the opposite sex. Bodily needs changed through-

out the night as some travelers came in late from driving at night and others arose early to start on the road.

For many, traveling on the National Road was an experience to write home about. In "The Refugee, or Advertiser of an English Gentleman's Family" (1835), J. Richard Bese wrote of his journey on the road westward from Indianapolis: "I had, of course, understood that I was to have a spring wagon, but was now assured that no springs could stand the roughness of the roads. To a wagon without springs, we had therefore to resign ourselves."

"On the 27th of June, 1851, our beautiful horses started forth, with a will, on our journey across the prairies to the banks of the mighty Mississippi. Carpet-bags and such light articles were thrown into the bottom of our wagon, as we thought that they would make convenient seats for the 11 children (beaver skins being transported in a separate wagon).

"The body of the vehicle was then filled half way up with hay and straw, that they might less feel the shaking and the jolting. The cages of the parrot and of the canary birds were tied to the hoops, on which the canvas awning was stretched overhead, and, amid much fun and laughter, the children helped lifted and huddled one another into their places. My wife and I scrambled up to the bench, which I had made and swung across, on straps, under the awning in front."

In separate diaries, about the Bese children complain about how the wagon jolts, how the sun is burning hot through the cloth wagon top, how uncomfortable it is for them — lacking seats — to hunker on the straw, feet drawn up beneath them, how they must avoid touching the sides of the jolting wagon, which rubs raw spots on their skin, how the bird cages knock against their heads and how the pecky toddlers scramble about.

Early on, there were good deals

on Illinois land.

"There was about eight thousand quarter sections of non-resident lands sold at Vandalia in Dec. last, for (taxes) (50¢) which if not redeemed within one year will belong to the purchasers," wrote Genshon Flagg, an early settler, in an 1825 letter to his brother.

"The same they were sold for would not exceed five dollars upon an average, and this sum was received in Illinois State Bank paper which is worth only 30 cents to the dollar, which will bring the price of the land if not redeemed at less than one cent per acre."

Once Illinois land had been surveyed by the U.S. government and put up for sale, New-Englanders came flocking.

People could buy land in Illinois for the price of remaining land back East.

In 1835 \$5 million worth of land was put up for sale in the state. Within three years, 5000 new towns were created. By 1850 there were at least 18 people per square mile in the Illinois River valley.

"We have a great plenty deer, Turkeys, Wolves, Opussoms, Prairie hens, Eagles, Turkey Buzzards, Swans, Geese, ducks, sand hill Cranes, Parakees, & with many other small Animals and birds," wrote Genshon Flagg, the early settler.

"Gray squirrels are as thick as I have ever seen striped ones in Vermont. There is more honey here in this Territory I suppose than any other place in the world. I have heard hunters say that they have found eight to 10 swarms a day on the St. Genes and Illinois Rivers where there are no settlements. Truly this must be the Land of Milk and Honey" (1817). "The Prairie State."



Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Dean Ring, at left, is a Habitat for Humanity volunteer who helped build the Davenport home of Nate and Althea Hall, and children Shyla Bruce, 8, and Jalin Bruce, 11.

10 years HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dean Ring, a 78-year-old volunteer electrician, walked Althea Hall down the aisle at her wedding. Ring and Hall became friends through Habitat for Humanity.

International housing organization celebrates a decade in the Q-C

By Judy Betts | QUAD-CITY TIMES

Habitat for Humanity is celebrating a decade in the Quad-Cities. It has been 10 years since the international housing organization began providing low-cost, affordable homes for families in need in the Quad-Cities. Volunteers, businesses and community organizations on both sides of the river have worked together to complete 28 homes. The positive impact stretches from homeowner to neighborhood and to the community as a whole.

A new perspective

Davenport resident Althea Hall has lived in her Habitat home for five years. She takes pride in home ownership and is actively involved in her neighborhood.

When she first heard about the program, she was a single mother with a 3-year-old son, working part-time at the YMCA and studying at Hamilton Technical College to become a medical assistant. She lived in low-income housing, always paid her rent on time and was determined to provide a better life for herself and her family.

"I kept striving," she says. "I wanted something more in life."

She put in nearly 500 hours of "sweat equity" working on Habitat projects, first helping on homes for others and finally on her own. Building her own home was an experience that changed her life, she says.

"I was going through life angry, with hatred setting in. People seemed mean, everyone out for themselves. The volunteers gave me a new perspective on life

HABITAT

Continued from Page G1

— so many people from so many backgrounds coming together, happy as could be. It changed my whole perspective on life and people."

A year after she moved into her home, Hall married her husband, Nathaniel. The wedding included many friends she had met through Habitat.

Barb Hiesterman, Habitat for Humanity administrative assistant, made the wedding cake. Dean Ring, a 78-year-old volunteer electrician, walked her down the aisle.

"They are just like the family I never had," says Hall, who lost her mother when she was 3 years old and was raised by her grandmother.

Hall's son, Jalin, is now 11 years old. Her daughter, Shyla, is 8. She says she is in the home to stay.

"I got to know the heart of the house," she says. "There are beams with people's names on them. It's something I built with my own hands."

Volunteers benefit

Tim Foley, branch manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, was one of 15 volunteers from Wells Fargo who worked on a recent Habitat project in Davenport.

The group painted, varnished and did yard clean-up. Everyone pitched in evenings after work.

"It's a good feeling to walk away and know you have helped someone," Foley says. "The president, all the way to the tellers, work together."

Other residents in the neighborhood take an interest when a new Habitat home starts up, he says.

"When a new home goes up in a neighborhood it gives everyone pride and they start working with their homes. People begin to appreciate their own property as well."

Volunteers from Wells Fargo worked hand-in-hand with volunteers from the Greater Davenport Board of Realtors. The two groups enjoyed working together so much that they plan to continue the partnership in the future.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Althea and her children Jalin, now 11, and Shyla, now 8, are all smiles in front of their almost-completed Habitat for Humanity home in 1999.

"We're in business to finance mortgages and the Realtors are in business to sell homes. It makes sense to work together," Foley says.

Both businesses plan to continue their support in the future.

"We've already sent in the paperwork for next year," Foley says. "This is something we're going to continue to do, partnering on an annual basis."

Future expansion

The partnership between Habitat and Wells Fargo is a model for other businesses, says Jane Kettering, executive director of Habitat for Humanity-Quad-Cities.

Wells Fargo donated \$5,000 toward a Habitat home completed in 2002 in Moline.

\$22,500 for a home dedicated to November in Davenport, and \$10,000 for a home currently under construction in Rock Island. They also provide volunteer help.

"This is really the way we need to go," Kettering says. "A one-time deal is fabulous, but a consistent partnership is really what makes it work."

Habitat homes are not given away. This year, the homes have a purchase price of \$55,000. Families purchase their home at cost, with no interest. Habitat holds the 20- to 30-year mortgage.

As the mortgage payments come in, the money goes back into the community to build more homes, thus ensuring the continuity of the program.

To qualify for the program, families must prove income

HOW TO HELP

Executive director Jane Kettering lists these as the greatest needs of Habitat for Humanity at this time:

Volunteers

- Phone calling
- Office cleaning
- Members for Church Relations Committee
- Members for Fund Development Committee
- Cut grass or shovel snow on empty lots
- Groups to provide lunches for volunteers on Saturdays

Financial support

- Businesses that will commit goods or services on a regular basis.
- Groups that will sponsor a house build on a regular basis (Groups can work together.)
- Individuals willing to donate monthly or yearly to ensure that others may have safe and secure housing.

For more information or to volunteer, call (563) 359-9066.

history and be able to pay home loan. They also must be willing to give at least 2 hours of volunteer time per adult, including time spent on other projects, before the home is started.

Habitat has completed homes over the past 10 years at a rate of two to three homes per year. The goal is to be building six to nine homes per year by 2010, Kettering says.

Mike Ingleby, president of the Greater Davenport Board of Realtors, says he didn't realize how much fun volunteering would be.

"If you do one house and see the family, the camaraderie, everybody working together, you're hooked," he says. "You hear about so many people depressed, on Paxil. You can't be depressed if you're helping someone."

Judy Betts can be contacted at (563) 359-9066 or betts@qtimes.com.

30th Annual

Quad Cities Genealogical Conference

Saturday

April 24, 2004

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

at the

Viking Club of Moline

1450 - 41st Street

Moline, Illinois



Quad-Cities USA

Family Circus



"We learned about them at school. They're our four fathers."

CITY OF
"To know the character of a Community,
I need only to visit the cemetery."
Benjamin Franklin

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY &
MOLINE MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY

Serving the community for over 150 years
Office: 5001 - 34th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265

309-797-0790



Todd Welvaert / staff

Black Hawk Hiking Club members, from left, Mel Peterson, Jim Burke, Earl Strupp, Laeltha DeWitt, Bill Howard and Larry Spillers stand around the John Hauberg Memorial at the Hauberg Trail at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, Andalusia. The 84-year-old club recently had an inscription etched to the boulder to honor the club's founder, Mr. Hauberg.

Memorial captures Hauberg's pioneer spirit

The memorial sits just slightly off the cool, forest path. The dense growth above fractures the light and heat and casts it broken to the forest floor. The memorial's designers chose well.

The nine-foot, red granite boulder looks like it belongs there, just off the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, Andalusia. Mr. Hauberg probably would like that.

Hauberg started the Black Hawk Hiking club back in 1920, former club president Mel Peterson, Moline, said. "Dr. Conrad Bergendorf was one of his closest friends, he wrote the inscription that went on the original plaque that was attached to the boulder. (Mr. Hauberg) was on the committee that established the forest preserves in Rock Island County.

Black Hawk, Loud Thunder, and Illinois. He was still serving as club president when he died at 85." They hike on Saturdays in every month but June, July and August. The club has about 250 members from all over the Quad-Cities area, more than 20 of them have belonged for more than 50 years and their oldest active member is 93. In an era where many a club is losing members to hazy lives, they continue to grow.

"We only have one business meeting a year," current president Bill Howard Moline, said, explaining the club's continued success. "They are \$5 a year. At the beginning of the season every one gets a bulletin that has all our hikes spelled out. You can be out of the country for months, come home, look at the bulletin and find out where we will be on Saturday."

There's no pitch, blitz as



Todd Welvaert

usually have coffee or cocoa or lemonade, depending on the weather," Laeltha DeWitt, Dartmouth said. "We have a couple of overnights. We also do some canoeing. I think people like coming out and seeing friends. Just getting away from everything."

The memorial boulder was first dedicated in 1926. Vandals twice removed a bronze plaque the club had created, so this year they are having the sentiment etched in the stone face.

It reads: In Tribute to the Memory of John Hauberg, A native son of Rock Island County, a historian of the Indians who once lived here and the pioneers who took their place, an ardent advocate of the conservation of the forest and plain along with Mississippi River, a lover of nature anxious to share with others these Forest Preserves, an inspiring companion to those who would explore the wonder of God's world near at hand, this marker is erected November 22, 1966, by the Black Hawk Hiking Club whose founder and leader he was for over a third of a century.

He intervened all the pioneers in the area in the 1920s, a lot of that stuff is still on the Augustana Web site," Mr. Peterson said. "He did a lot for this area, a lot for the club. The memorial is the best of the rock path. A-

Si 4q 17 1547 ur v 65 11

the Department of Health, medical calls.

Saturday

Graveyard undecorated and mostly unnoticed

But genealogical society has tracked those buried at Resthaven Cemetery



photos / Gary Kamback / staff

A few upright grave markers are at the Resthaven Cemetery in East Moline, but most are flat, ground-level markers. Inset: The Resthaven sign at the entrance to the cemetery.

On record

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

► **Contact:** www.rootsweb.com/ibgsrim/ or club president Lorraine Hathaway at (309) 787-1826.



Todd Welvaert

be forgotten.

"I think the society has managed to record almost every cemetery in Rock Island County, regardless of how small or how old," said Dorothy Darland of Rock Island, Blackhawk Genealogical Society member for 20 years.

The Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties was founded in 1972 to help members research their family trees and to save ancestral records.

Its members tracked down the official handwritten entries of the peo-

ple buried at Resthaven and transferred them, published them in their quarterly and placed the list in the Rock Island County Historical Society, 822 11th Ave., Moline.

"I suppose the state would have the information somewhere, but I don't know how a person would go about getting it released," Mrs. Darland said.

Society members Zelma Stufflebeam and Eulalia Garrett canvassed the cemetery to ensure the list was as accurate as possible. Mrs. Darland said the group's research, like its documentation of those buried at Resthaven, is very important to people outside the area looking for their ancestors.

The society has cataloged cemeteries from all over Rock Island and Mercer counties. Several older, smaller cemeteries have been abandoned and despoiled. The society wants to make sure the cemeteries are not forgotten. It happens.

Resthaven Cemetery records went through the numerous hands before the society copied them. Founded in 1895 by the state, the hospital was supervised by the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities. It opened in May 1898 with patients from the Illinois Central Hospital for the Insane at Jacksonville.

That board was abolished in 1909, when control of all state charitable institutions passed to the new Board of Administration. The institution became Watertown State Hospital.

The Civil Administrative Code of 1917 transferred hospital jurisdiction to the Department of Public Welfare. When that agency closed in 1961, the Department of Mental Health took responsibility. In 1975, the then East Moline State Hospital was renamed the East Moline Mental Health Center.

Eventually, it became the East Moline Correctional Center, whose staff inherited the handwritten records of those buried in Resthaven. Members of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer counties found and copied them.

Resthaven Cemetery is a lonely place, but it's not forgotten.

It matters not the season. It has no flowers. It has no wreaths. The stones that mark the graves at Resthaven Cemetery are worn and pressed flat into the earth, so much so the grass grows thick around their edges and threatens to swallow them.

Some stones date back to the turn of the century, when the cemetery was a repository for the remains of those who died at the Illinois Western Hospital for the Insane. They ended up here when family couldn't be found or couldn't afford to bury them elsewhere.

The cemetery sits across a busy street from Northeast Park in East Moline, where children play soccer, baseball and softball. It has no parking lots. Visitors are not expected. A state sign warns against trespassing. Apparently, visitors are not welcome either.

Resthaven Cemetery is a lonely place, but it won't

Miss An Obituary In Yesterday's Paper?

You can find it easily on Quad-Cities Online. Just go to www.qconline.com and click on "obituaries." Photos of the deceased are included online when available.

Quad-Cities Online

The Des Moines AREA'S

Preserving memories since 1855

Chipplanock Cemetery
2001 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone: 309-786-6622 www.chipplanock.com



3 copies sent 91 - 2321
1761
of the People's Power
will be on Saturday

Blackhawk Genealogical Society, 7 p.m., German American Heritage Center, 712 W. 2nd St., Davenport; program on the center's genealogy call archives of German immigration to the Quad-Cities area.

Judi McDowell

This company can make a molehill out of a mountain

“ Digging around a utility is an art. Grading for paving, that’s an art, too.”

By Todd Wehaver
Staff writer

Several tons of growing steel equipped with buckets or blades perform a delicate dance in the dirt.

Whether it’s making a flat spot out of a hill or making a hill out of a flat spot, keeping the dance in time is McDowell Excavating president Judi McDowell.

“My husband Jim really runs the show,” Mrs. McDowell said. “I keep track of the paperwork, some of the planning and make sure the phones get answered and messages get back.”

The company’s been at it for nearly 30 years, opening its doors in 1973. It’s a true family business; her husband and sons Jeff, 36, and Joel, 33, also work there.

“We do mostly commercial site work, but we also still do some residential,” she said.

“Winter is slower, but we also plow snow at The Mark. About the first of April it starts getting

busier, whenever the ground thaws. We stay pretty busy through the summer and then in the fall things get really busy. Everyone wants their site work done so the carpenters, electricians, plumbers, (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) guys can work under a roof through the winter.”

Despite their tremendous size and power, the McDowell’s fleet of bulldozers and back hoes are still pretty susceptible to bad weather. “In the rain and cold, the machines don’t want to start,” Mrs. McDowell described a bad day at a work site.

Utilities also mark another challenge. Mrs. McDowell can run pretty much all of the equipment, but leaves it to more comfortable hands for running around utilities.

“The biggest concern is hitting a utility, digging around a utility is an art,” she said. “I can scoop dirt, but I can’t do the finesse work. Grading for paving, that’s an art, too. (Her

husband Jim) is a good at that.” The equipment is expensive as well, Mrs. McDowell said, expensive to buy, expensive to run and expensive to fix.

“We don’t buy a lot of new stuff,” she said. “Most of it comes from auctions. Dad’s pretty good at getting to auctions; he looks forward to going. We keep track of things through the paper or trade magazines. Sometimes he goes to auctions just to socialize, but that way you also keep a pulse to the value of your own equipment.”

Mrs. McDowell said she enjoys working with family, but it can also create some additional difficulties.

“It can be hard to separate the two sometimes,” she said. “Jim’s a real workaholic. He had a broken arm once and that didn’t even slow him down. Sometimes it’s tough for (Jeff and Joel) to separate that dad/boss relationship, but they manage. It’s nice they are involved.”



Judi McDowell, president of McDowell Excavating Inc., keeps things moving on the construction sites. Her son, Joel, pictured in the driver’s seat of one of the pieces of equipment the company uses.

Vitals

Name: Judi McDowell
Age: 57
Town: Colona
Occupation: President of McDowell Excavating Inc., Carbon Cliff

THE LAST LAUGH

Tombsstones are not generally thought of as fonts of light entertainment. But as *The New York Times* showed, some epitaphs are funnier than others.

He was a simple man who died of complications.
On a grave in Tennessee

I came into this world without my consent and left in the same manner.
From a gravestone in Chattanooga

Stranger, tread this ground with gravity: Dentist Brown is filling his last cavity.
A dentist's epitaph in Edinburgh, Scotland

Harry Edsel Smith: Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.
1913. In Chicago's Graceland cemetery, New York



The People's Pulpit

Peagan funeral service a moving experience

Having grown up in the funeral business and inactively being a part of it, obtaining a funeral director's license, being a teacher and a counselor and now playing the organ for funeral homes, I was deeply impressed and moved by the dignity, the minute details and everything else that took place for Ronald Reagan's funeral service.

Since funeral music is of special interest to me, I was especially impressed with the "live" music that was played throughout the entire services. It was mostly traditional music that people would recognize, not "canned" or taped music (as some funeral homes seem to be advocating nowadays) nothing "far-out" — just the simplest and most common musical selections.

I hope the public who observed this service took notice. Maybe Ronald Reagan's passing will bring back some of our traditional values again.

I also applaud *The Argus* and

The Dispatch for printing 25 lines of an obituary without charging. I'm sure many people who can't afford long, lengthy obituaries appreciate this.

Gary Freers,
Rock Island

What cemetery has Newfoundland statue?

Ask Us Anything



Question: A recent "Today in History" item in *The Rock Island Argus* and *The Dispatch* for 125 years ago said a man installed a statue of his faithful Newfoundland next to the graves of his children. What cemetery was the statue placed in and is it still there?

Answer: The cemetery is Chippianock in Rock Island and, yes, the statue is still there.

The children were Josie and Eddie Dimick. Josie, 9, and Eddie, 5, both died of diphtheria Oct. 22, 1876.

The story is that the family's Newfoundland, believed to have been named Rex, would follow the children's parents when they visited the grave.

Eventually, the dog began going to the cemetery on his own and in time began spending every day from sunrise to sunset, at the grave. When he died, the family commissioned the statue and placed it near the tombstone.



File photo

Rex watches forever over the graves of the Dimick children in Rock Island's Chippianock Cemetery.



Did your departed loved one have a military background? Honor that part of his or her life by including a United States flag with the obituary. Using the symbol adds just four lines to the obituary.

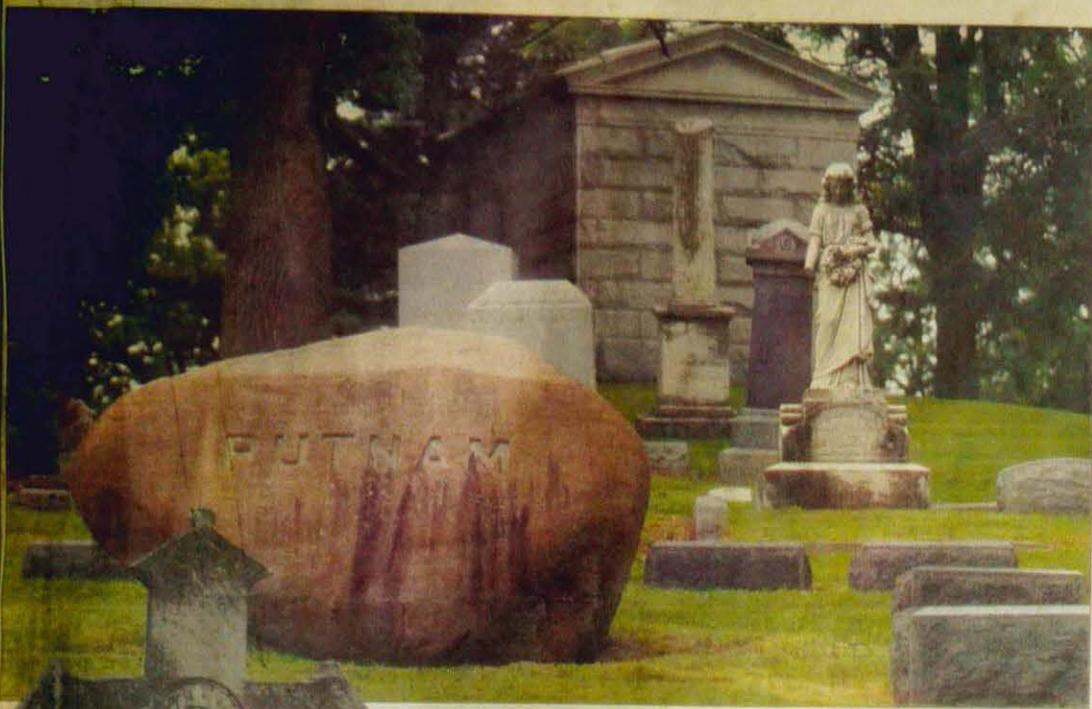
Dispatch-Argus

Emphasize the faith of your departed loved one with a religious symbol, such as a Cross or the Star of David, in the obituary. Using the symbol adds just four lines to the obituary.



Dispatch-Argus

WHO WAS WHO



photos / Dan Videtich / staff

Oakdale Cemetery in Davenport is the resting place of, above, Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam, a scientific publisher and historian, and at left, Nicholas Fejervary, a pioneer settler whose homestead is now a park.

FAMOUS DEAD REST IN Q-C

By Joe Payne
jpayne@qonline.com

On a recent damp spring morning, I stopped by Davenport's Oakdale Memorial Gardens in search of the grave of a man I'd recently read and written about, Ernest Oberholtzer.

At the cemetery office, manager Deb Millhollin gave me a map and directions to the cemetery's oldest section. Eventually I located the grave I was looking for, but before I did, I bumped into — figuratively speaking, anyway — many well-known folks.

All around me were the final resting places of people I'd read and heard so much about while growing up in the Quad-Cities: Bix Beiderbecke, Nich-

olas Fejervary and Phoebe Sudlow, among others. There were the family plots for the Davenports, the Bettendorfs, the Putnams and the Von Maurs. If I'd had time to venture into other sections, I'd have been able to rub granite with author Octave Thanet (Alice French), artist Paul Norton and chiropractic pioneer David Palmer.

The list went on and on — a virtual Who Was Who of the famous dead of the Quad-Cities.

Oakdale Memorial Gardens opened in 1857 and is one of the oldest cemeteries in the Quad-Cities. In it — as well as in City, Pine Hill and Mount

See ▶ Dead, G5

▶ Dead

From Page G1

Calvary cemeteries in Davenport, Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island and Riverside Cemetery in Moline — Quad-Citians can get as up close and personal as is humanly possible with many of our famous forefathers.

If you're in the mood to pay a visit this Memorial Day weekend, well, join the crowd.

"We still have the most visitors to the cemetery this weekend," said Ms. Millhollin. "This is like our Christmas time."

The most-visited grave?

"Most of the visitors are for Bix," said Ms. Millhollin. "Then it's the Civil War people." (Three Union brigadier generals and the recipient of a Civil War Medal of Honor are buried here.) "We get a lot of visitors."

As for Mr. Oberholtzer — a canoe explorer and early environmentalist — "he's gotten really popular here," said Ms. Millhollin.

It actually took me two trips to find Mr. Oberholtzer's grave — partly because I was sidetracked by the other graves and partly because, even with a map, finding an old grave in an old cemetery can be difficult.

Armed with a vague reference to the location of Ober's grave that I'd read in a book, I returned, hoping for some type of intervention to guide me. As I approached what I thought might be the area of

his plot, I flushed a lone robin from the ground. It flew ahead of me about 60 feet and briefly lit on a gravestone. As I got nearer to this stone, I could read the inscription "Atisokan" — the Indian name given to Mr. Oberholtzer by the Ojibwe people he befriended.

I stood for a while before the grave and pondered the serenity. Not a bad place to rest in eternity, I decided. Such an outcome still is an option for those who want to be buried alongside the area's rich and historically famous.

"Everyone thinks that our cemetery's full, but we're only half full, so if they want to be buried with the pioneer families of the Quad-Cities, there is plenty of space available," said Ms. Millhollin.

Who Was Who and where to find them

Here's a list of some of the historically famous people of the Quad-Cities and where to find them this Memorial Day weekend — or any weekend, for that matter.

▶ **Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island:** Col. George Davenport (veteran of the War of 1812, who was murdered in his home on what is now Arsenal Island); Ben Harper (former mayor of Rock Island, whose Harper House Hotel was said to have been the most luxurious hotel west of Chicago); Frederick Weyerhaeuser (lumber magnate); C.C. Knell (invented America's first easy chair).

▶ **Mount Calvary Cemetery,**

Davenport: Antoine LeClaire (co-founder of the city of Davenport); Hal Skelly (stage and screen actor); John McMullen (first bishop of the Diocese of Davenport and founder of St. Ambrose University).

▶ **National Cemetery, Arsenal Island:** Gen. Thomas Jackson Rodman (Civil War officer and commanding officer of the Rock Island Arsenal from 1865 until his death in 1871).

▶ **Oakdale Cemetery, Davenport:** Bix Beiderbecke (jazz legend); Joseph and William Bettendorf (co-founders of the Bettendorf Axle Company); George C. Davenport (son of Col. George Davenport); Jacob M. Eldridge (a pioneer and namesake of the city of Eldridge); and Nicholas Fejervary (a pioneer settler whose homestead is now a park).

Also, Arthur Davison Ficke (poet and friend and lover of poet Edna St. Vincent Millay); Paul N. Norton (nationally known watercolor artist); Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam (scientific publisher and historian); Phoebe Sudlow (first female public-school teacher in the United States); and Alice French (under the pen name Octave Thanet, a well-known author of the late 1800s/early 1900s).

▶ **Riverside Cemetery, Moline:** John Deere (founder of Deere & Co.) and his family; W.L. Vellie (automotive manufacturer); Warren Giles (former National League baseball president); Francis Jeffrey Dickens (son of author Charles Dickens).

Betty Ferong Westensee
Rock Island, Ill.

Marian Ferong Hill
Rock Island, Ill.



are engaged in activities to fulfill the needs during W.W.H.U.

66TH REUNION
R.I. HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1938

Chippiannock's Grand Epitaphs program honored by state group

By Melissa Vogt
mvogt@online.com

The Illinois Association of Museums recently recognized Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation's Grand Epitaphs program.

The living history cemetery tour was honored with the Superior Achievement Award for Special Projects during the association's annual conference Oct. 29 in Danville.



Greg Vogele

Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, developer Isaac Negus and Rock Island's first mayor, Maj. Benjamin Barrett.

The foundation also printed brochures to accompany the tour and explain the symbolism found on Victorian markers and monuments. It was the first time any written material was assembled for the program, cemetery executive director Greg Vogele said.

The cemetery's program, in which volunteer actors in costume portray the lives of those buried there, was modified for this summer's Grand Excursion to focus on citizens who helped bring the railroad to Rock Island.

Featured were Rock Island Bank president Marcus Brutus Osborn, Rock Island County Sheriff Lemuel Andrews, attorney and land developer Jerome J. Beardsley, John Deere's daughter, Ellen Webber, Col. George Davenport, entomologist Benjamin Dann Walsh, 1854 event organizer Sarah Gregg, Rock Island and Peoria Railroad president Gen.

The Rock Island Preservation Commission and Chippiannock Cemetery Association began sponsoring the "Epitaphs Brought to Life" tours in 1994 to honor the cemetery's listing in the National Register of Historic Places and promote local history. Over the years, the program has featured 114 of Chippiannock's dead. Mr. Vogele said.

The cemetery suspended the program in September 2001, planning not to have any tours until 2005, the cemetery's 150th anniversary. City officials asked Chippiannock to make an exception and create an epitaphs program for the 2004 Grand Excursion, Mr. Vogele said.

Some epitaphs will be featured during a 150th anniversary celebration and cemetery foundation fundraising dinner on Feb. 23 in the lodge at Black Hawk State Historic Site, 1510 46th Ave.

► The 'Epitaphs Brought to Life' tours began in 1994. Over the years, the program has featured 114 of Chippiannock's dead.

A "best of" epitaphs tour with the public's favorite 10 personalities will take place in June 2005, Mr. Vogele said.

HEBREW GENEALOGY Linda Weindruch

Linda S. Weindruch, Esq., attorney, law school lecturer, noted Iowa tax authority, and advocate for the rights of disabled Americans, died Tuesday Oct. 5, 2004, in Davenport, where she lived and practiced law.



The funeral will be held on Sunday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m., at the Tri City Jewish Center, 2715 30th St., Rock Island. Burial will be in Rock Island Hebrew Cemetery, Wheeling.

Funeral Home, Rock Island is assisting the family with arrangements.

In 1994, Ms. Weindruch was presented the Iowa State Bar Association President's Award in recognition for her work involving the passage of the Iowa Taxpayers' Procedural Bill of Rights. As chair of the State Bar Association's Taxation Section, Ms. Weindruch worked with the Iowa Department of Revenue, the governor's office, and members of the House and Senate for passage of the bill, which was legislative recognition of certain fundamental procedural rights to which all taxpayers of the state of Iowa were entitled.

In 2004, Iowa Governor Thomas Vilsak appointed Ms. Weindruch a member of the state's Vocational Rehabilitation Council. She served as a member of the board of directors of the Iowa Taxpayers Association. She was involved in the state Republican party.

Ms. Weindruch was a 1983 graduate of Drake University Law School with Honors, Order of Coif. She received her LL.M. Taxation from New York University School of Law in 1988. She received her B.A. from St. Ambrose College, Davenport.

Ms. Weindruch is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Weindruch of Davenport, her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Weindruch of Washington, D.C.; her nephew, Emmett Weindruch of Boston, Mass.; her nieces, Nancy and Louisa of Washington, D.C., and her beloved dogs Kukla and Stella.

Pallbearers include Lee Blumberg, Ira Fertel, Irwin Friedman, Jeffrey Goldstein, David Levin, Brent Michelson, Howard Press, Richard Saltzman, Emmett Weindruch and Michael Weindruch.

Honorary pallbearers include Jay Gellerman, Bernard Goldstein, Mort Kaplan, Harrison Kavensky, Martin Rich, Norman Rich, Victor Rothbart, Jerry Spertak, Bernard Weindruch and Sam Gordon.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to National Multiple Sclerosis Society, <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/>

HEBREW GENEALOGY



Gary Krambeck / staff

New tree replaces historic one at Washington Junior High

Standing before a newly planted white oak tree in front of Washington Junior High School in Rock Island are, from left, Mark Hepner, principal of Washington Junior High School, Darlene Rutter, Kathy Carey and Alice Lagaisse. Students kneeling are, Claire Simonet, Barbara Marx, Lorraine Hathaway and Ilene Correll, members of the Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The tree replaces an old cedar tree that died. The cedar tree was planted by the Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of Paul Revere immediately after the junior high school was built in 1920.

Blackhawk Genealogical Society's

Upcoming Meetings

June 22nd at 7 p.m. -- Visit the German American Heritage Center, 712 West Second Street, Davenport.

July 27th at 7 p.m. -- Visit the Mercer County Historical Society's Essley-Nobel Museum, 1400 SE 2nd Avenue, Aledo.

August 24th at 7 p.m.-- Jill Seaholm on the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at South Park Presbyterian Church, 1501 30th Street, Rock Island.

September 28th at 7 p.m.-- Lorraine Hathaway & Kathy Carey on Getting into the DAR and other Lineage Organizations at South Park Presbyterian Church.

October 16th at 7 p.m. -- Sharlott Blevins on Analyzing a Research Project at South Park Presbyterian Church.

November 16th at 7 p.m. -- Annual Dinner with Dick & Doris Balzer on Colonel Davenport and his Historic Home at Bethel Wesley Methodist Church, 1201 13th Street, Moline.

*Blackhawk Genealogical Society's
Historic Cemetery
Bus Tour*

June 19th, 2004

Edgington Cemetery

Zion Lutheran Cemetery

Buffalo Prairie Cemetery

Drury-Reynolds Cemetery

Illinois City Cemetery



July 27, 2004

Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer Counties Illinois will meet at 7 p.m. at the Essley-Noble Museum, 1400 SE Second Ave., Aledo, to learn about genealogical archives for Mercer County.

*Blackhawk Genealogical Society's
Historic Cemetery Tour*

9 a.m. Pick-up at Southpark Mall
9:30 a.m. Pick-up at Rockridge High School

Edgington Cemetery --

Historian Ken Jones
Gravewitching
Stone Cleaning

Zion Lutheran Cemetery --

Historians Shirley Plumb & Liz Casillas

Lunch --

Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

provided by Reason Meats, Buffalo Prairie

Pork Chop or Chicken

Baked Beans

Potato Salad

Iced Tea and Lemonade

History of Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

by Ranger Mike Murrin

Buffalo Prairie Cemetery --

Historian Jean Wistedt

Drury-Reynolds Cemetery --

Historian Dwight Mohlenbruck

Illinois City Cemetery --

Historian Lila Keller

4:30 p.m. Drop-off at Rockridge High School

5 p.m. Drop-off at Southpark Mall



FAREWELL, GODSPEED

A great eulogy takes us into the heart of a life that's been lost

By John Wilkens

When the notoriously cantankerous Bette Davis died, fellow actor and friend James Woods offered this thought about what they were saying in heaven right then: "Fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy eternity."

When President Kennedy was assassinated, Earl Warren, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, summed up the nation's anguish in three short phrases.

"We are saddened, we are stunned, we are perplexed."

Eulogies have been a unique part of our culture since ancient times.

"A eulogy is a bridge that you build between the living and the dead, between memory and eternity," said Cyrus Copeland, a New York writer who gave eulogies at the funerals for his father and grandfather. "A eulogy puts forward a shared humanity."

Copeland is the editor of *Farewell, Godspeed: The Greatest Eulogies of Our Time*, published in January. It's a collection of 64 send-offs for famous people: visionaries, musicians, movie stars, inventors.

There's one comedian, Bob Hope, saying goodbye to another, Jack Benny, in 1974. "He was stony to the end. He gave us only 80 years, and it wasn't enough."

There's Garrison Keillor, the writer, on Chet Atkins, the guitarist, in 2001. "He was an

artist and there was no pretense in him; he never waved the flag or held up the cross or traded on his own sorrows."

And there's Adlai Stevenson, two-time presidential nominee, speaking at a memorial service for former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1962, but also talking in a more universal way about the tumult of emotions that accompanies the death of a loved one:

"We are always saying farewell in this world - always standing at the edge of loss attempting to retrieve some memory, some human mean-

ing, from the silence - something which is precious and gone."

Copeland said in an interview that he first thought about writing the book ten years ago, after delivering his father's eulogy. The experience, he said, was more cathartic than sad, and he got to wondering about a collection of eulogies - "the poetry of loss" - given for cultural heroes.

"Like a lot of people who have flashes of inspiration, I didn't do a thing with the idea," Copeland said.

-Eulogy, turn to Page 12



CNS Illustration by Arnie Muller

R.I., Mercer county history shared at cemetery tour

By Susan M. Rodriguez

SHERRARD — Ron Parker's passion for this area's history began with learning that his great-grandfather, George Washington Parker, was the first non-American Indian child born in Rockland Grove Township.

That passion blossomed into a study of the history of Rockland and Mercer counties, and prominent people and where they are buried. He'll present his findings Saturday during a tour of Sherrard-area cemeteries.

"It should be a fun day," Mr. Parker said, adding there are many lessons to be learned about the cemeteries. He plans to talk about two veterans of the War of 1812, as well as Civil War veterans and those who died in area civil mines.

His presentation includes those who died from influenza and he will offer an explanation of their names of the area.

If you go

► A tour of six Sherrard-area cemeteries will be held Saturday. The tour leaves the Sherrard Cemetery at 11 a.m. and is expected to last about three hours. Cost is \$15, which includes bus transportation and lunch. To reserve a spot on the bus, call (309) 593-2178. Other cemeteries on the tour are Brush Hill, German, Swedone, Western, Quaker and Cable.

belong on the grave markers' mean. The 20-mile trek, for which the Sherrard school district is supplying a bus, is being held in conjunction with the Sherrard Public Library. It will cover six cemeteries, including those with the graves of the founders of Cable and Sherrard and the early Quaker

regularly in the Sherrard area who stepped up to a microphone and opening the floodgates of their grieving hearts." *Farewell, Godspeed* is in its third printing, Copeland said. He's working on a second volume, this one with various categories and sports. It will have a chapter on 9/11 victims. Readers have told him the book makes them wonder what people will say about them when they die. Copeland understands. "A good eulogy can be like the throwing down of a gauntlet, something that makes you want to live your life with, if not abandon, more awareness," he said. Even if it leads to a bumpy eternity, with Bette Davis.

The states most recognized that so many wars are going on in our world - we are so divided by culture, politics, religion - and this project was a way to make some walls down, to build bridges that were not just eulogies that were prepared, he said, and person-to-person. He wanted them to pull the curtain back on celebrity, to find something little known about the person, like how the person ever dragged shame-fulness or accomplishment. Albert Einstein was his talent for making his ears. A good eulogy also has to be because "there's nothing there," Copeland said. "It has to be inspirational and inclusive, so that both the speaker and the listener go on journeys of personal transformation." People think eulogies are just ridiculous bits of bag-gage," Copeland said. They are not. They are respectful bits of humanity that they might make us cry. They are also seeded with the possibility of healing for us. Changes have changed over the years. 90 percent of the eulogies were delivered by Copeland said. "Today the number is 50 percent and I think the shift to a

NEIGHBORHOODS: **WHEELAN** ADDITION IN ROCK ISLAND

City pioneers got start here Aug 16, 2004



Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Wheelan Addition is a quiet neighborhood that sits along the 2400 block of 21st Avenue in Rock Island. Most of the houses were completed by 1929 and were built by Sam Weisman, an immigrant from Russia who settled in Rock Island prior to World War I. The addition is named for Henry L. Wheelan of Rock Island, who with his two brothers had owned a grocery business.

Ri area features homes from the Spanish Revival

By Thomas Geyer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Between Rock Island's busy 24th Street and relatively quiet 25th Street, along 21st Avenue, lies the city's historic H. L. Wheelan Addition, a small collection of Spanish Revival houses that were completed by 1930.

Why the area is named after Henry L. Wheelan is a bit of a mystery.

Henry Wheelan was the brother of Charles R. Wheelan, who founded Wheelan Funeral Home in Rock Island in 1889, said Bob Wheelan, the grandson of Charles Wheelan.

"Henry was not involved in the funeral home," Bob Wheelan said. "He was involved in a grocery store with three brothers called Wheelan Brothers. Of course, it wasn't like the grocery stores we know today that was in the 1880s. It was located at 2227 4th Ave., and I don't know when they concluded that busi-

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Wheelan Addition is a collection of Spanish Colonial Revival houses along 21st Street in Rock Island that is bordered by 24th Avenue on the west and 25th Avenue on the east.

History: While they appear small from the outside, these homes, most built around 1929 and 1930, are quite spacious inside. The homes feature exposed front porch terraces and prominent windows, many with arches.

The homes were built by Sam Weisman, a Russian immigrant who worked as a carpenter in New Jersey before heading west. He arrived in Rock Island before World War I. He was a prolific builder who

was owned by Isadore Pesses, the co-founder of Eagle Kash and Karry," she said. "It's one of the nicest in that grouping."

Eagle Kash and Karry grew into Eagle Food Centers which at one time boasted 115 stores and about 5,000 employees. Eagle closed its doors for good last year.

Rock Island merchant Isadore

was well-known for his personal integrity and quality of workmanship. Among his works are the city's Longview Apartments. Weisman died in 1948.

Schools: Many of the kids today, like their predecessors, attend Audubon School, which is located nearby at 18th Avenue and 26th Street.

Shopping: Restaurants, grocery stores, drugstores and other types of shopping opportunities line 18th Avenue. There is Whitey's Ice Cream, Godfather's Pizza, Dr. Gyros, KFC, Walgreens, and Hy-Vee. At 2252 24th Ave. is the site of a former Eagle Food Center. Today it is the Rock Island Country Market.

them." Stanley Coin, 74, who started American Bank and Trust, lived at 2417 21st Ave. as a boy.

"That was during the depths of the Great Depression," Coin said. "Nobody had enough money to buy the houses, so Sam Weisman let the families move in and he was paid later."

"He was a good builder," Coin

Miami Beach, Fla.," Coin said. "They bought the old Cable Mansion that's now a bed and breakfast, and I went to eat there one time and they had a butler and maid. That was something back then."

There were two boys in the Finkelstein household that Coin grew up with. Art Finkelstein became an architect while his brother Alan Steen became a medical doctor. They later moved to California where they started Whitehall Lane Winery.

All of the kids went to Audubon School on 18th Avenue at 26th Street, he said.

"When we wanted to play, we went east past 25th Street, and in that street there was a round patch of grass, a little ball park. It was just a bare space with grass and we played in there."

Where Dr. Gyros restaurant is now at 2519 18th Ave. was a little grocery store called Household-ers. "They sold penny candy there."

Clara Jenkins moved into Pesses' old home in 1979 with her husband, two children and her mother. It was a great area in which to live and raise a family. But now, 25 years later, she is



Today's neighborhood is the 70th in a series that profiles established neighborhoods in the Quad-Cities. Read about a different neighborhood every Monday on the Hometowns page.

Today: Wheelan Addition, Rock Island



BY THE NUMBERS

Race/ethnicity
White 85.0%
Black 11.0%
Other 2.0%
Asian 1.0%
2 or more races 1.0%
Hispanic 3.0%

Gender
Male 50%
Female 50%

Housing occupancy
Occupied 95.9%
Vacant 4.1%

Ownership (of occupied houses)
Owner-occupied 95.7%
Renter-occupied 4.3%

Source: Census 2000
(For area bounded by 20th and 22nd avenues and 24th and 25th streets)
— Compiled by Ed Tibbotts

GOOD NEIGHBOR



ELEANOR BLOMBERG

Age: 74

What brought you to Wheelan's and when? "We moved here in 1956," Blomberg said. Her husband, John, taught Spanish at Rock Island High School, and their son and later adopted another boy, "It was the house. My husband always wanted a brick house because he thought there was less maintenance. And it didn't have



Wheelan Addition is a quiet neighborhood that sits along the 2400 block of 21st Avenue in Rock Island. Most of the houses were completed by 1929 and were built by Sam Weisman, an immigrant from Russia who settled in Rock Island prior to World War I. The addition is named for Henry L. Wheelan of Rock Island, who with his two brothers had owned a grocery business.

Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

RI area features homes from the Spanish Revival

By Thomas Geyer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Between Rock Island's busy 24th Street and relatively quiet 25th Street, along 21st Avenue, lies the city's historic H. L. Wheelan Addition, a small collection of Spanish Revival houses that were completed by 1930.

Why the area is named after Henry L. Wheelan is a bit of a mystery.

Henry Wheelan was the brother of Charles R. Wheelan, who founded Wheelan Funeral Home in Rock Island in 1889, said Bob Wheelan, the grandson of Charles Wheelan.

"Henry was not involved in the funeral home," Bob Wheelan said. "He was involved in a grocery store with three brothers called Wheelan Brothers. Of course, it wasn't like the grocery stores we know today. That was in the 1890s. It was located at 227 4th Ave., and I don't know when they concluded that business."

Bob Wheelan said none of the family lived in that area of town, which would have been farmland back then. And he does not know of Henry Wheelan owning real estate at any point.

Still, it carries the name.

According to Rock Island County circuit court records, though, what is known as the Wheelan Addition today, officially the 2400 block of 21st Ave., is really three additions.

The Wheelan Addition, which originally consisted of just six lots on the north side of 21st Avenue, was platted June 7, 1922. Contiguous with the Wheelan Addition is the Charles Ullemeyer Addition, which consists of 16 plots. And on the south side of the avenue is the W.H. Redecker Addition which also loops around to 22nd Avenue. It has 10 plots and was platted Aug. 10, 1915.

When and if it all officially became the Wheelan Addition is still an open question.

But the area has been home to some of Rock Island's pioneers, said Jill Duke of Rock Island's Historical Preservation office.

"The house at 2401 21st Ave.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Wheelan Addition is a collection of Spanish Colonial Revival houses along 21st Street in Rock Island that is bordered by 24th Avenue on the west and 25th Avenue on the east.

History: While they appear small from the outside, these homes, most built around 1929 and 1930, are quite spacious inside. The homes feature exposed front porch terraces and prominent windows, many with arches.

The homes were built by Sam Weisman, a Russian immigrant who worked as a carpenter in New Jersey before heading west. He arrived in Rock Island before World War I. He was a prolific builder who

was well-known for his personal integrity and quality of workmanship. Among his works are the city's Longview Apartments. Weisman died in 1948.

Schools: Many of the kids today, like their predecessors, attend Audubon School, which is located nearby at 18th Avenue and 26th Street.

Shopping: Restaurants, grocery stores, drugstores and other types of shopping opportunities line 18th Avenue. There is Whitey's Ice Cream, Godfather's Pizza, Dr. Gyros, KFC, Walgreens, and Hy-Vee. At 2252 24th Ave. is the site of a former Eagle Food Center. Today it is the Rock Island Country Market.

was owned by Isador Pesses, the co-founder of Eagle Kash and Karry," she said. "It's one of the nicest in that grouping."

Eagle Kash and Karry grew into Eagle Food Centers which at one time boasted 115 stores and about 5,000 employees. Eagle closed its doors for good last year.

Rock Island merchant Isadore Finkelstein lived at 2411 21st Ave., she said.

"That area was built by Sam Weisman," Duke said.

Weisman, a poor Russian Jewish immigrant, arrived in Rock Island before World War I, according to Rock Island city records. He died in 1948 but not before leaving a legacy of quality construction and personal integrity.

"Weisman also built the houses in the 2900 block of 21st Ave.," she said. "That area is known as Weisman's Subdivision. He also built the Longview Apartments."

Most of the homes in the Wheelan Addition were not built until 1929, she added. "The area was building up at that time, but the addresses don't appear in city directories until 1930."

But there is an interesting comparison.

"The houses in the 2900 block are much larger and they're all the same kind of brick," Duke said, adding that she lives in that area. "In the 2400 block, there are Chicago-style and Spanish-Colonial, but the brick is a different color on many of

them."

Stanley Coin, 74, who started American Bank and Trust, lived at 2417 21st Ave. as a boy.

"That was during the depths of the Great Depression," Coin said. "Nobody had enough money to buy the houses, so Sam Weisman let the families move in and he was paid later."

"He was a good builder," Coin added. "You could spot his homes anywhere."

The neighborhood at the time was heavily populated with children, he said.

"As I remember, we had 10 or 12 boys in the neighborhood and a number of girls," Coin said. "We lived in about the middle of the block and when I was in high school we moved to the end of the block on the same side of the street."

"It was a mixed neighborhood of Greek, Jewish and Belgian families, he added.

And he remembers how they were situated on the street. Starting on the corner there were the Pesses, then the Germans, the Finkelsteins, the Ross family, the Andich family which owned a furniture store, the Coins, an empty lot and then the Petersen family.

"And all those children in these families," Coin said. "At age 9 I became quite ill and many of the neighborhood children would come over and visit me and stay a long time."

The Finkelsteins were a wealthy family, he said.

"They had a couple of hotels on Collins Avenue down in

Miami Beach, Fla.," Coin said. "They bought the old Cable Mansion [that's now a bed and breakfast, and I went to eat there one time and they had a butler and maid. That was something back then."

There were two boys in the Finkelstein household that Coin grew up with. Art Finkelstein became an architect while his brother Alan Steen became a medical doctor. They later moved to California where they started Whitehall Lane Winery.

All of the kids went to Audubon School on 18th Avenue at 26th Street, he said.

"When we wanted to play, we went east past 25th Street, and in that street there was a round patch of grass, a little ball park. It was just a bare space with grass and we played in there."

Where Dr. Gyros restaurant is now at 2519 18th Ave. was a little grocery store called Householders. "They sold penny candy there."

Clara Jenkins moved into Pesses' old home in 1979 with her husband, two children and her mother. It was a great area in which to live and raise a family. But now, 25 years later, she is currently trying to sell it. With her husband and mother gone and the children grown, the house is just too big.

She can attest to the quality of Weisman's work.

"You wouldn't know it to look at from the outside but it's huge," Jenkins said. "It looks like a bungalow from the outside, but there are 14 rooms in this house and they're all huge. I know, I count every room I have to clean. It's a beautiful home and I really love it but it's too big for me."

When the real estate agent came to look the house over, "she was shocked," Jenkins said. "She did not realize how many rooms there were."

"I could have apartments in here if I wanted to, but I don't want to do that to the house," she added.

But for as big as the house is, she said, "the utility bill is not high at all. This house is tight. Whoever built these houses along here knew what they were doing."

Thomas Geyer can be contacted at (563) 383-2328 or tgeyer@qctimes.com

Female:50%

Housing occupancy

Occupied:95.9%
Vacant:4.1%

Ownership

(of occupied houses)
Owner-occupied:95.7%
Renter-occupied:4.3%

Source: Census 2000
(For area bounded by 20th and 22nd avenues and 24th and 26th streets)

— Compiled by Ed Tabbutt

GOOD NEIGHBOR



ELEANOR BLOMBERG

Age: 74

What brought you to Wheelan's and when? "We moved here in 1956," Blomberg said. Her husband, John, taught Spanish at Rock Island High School, and their son and later adopted another boy. "It was the house. My husband always wanted a brick house because he thought there was less maintenance. And it didn't have a terrace. It had a flat yard."

Because there were other kids in the neighborhood, "if fit our family. And we enjoyed the neighbors. And the house is well-built."

What do you like most about Wheelan's? "It's handy to a drug store and grocery store."

What are your favorite memories of Wheelan's? "Years ago on the Fourth of July, they shot off fireworks at the high school. We would sit on our front porch where we could see the ones that went the highest." Later, she said, it was enjoyable meeting the neighbors and eating at the potlucks during the Neighborhood Watch parties.

What would you improve or change? "I can't think of anything special. The neighborhood has changed over the years, but it's quiet. It's a very enjoyable place to live."

Unlocking the door to the past is this bus driver's favorite hobby

The bag of coins jingled in her hand.

"You can always tell a genealogist by the amount of coins they carry," Jean Wistedt said. "You have to be prepared for the microfilm and copy machines."

If her bag of coins is any indication, Mrs. Wistedt is certifiably hooked. A bus driver for the Rockridge School District, she devotes the time she's not behind the steering wheel to searching for answers.

As much as her bus destinations help people unlock the key to their future, most of her searches help others unlock the door to the past.

Mrs. Wistedt helps relatives and neighbors explore their family trees and is working with a Michigan woman researching the Essex Cemetery near Illinois City.

When Rockridge teacher Bonnie Peterson does a class on genealogy, Mrs. Wistedt volunteers her time. To ignore a call to help is to miss an opportunity to learn, she said.

Often, discoveries benefit her own searches in what only can be called serendipity.

Once, while helping a newcomer to genealogy, a man interrupted to ask about copying a newspaper article, one Mrs. Wistedt happened to have.

After some discussion, they realized the man was related to her husband. Their meeting helped put



— Pam Berenger —

him in touch with other relatives, while her reward was getting a copy of an old family photo.

She said she loves every second she spends sitting in front of a microfilm machine.

When the question of who belonged with the marker at the corner of Loud Thunder Road and 238th St. came up, she and friend Arlene Hudson stepped into action.

They discovered the military stone was one of two that belonged to Civil War veteran Eri Cassel, who is believed to have been buried in the Illinois City Cemetery.

While they haven't learned why the veteran has two markers, they did learn Mr. Cassel was quite a character. Newspaper accounts say he was involved in many "incidences." The last cost him his life.

After a visit to Davenport, Mr. Cassel was trying to hop a train that would take him to the ferry crossing, when he



Pam Berenger / staff

Jean Wistedt sits by the military marker of Eri S. Cassel that rests near the post office at the corner of Loud Thunder Road and 238 St. in Illinois City. Mrs. Wistedt and friend Arlene Hudson did extensive research on Mr. Cassel, a Civil War veteran who died while trying to hop a train for a ride home from Davenport.

was run over by it instead.

"He died a tragic death under the train," Mrs. Wistedt said.

It's discoveries like those that keep her going. Her step back in time began about 10 years ago when she began seeking answers to what she jok-

ingly refers to as her own "dysfunctional" background.

During a trip to Oregon to visit her son, Mrs. Wistedt decided to investigate the grandfather she never knew existed until she saw him at an uncle's funeral when she was a teen.

► On the Web

► Blackhawk Genealogical Society:

www.rootsweb.com/ilbgsrim/index. The name is expected to change to Rock Island County Genealogical Society next month. Meetings are 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Southpark Presbyterian Church, Rock Island.

► Scott County Iowa Genealogy Society:

www.rootsweb.com/iascott/scigs.htm.

► Muscatine County Iowa Genealogical Society:

www.geocities.com/Hearthland/Field/2956.

► A great beginning site for Illinois research:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/ then click on "services," then "governmental records" and then "State Archives Database Search"

► Family History often:

www.familysearch.

the graves of other members of his family.

"It turns out he was Danish, not Swedish, and his name was Olsen, not Olson," Mrs. Wistedt said. "I still am not exactly sure why he left and my grandmother stayed here. There are some things my mother would not discuss. My mother would not discuss this."

Mrs. Wistedt managed to get other relatives to talk some about it, but the oral histories differ, a common occurrence, she said.

"The oral history is fun and nice to have but is nothing until you get the facts," she said. "Write down the oral histories and then verify them. Even then, some people don't want to accept the facts when you find the truth."

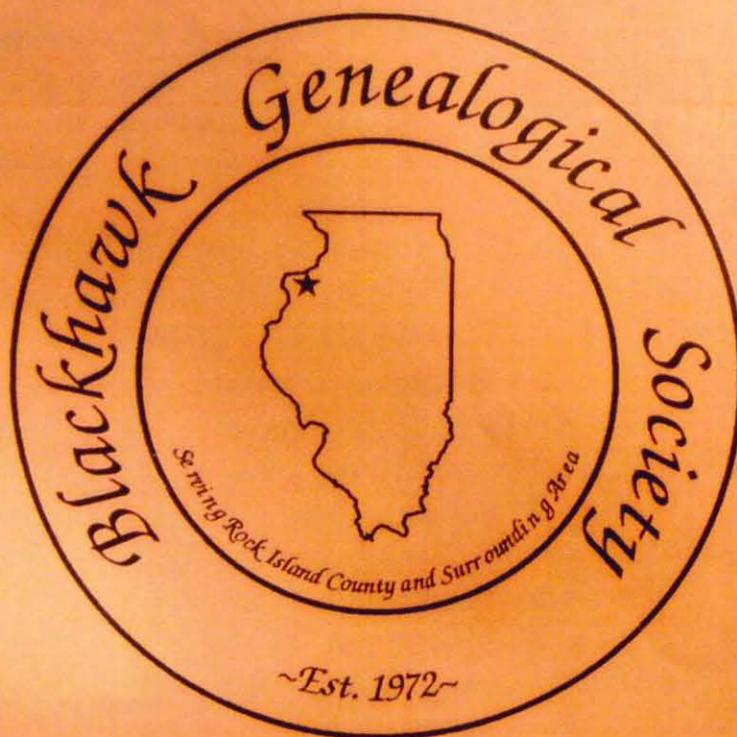
Genealogy is all about facts, she said. It includes the pedigree charts or family group sheets with names, places and dates of births, marriages and deaths.

What she likes to do is family histories, which include not only the who and when, but the whys and whats.

"Family histories will tell you what they did for a living and why they came to a certain area," Mrs. Wistedt said.

"All those things can be found out with research. Family history puts a little meat on those skeletons in the closet."

*Blackhawk Genealogical
Society*



RIGGS
RIGGS

*Annual Dinner Meeting
November 9th, 2004
Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church
Moline, Illinois*

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society
This will be our last dinner as Blackhawk Genealogical Society.
A vote was taken at our October 26th, 2004 general meeting to
change our name of our society to Rock Island County

Illinois Genealogical Society as of January 1, 2005. As a genealogical society this better reflects who we are, where we are located and what research we have available for our county.

Upcoming RICIGS Programs

at Southpark Presbyterian Church, Rock Island
unless otherwise stated.

January 25th -- Civil War Records Video & Discussion

February 22nd -- Amy Groskopf on What's New in the
Davenport Library's Special Collections

March 22nd -- Benton McAdams Jr. on the Rock Island
Confederate Prison

April 26th -- Pamela Langston on English Genealogy

May 24th -- VISIT to Salem Lutheran Church, Moline for a
demonstration of online Swedish Parish Records

June 28th -- Rock Island County Recorder of Deeds
Pat Veronda on Land Records

July 26th -- Gail Levis Historian/Genealogist for
Modern Woodmen of America

August 23th -- Scharlott Blevins on German Records

September 27th -- Jean Wistedt on a Visit to the Illinois
State Historical Library

October 25th -- Rock Island County Circuit Clerk Lisa Bierman on
Probate Records

Quad Cities Spring Genealogical Conference

April 23rd, 2005 at the Viking Club, Moline

Our speaker will be James Warren on

*The WPA Inventories: Road Maps to Record Treasures

*Basics of Researching American Indian Ancestors

*Writing Your Family History in Small, Manageable Pieces

*Simple Steps to Organize and Document

Your Research

For further information call Marilyn Mix at 309-799-3910 or
Dorothy Darland at 309-786-3058

2005 Officers

President - Lorraine Hathaway 309-787-1826

1st Vice-President - Linda Polich 309-234-5151

2nd Vice President - Pam Langston 309-786-5927

Treasurer - Pat McCoy 563-355-8289

Recording Secretary - Diane Lovell 309-764-0137

Corresponding Secretary - Shirley Plumb 563-326-5000

Member-at-Large 2005 - Beth Hoffman 309-526-3116

Member-at-Large 2006 - Elizabeth Casillas 563-391-1651

Member-at-Large 2007 - Jill Hoff 309-797-6352

Committee Chairpersons

Cemeteries, R. I. County North - Lois Rabe 309-523-3261

Cemeteries, R. I. County South -

Dwight Mohlenbruck 309-788-2564

Computer Interest - Bill Burrows 309-234-5696

Conference -- Marilyn Mix 309-799-3910

Dorothy Darland 309-786-3058

Education - Linda Polich 309-234-5151

E-mail - Ruth Thompson 309-788-3719

FGS Delegate - Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134

Historian - Delmar Moore 309-788-0365

Librarian - Dorothy Darland 309-786-3058

Projects - Ken Jones 309-737-9599

Publication Sales - Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134

Quarterly Editor - Lorraine Hathaway 309-787-1826

Quarterly Mailing - Dean Ring 309-788-5906

Queries & Research - Bev Francque 309-764-3111

Registered Agent - Dean Ring 309-788-5906

Registrar - Marilyn Mix 309-799-3910

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society

This will be our last dinner as Blackhawk Genealogical Society. A vote was taken at our October 26th, 2004 general meeting to change our name of our society to Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society as of January 1, 2005. As a genealogical society this better reflects who we are, where we are located and what research we have available for our county.

Upcoming RICIGS Programs

at Southpark Presbyterian Church, Rock Island unless otherwise stated.

January 25th -- Civil War Records Video & Discussion

February 22nd -- Amy Groskopf on What's New in the Davenport Library's Special Collections

March 22nd -- Benton McAdams Jr. on the Rock Island Confederate Prison

April 26th -- Pamela Langston on English Genealogy

May 24th -- VISIT to Salem Lutheran Church, Moline for a demonstration of online Swedish Parish Records

June 28th -- Rock Island County Recorder of Deeds Pat Veronda on Land Records

July 26th -- Gail Levis Historian/Genealogist for Modern Woodmen of America

August 23th -- Scharlott Blevins on German Records

September 27th -- Jean Wistedt on a Visit to the Illinois State Historical Library

October 25th -- Rock Island County Circuit Clerk Lisa Bierman on Probate Records

Quad Cities Spring Genealogical Conference

April 23rd, 2005 at the Viking Club, Moline

Our speaker will be James Warren on

*The WPA Inventories: Road Maps to Record Treasures

*Basics of Researching American Indian Ancestors

*Writing Your Family History in Small, Manageable Pieces

*Simple Steps to Organize and Document

Your Research

For further information call Marilyn Mix at 309-799-3910 or Dorothy Darland at 309-786-3058

Welcome -
Lorraine Hathaway

Invocation -
Lois Larson

Menu -
Apricot Chicken
Parslied Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad
Rolls/Coffee/Tea
Assorted Homemade Pies

Installation of 2005 Officers -
Marilyn Mix

Program -
Dick and Doris Balzer on
Colonel Davenport and His Historic Home



George Davenport

Dick and Doris Balzer have served the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation in a number of positions since joining the group in 1991. They have served as greeters and tour guides at the home, 9 years on the board of directors, and as program presenters. Doris is a retired pre-school teacher, and Dick is retired from John Deere Advertising Department.



June 2004

Our Society sponsored a Bus Trip to visit some historic cemeteries in Rock Island County ... some of our members even got to do some "grave-witching"!

Online court records click with users

By Kurt Allemeier

kallemeier@qconline.com

Searching court records in the 14th Judicial District used to involve a trip to the courthouse, waiting for a computer and following arcane instructions to use it.

Not anymore.

Court records for Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside counties — which make up the judicial district — have been available online since January, and the reaction has been strongly positive, Rock Island County Circuit Clerk Lisa Bierman said.

"The hits we've had have just been phenomenal," she said. "They have increased every month."

To search, users can follow the link, then type in a case-file number or a person's name. The search will bring up all the matching files with that name. Docket entries and outstanding balances and payment histories can be read.

"You can see all the information you got previously, plus you get everything you would see on a public access terminal," Ms. Bierman said. "You can access it from anywhere you have an Internet connection."

Certain records that aren't public — juvenile court cases and child custody cases — aren't avail-

► Online court records

To access online court records, follow these links:

► **Rock Island County:**

www.co.rock-island.il.us/government/circuitclk/circuitclk.html

► **Henry County:**

www.henrycty.com/circuit-clerk

► www.judici.com/courts/court_list.jsp

able for searching.

The previous subscription service had one disadvantage — records weren't always available when the computer system was doing an automatic memory backup. Records now are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Eighty-seven Illinois counties use the same software that can allow for Internet record searches, so Ms. Bierman hopes more will follow. Rock Island County is the largest Illinois county with online court records search capabilities.

Getting the records available for search online was held up by privacy concerns, but other states started putting court records online and Illinois slowly is following, Ms. Bierman said.



Jenny Butler / staff

Lisa Bierman, Rock Island County circuit clerk, explains the new Web site where people can check records or follow court cases. Henry, Mercer and Whiteside counties are also featured on the Web site.

Making the records available on the Internet also makes life easier in the clerk's office, she said.

"What it really does for us is save us time," she said. "Now the clerks don't have to look up basic case information, (users) can pull it up and look it up themselves. There is not as much busywork, doing things over the phone. We can get other things done."

EXHIBITORS and/or CONTRIBUTORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois | New England Historical & Genealogical Society |
| Cedar County Genealogical Society | Origins |
| Creative Memories | Reunions Magazine |
| Heritage League | Scott County Historical Society |
| Higgison Book Company | Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society |
| Michiana | Storbeck's |
| Modern Woodman of America | Tuttle Antiquarian Books |
| Family Chronicles | |

LINDA POLICH

30th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference



Saturday 24 April 2004
8:00 am to 4:00 pm Viking Club of Moline
1450 - 41st Street, Moline, Illinois

Sponsored by
Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society and
Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island & Mercer Counties, Illinois

Thank You

The Quad Cities Genealogical Conference Committee appreciates your support and cooperation which makes a conference of this stature possible. Your attendance is more than adequate compensation for the time and effort we devote to arranging this conference.

- Edna Nelson and Pam Lawson 2004 Co-Chairperson
- Editor: Janet Greenlee
 - Program: Barbara Garrett
 - Registration: Kathryn Foukes, Marilyn Mix
 - Printing: Sandra Lutz
 - Supplies: Carol Sachs



Michael John Neill

Michael John Neill is currently a faculty member at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, where he also coordinates and instructs the College's annual week of genealogical computing workshops. He also is the Part I Studies Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America, held annually in Springfield, Illinois. For five years, Michael has written a weekly genealogy column for the Ancestry Daily News, a weekly genealogy e-zine published by MyFamily.com. He lectures nationally on a wide variety of genealogy and computer-related topics and has conducted all-day workshops in over twenty states.

Michael is a native of Illinois and was raised on a grain and livestock farm in Hancock County, Illinois. He has researched his children's ancestry in over a dozen states and six foreign countries. Michael has a master's degree from Western Illinois University and has done additional graduate coursework in education and mathematics. He currently maintains a web site at www.rockidg.com.

Program

- 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
"Research on a Tight Budget "
- 10:05 - 10:25 am
Coffee and browsing
- 10:25 - 11:30 am
"Researching the Entire Family "
- 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Lunch and browsing
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm
"Where Did The Farm Go"
- 2:00 - 2:25 pm
Coffee and browsing
- 2:25 - 3:25 pm
"Probate Records"
- 3:25 - 3:45 pm
Closing remarks

NO TAPE RECORDING PERMITTED
NO CELL PHONE USE ALLOWED WHILE THE SPEAKER IS TALKING

Please PLEASE return to your chair by the time set out in the schedule. This avoids distractions and inconvenience to our speaker and other conference attendees. Thank you.

Current mayor the Reason Keithsburg Museum exists

By Jason M. Rodriguez
jrodriguez@qconline.com

KEITHSBURG — While working at a Keithsburg parts manufacturing plant in the early 1980s, Sharon Reason decided all the tales of the city's history among her co-workers should somehow be documented before those with the memories were no longer around.

The Peoria-area native had fallen in love with the small Mercer County community when she and her husband, Clarence, moved there in 1970.

At the time, Mrs. Reason was the village clerk. She pleaded with city officials to let her have a vacant classroom in the city's former school building — now the city hall and a community center — as a museum. They finally gave her a classroom all the way at the end of the hall.

That was 19 years ago. Now the museum has grown to five classrooms, and Mrs. Reason is Keithsburg's mayor.

Thanks to donations, the museum is now filled with artifacts, cemetery and obituary records, antique appliances and tools, war memorabilia, local art, newspaper clippings and microfiche slides that date back to the 1800s.

The museum is "something that means a lot to me," she said. "I just felt kind of drawn to the history and the genealogy part of it. I love to see how happy (visitors) are when they find a link to their family."

Attendance at the museum peaked in the late 1980s and early '90s when a bus tour made its way through Keithsburg, but dropped after 1993 flooding, which swamped major portions of the city.

Most items, including an altar



Jason Rodriguez / staff

Sharon Reason looks up an old obituary on the microfiche machine at the Keithsburg Museum recently. The museum, which was started by Mrs. Reason who wanted to preserve the area's history, celebrated 19 years of existence in April.

► Keithsburg Museum

Features antique appliances and tools, history books on the Civil War, war memorabilia, 9/11 items including New York City firefighter and police uniforms, and history of the former Keithsburg High School.

The museum is at 14th and

Jefferson streets, in the former Keithsburg school building, and is open 8 a.m. to noon weekdays and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call (309) 374-2659 or e-mail shareail@mcics.com.

from the former Methodist Church, pews from the former Christian Church and an old cash register, include an index card listing who donated the item and what it was used for.

Mrs. Reason said she has put so much time into the museum,

she can't imagine not working there.

"I can picture myself being 80 years old, doing genealogy research for people because I really enjoy it," she said. "Well, I'll do it as long as the city lets me."

CHICAGO

2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

“They Passed This Way”

CHICAGO

NATIONAL
genealogical
SOCIETY

7-10 June Chicago, Illinois, Hyatt Regency O'Hare

“
NGS did a fantastic job
with the conference.

It was an incredible educational
experience. I left with all the right
knowledge and techniques I
needed to research my ancestors.
I thought it would be a once-in-a-
lifetime experience, but now I
want to go to Chicago!”

—Kate Parker, Gore, Virginia

- More than 140 lectures, workshops, luncheons, and networking events led by recognized experts in the field
- Valuable sessions for beginner, intermediate, and advanced researchers
- Specialized programs for local, national, military, and ethnic research
- Records and technology tracks presenting the latest in high-tech innovation

Plan now to Attend ✓
www.ngsgenealogy.org for online
information and registration or call NGS at
(800) 473-0060 for a conference brochure

Sponsored with the Chicagoland Genealogical Consortium:

- African-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago
- British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois
- Computer Assisted Genealogical Group—Northern Illinois
- DuPage County Illinois Genealogical Society
- Elgin Genealogical Society
- Lake County Genealogical Society
- Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
- The Scottish Genealogy Group of the Illinois St. Andrew Society

**Our 2006 Society
President, Linda Polich,
attended the NGS
Conference in Chicago.**

***Have you hit the proverbial
"brick wall" with your
genealogy research? We
want to try to help you!***

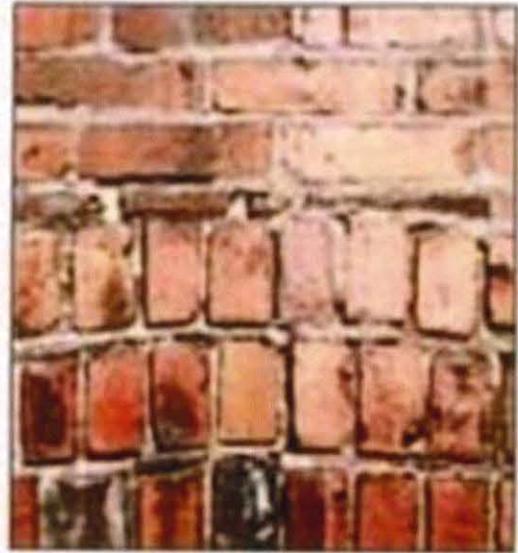
The Blackhawk Genealogical Society and Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter DAR invite their members to an evening of **BRICKWALL SOLUTIONS** on **Wednesday, October 20th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at the **Rock Island County Historical Society, 822 – 11th Avenue, Moline.**

There is no charge, but pre-registration is required. Fill out the form below and send it in – along with a family group sheet and/or pedigree chart, a brief description of your "brick wall" problem, and sources you have already checked -- no later than **September 28, 2004.**

Note: We will not do the actual research for you – however, we will try to provide recommendations and direction for your future research.

For more information, contact Linda Polch at 309-234-5151 or Lorraine Hathaway at 309-787-1826.

**October is Family
History Month!**



Class size is limited to 30 people. This event is for Blackhawk Genealogical Society and DAR members only.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send this form, along with pre-registration information to
Blackhawk Genealogical Society, Brickwall Class,
P. O. Box 3912, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3912.

Deadline is 28 September 2004

**In 2004, we helped our members break
through their "brick walls"!**

This was a joint venture
between RICIGS and RICHS in
October 2004.

THE ROCK ISLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and the
BLACKHAWK
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER
IS FAMILY
HISTORY
MONTH

invite you to a special genealogy night at the...

Rock Island County Historical Society Library,
822 11th Avenue, Moline, IL.

(across the Avenue from the Deere-Wiman House).

*Plan to spend a few hours or the
whole evening from 4:00-9:00 pm*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2004

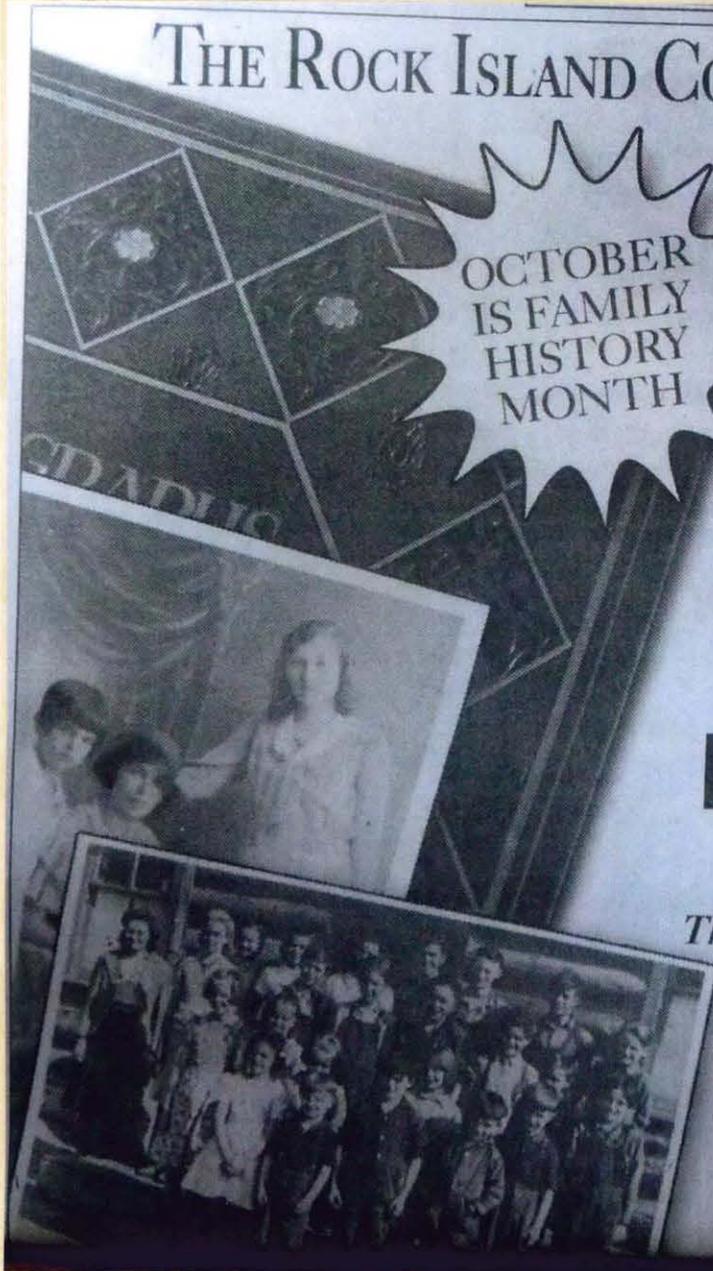
Pre-Registration is required by calling:

(309) 764-8590

The fee is \$5.00 and may be paid at the door.

*Staff will be available to assist
with your family history research.
Bring a sandwich, and we will
provide beverage and dessert.*

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Blackhawk Genealogical Society



Annual Dinner Meeting
November 9th, 2004
Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church
Moline, Illinois

2005 Officers

President - Lorraine Hathaway 309-787-1826
1st Vice-President - Linda Polich 309-234-5151
2nd Vice President - Pam Langston 309-786-5927
Treasurer - Pat McCoy 563-355-8289
Recording Secretary - Diane Lovell 309-764-0137
Corresponding Secretary - Shirley Plumb 563-326-5000
Member-at-Large 2005 - Beth Hoffman 309-526-3116
Member-at-Large 2006 - Elizabeth Casillas 563-391-1651
Member-at-Large 2007 - Jill Hoff 309-797-6352

Committee Chairpersons

Cemeteries, R. I. County North - Lois Rabe 309-523-3261
Cemeteries, R. I. County South -
Dwight Mohlenbruck 309-788-2564
Computer Interest - Bill Burrows 309-234-5696
Conference - Marilyn Mix 309-799-3910
Dorothy Darland 309-786-3058
Education - Linda Polich 309-234-5151
E-mail - Ruth Thompson 309-788-3719
FGS Delegate - Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134
Historian - Delmar Moore 309-788-0365
Librarian - Dorothy Darland 309-786-3058
Projects - Ken Jones 309-737-9599
Publication Sales - Eileen Nelson 309-796-2134
Quarterly Editor - Lorraine Hathaway 309-787-1826
Quarterly Mailing - Dean Ring 309-788-5906
Queries & Research - Bev Franquie 309-764-3111
Registered Agent - Dean Ring 309-788-5906
Registrar - Marilyn Mix 309-799-3910

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society

This will be our last dinner as Blackhawk Genealogical Society. A vote was taken at our October 26th, 2004 general meeting to change our name of our society to Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society as of January 1, 2005. As a genealogical society this better reflects who we are, where we are located and what research we have available for our county.

Upcoming RICIGS Programs

at Southpark Presbyterian Church, Rock Island unless otherwise stated.
January 25th -- Civil War Records Video & Discussion
February 22nd -- Amy Groskopf on What's New in the Davenport Library's Special Collections
March 22nd -- Benton McAdams Jr. on the Rock Island Confederate Prison
April 26th -- Pamela Langston on English Genealogy
May 24th -- VISIT to Salem Lutheran Church, Moline for a demonstration of online Swedish Parish Records
June 28th -- Rock Island County Recorder of Deeds Pat Veronda on Land Records
July 26th -- Gail Levis Historian/Genealogist for Modern Woodmen of America
August 23th -- Scharlott Blevins on German Records
September 27th -- Jean Wistedt on a Visit to the Illinois State Historical Library
October 25th -- Rock Island County Circuit Clerk Lisa Bierman on Probate Records

Quad Cities Spring Genealogical Conference

April 23rd, 2005 at the Viking Club, Moline
Our speaker will be James Warren on
*The WPA Inventories: Road Maps to Record Treasures
*Basics of Researching American Indian Ancestors
*Writing Your Family History in Small, Manageable Pieces
*Simple Steps to Organize and Document Your Research
For further information call Marilyn Mix at 309-799-3910 or Dorothy Darland at 309-786-3058



Welcome -
Lorraine Hathaway

Invocation -
Lois Larson

Menu -
Apricot Chicken
Parslied Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad
Rolls/Coffee/Tea
Assorted Homemade Pies

Installation of 2005 Officers -
Marilyn Mix

Program -
Dick and Doris Balzer on
Colonel Davenport and His Historic Home

Dick and Doris Balzer have served the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation in a number of positions since joining the group in 1991. They have served as greeters and tour guides at the home, 9 years on the board of directors, and as program presenters. Doris is a retired pre-school teacher, and Dick is retired from John Deere Advertising Department.