

2009

Posted Online: April 02, 2009, 11:04 am

## **Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference to be held April 18**

[Comment on this story](#)

### **Press release submitted by Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference**

The Rock Island County Illinois and Scott County Iowa Genealogical Societies will host their annual Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference on Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Viking Club of Moline, 1450 - 41st Street, Moline. Cost is \$25 per person (includes conference handouts and buffet lunch). Speaker is Curt Witcher, Manager of the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, April 8th.

Registration form is available at this website:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgsrim/news/AnnualGenConference.html> .

Questions? Call Linda Polich 309-236-1985 or Claire Schiebel 309-764-0796.



Submitted

## Genealogy sessions offered

The Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is sponsoring a five-week series of Beginning Genealogy workshops. The sessions will be on Wednesdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, 822 11th Ave., Moline. Topics covered will be Getting Started, Locating Vital Records, Using Federal Records and Computer Genealogy. Cost is \$25 per person. Pre-registration is required; no walk-ins. Workshops are limited to 30 people. Registration deadline is Sept. 15.



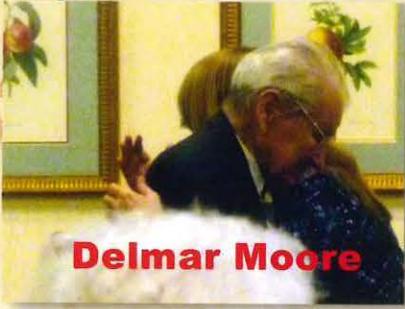
**Beth Hoffman**



**Marilyn Mix**



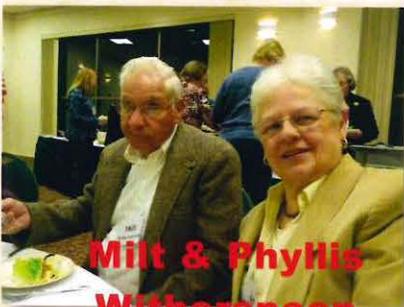
**Delmar Moore**



**Delmar Moore**



**Linda & Fred Polich**



**Milt & Phyllis  
Witherspoon**



**November 2009**  
**Our Annual Dinner at the QC**  
**Botanical Center in Rock Island**

# Taylor Ridge home is decorated in all things Sweden

Story Discussion Image (8)

Font Size

Stephanie De Pasquale | Posted: Sunday, March 28, 2010 2:00 am | No Comments Posted



Ruth Ann Hartman



(4) More Photos

Most Easter decorations consist of pastel-colored eggs, bunny rabbit figurines and baskets filled with jelly beans. As the holiday approaches, Ruth Anne Hartman's dining room table is adorned by blue-and-yellow table runners and a bouquet of forsythia branches that include ornamental witches flying on broomsticks.

Next Sunday, the Taylor Ridge, Ill., woman will add a lamb-shaped cake, made from her aunt's Swedish hot milk cake recipe (which is similar to pound cake), baked in an heavy aluminum mold and decorated with white frosting and coconut. Slices of the family recipe will be served on plates featuring traditional costumes from Sweden's various provinces.

These holiday traditions come from a Swedish mixture of pagan lore that tells of witches flying to Blue Mountain, or Blåkulla, to meet the devil. The flowering branches are a replacement for the traditional, but hard-to-find-in-the-Quad-Cities, birch branches used to decorate at Easter in Sweden.

The dining room table is just the tip of the iceberg for Hartman, whose maiden name is Erickson. Her love affair with all things Swedish began in 1947 when her aunt returned from a trip to Sweden with gifts of a chest and wooden shoes, which were later chewed

The dining room table is just the tip of the iceberg for Hartman, whose maiden name is Erickson. Her love affair with all things Swedish began in 1947 when her aunt returned from a trip to Sweden with gifts of a chest and wooden shoes, which were later chewed upon by the family dog and now sit out of reach on a bookshelf.

"My cousins in Sweden say I have more Swedish things in my house than they have in their homes," she said.

Hartman's father was born in Halland, Sweden, and moved to Batavia, Ill., with his parents in 1923. Her mother's parents were born in Skåne and Småland, Sweden, respectively. She's not sure where they met, but is fairly positive they married in Kane or DeKalb County in northern Illinois.

"I guess they didn't have to record the marriages at that time," she said. "My mother's oldest sister was the first child born, and she was born in Kane County, so we assume they were married in that area."

Hartman came to the Quad-Cities to attend Augustana College in Rock Island, which was founded by Swedish Lutherans, and stayed when she got a job teaching mathematics at Black Hawk College shortly before graduating from Augie in 1964. Shortly thereafter, she began collecting Swedish pieces, starting with the plates. Her china cabinet is filled dessert plates and tea cups that feature official costumes and flowers of the Swedish provinces, all of which she purchased at the Rörstrand Pottery factory on one of her seven trips to Sweden.

On the wall in her kitchen is a series of plates depicting scenes from "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils," a book written by Selma Lagerlöf that teaches children about the geography of Sweden through the travels of a teenage character named Nils Holgersson and a white goose.

Her living room features a Swedish tapestry depicting a countryside scene that Hartman discovered while cleaning out her grandparents' home, dozens of Dalarna carved horses that sit next to the chewed wooden shoes, a Kirsten American Girl doll that is currently dressed in a long skirt, a blouse, an apron and a shawl that children in Sweden would wear to dress up like witches for Easter and a wood carving of a grandfather playing the violin while children watch at his feet. That was a gift from a friend.

"Somebody had given it to him at his Sons of Norway shop, and I don't know if he had it for sale and nobody wanted it, but I can't imagine that nobody wanted it because I just love it," Hartman said. "But it has a permanent home now."

The guest bedroom is dubbed the "memory room." It contains black-and-white portraits of the Swedish members of her family, ornate marriage certificates, a clock that was given to her grandparents as a wedding gift, linens from her father's family and the Erickson family Bible.

On one wall are two oval pictures featuring formal portraits of her husband's great-grandparents. His family came to Pennsylvania in the 1700s from

Germany. They have visited the land of his ancestors, but they also went to Sweden on the same overseas trip.

And what does he think of having their home filled with all things Swedish?

Hartman paused, a puzzled expression crossed her face and then she admitted, "I don't know."

*(This article was copied from the Quad-City Times newspaper on 28 March 2010 - Ruth Anne Hartman is a RICIGS member.)*

2010

# HOME & GARDEN

SECTION 2 • QUAD-CITY TALK • BUREAU: MARCH 28, 2015



Taylor Ridge home is decorated in ...

## All things SWEDEN

Both Arne Hartman serves cake after Easter dinner made with a Swedish hot milk recipe in a lamb-shaped mold she got from her Swedish aunt. Once the cake is baked, she decorates the lamb with frosting, coconut and jelly beans.



Table runners in Sweden's national colors and a bouquet of forsythia branches (in blue of the traditional birch) adorned with dried feathers and honey, which Swedes decorate the dining room table for Easter at Ruth Anne Hartman's home. The display is meant to celebrate the renewal of life and fertility.

By Stephanie De Pasquale  
stepde@quilt.com

Most Easter decorates consist of pastel-colored eggs, honey rabbit figurines and baskets filled with jelly beans. As the holiday approaches, Ruth Anne Hartman's dining room table is adorned by blue-and-yellow table runners and a bouquet of forsythia branches that include ornamental twigs flying on

tree trunks.

Next Sunday, the Taylor Ridge, Ill., woman will add a lamb-shaped cake, made from her aunt's Swedish hot milk recipe (which is similar to pound cake), baked in an heavy aluminum mold and decorated with white frosting and colorful slices of

fruit.

Hartman

trunk.

Quad-City, both families used to

having traditional customs from Sweden's various provinces.

These holiday traditions include a Swedish hot milk recipe that calls for whole figs to slow down, or fika, to slow the drink. The frosting twigs are an application for the lamb to eat.

Sweden at home in the Quad-City.

The dining room table is the highlight of the holiday for Hartman, whose mother, Arne Erickson, first visited with all things Swedish to her mother's aunt in the Quad-City. The Swedish gift of a hot milk cake, which was later shared with the Swedish

GREEN-14

# RICIGS member Ruth Anne Hartman



Ruth Anne Hartman found this tapestry depicting a countryside scene while cleaning out her grandparents' home. It hangs now in her living room.

## SWEDEN

From Page D1

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Hartman came to the Quad-Cities to attend Augustana College in Rock Island, which was founded by Swedish Lutherans, and stayed when she got a job teaching mathematics at Black Hawk College. Shortly before graduating from Augie in 1964, she began collecting Swedish pieces, starting with the plates. Her china cabinet is filled with dessert plates and tea cups that feature official costumes and flowers of the Swedish provinces, all of which she purchased at the Rorstrand Pottery factory on one of her seven trips to Sweden.

On the wall in her kitchen is a series of plates depicting scenes from "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils," a book written by Selma Lagerlöf that teaches children about the geography of Sweden through the travels of a teenage character named Nils Holgersson and a white goose.

Her living room features a Swedish tapestry depicting a countryside scene that Hartman discovered while cleaning out her grandparents' home, dozens of Dalmatian carved horses that sit next to the chess wooden shoes, a curvilinear American folk doll that is curiously dressed in a long skirt, a blouse, an apron and a shawl that children in Sweden would wear to dress up like witches for Easter and a wood carving of a grandfather playing the violin while children



Family portraits, documents such as marriage certificates and her Erickson family Bible are among the decorations in a guest bedroom that Ruth Anne Hartman calls the "memory room" of her Taylor Ridge, Ill., home.



Ruth Anne Hartman's china cabinet is filled with plates and cups bearing images of the traditional costumes from various Swedish provinces. She bought the dinnerware at the Rorstrand factory on one of her seven trips to Sweden.

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"Somebody had given it to him at his Sons of Norway shop, and I don't know if he had it for sale and nobody wanted it, but I can't imagine that nobody wanted it because I just love it," Hartman said. "But it has a permanent home now."

The guest bedroom is dubbed the "memory room." It contains black-and-white portraits of the Swedish members of her family, ornate marriage certificates, a clock that was given to her grandparents as a wedding gift, letters from her

## HOW WITCHES AND EASTER CAME TOGETHER

According to Swedish pagan tradition, the vernal equinox is the point opposite of Halloween. And when the day and night are the same length, witches fly off to Blåkulla Mountain to meet the devil, party and get eaten.

But when Christianity was brought to the country, the spring celebration was merged with the observance of Christ's death and resurrection.

"That's the problem with Scandinavia. The whole pagan idea with Christmas was that it was pagan, and they were just able to sneak it in by Christianizing it and saying it's the tree of eternal youth and that sort of thing," said Lars Scott, the chairman of the Scandinavian Department at Augustana College in Rock Island.

Other Swedish Easter traditions include carrying all birch branches, decorating them with dried twigs and ornaments, and displaying them in the home as a way to celebrate the return of spring and fertility. Boys and girls dress up as witches and go from house to house with a copper colossus, asking for change with which to buy candy.

It's a little less trick-or-treat, but it's the opposite time of the year but for the same reasons, Scott said.

"The evil of the underworld and the upper world are in conflict with one another, so witches are abroad."

## FROM SWEDEN TO MOLINE

Sweden first began making their way to this region with the founding of the Bishop Hill, Ill., community in 1836. But the Scandinavians really started moving west on mass when the railroad came to what is now Big Quad-City in the 1850s. Many of them to work at the John Deere plant and live in Moline.

"They say that you could stare in Union Station (in Chicago) and see John Deere, John Deere, and if you didn't know anything else, they would get you on the right train to Moline," said Lars Scott, the chairman of the Scandinavian Department at Augustana College. "It was a real magnet for them."

Augustana College relocated to Rock Island in 1875, and the migration of Swedes to the region continued until the first world war. At one time, Scott said, there were eight Swedish-language newspapers in Moline, and the college also published works in Swedish that helped the immigrant community stay together.

**DAILY PLANNER**



Submitted

**Celebrate Midsummer at Augie**

This year's American Scandinavian Association Midsummer Queen, Daisy Bower, daughter of Michael and Amy Bower, Taylor Ridge, will be crowned by grandmother Ruth Anne Hartman at the Traditional Scandinavian Midsummer Fest to be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Augustana College. A Jenny Lind Concert will be held at 8 p.m. in Centennial Hall. These free events are open to the public and supported by grants from the Swedish Council of America and the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

**Genealogy...Where Do I Start?**

Linda Polich and Lorraine Hathaway, board members of the Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society, will co-instruct a session on genealogy. Instructors will present tips/techniques on research, study, where to go, and just how to begin. Learn how to 'climb your family tree.' There will be handouts at class. Please bring a pencil & paper.

**Class Codes:** 121751-01

**Fee:** \$5.00

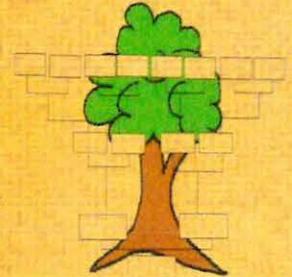
**Day:** Friday

**Date:** June 4

**Time:** 9:00 - 11:00AM

**Location:** Moline Garden Center  
34th ST. & 5th Ave.

MY FAMILY TREE



**Riverside Park & Cemetery History**

What better way to spend a summer morning than strolling through the park taking in the beauty of the day while enjoying interesting local history. Remember to wear your walking shoes and join us on a two part walking adventure through the cemetery & park grounds. This class will use the new book "Echoes from Riverside" as a guideline. Local historian Kathleen Suesy will enchant you with her knowledge and passion for the park.

**Class Codes:** 120000-01

**Fee:** \$20.00 (includes book & water)

**Days:** Wednesdays

**Date:** June 23 & June 30

**Time:** 9:00 - 10:00AM

**Location:** Riverside Cemetery Entrance  
3300 5th Ave. - Moline, IL

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**Time:** 9:00 - 11:00AM

**Location:** Moline Garden Center  
34th ST. & 5th Ave.

MY FAMILY TREE



The Moline Park Board sponsored this class and also one earlier in March. Another way RICIGS is reaching out to the community!

### Echoes From Riverside ... "Gone, But Not Forgotten"

"To know the character of a Community, I need only to visit the cemetery."

—Benjamin Franklin



Moline City Cemeteries invites you to take a leisurely stroll back in time and visit with Moline's early citizens, who are portrayed by local, costumed thespians, at the annual cemetery walk.

**Date:** Saturday, September 25 (Rain date: September 26)

**Time:** 1:00 - 3:00PM

\*1st guided tour leaves at 1:00PM with groups leaving every 15 minutes

**Admission:** \$4.00 per person (Children under 12 years free)

Refreshments will be available. Tickets may be purchased the day of the walk at Riverside Chapel Mausoleum, near the cemetery entrance. Walking tours last approximately 1-1/2 hour. Phone 797-0790 for additional information.

### Cemetery Art

Yes, there really are amazing pieces of art work in a cemetery. Riverside is especially known for its beautiful monuments and cemetery symbolism. Local historian Kathleen Suesy will share with you ideas and concepts that were used to develop the memorials & monuments throughout Riverside Cemetery. Wear sturdy walking shoes and join us for a stroll through the cemetery!

**Class Codes:** 120000-02

**Fee:** \$5.00

**Day:** Wednesday

**Date:** August 4

**Time:** 9:00 - 11:00AM

**Location:** Riverside Cemetery Entrance  
3300 5th Ave. - Moline, IL



## Betty Maxson

Betty Marie Maxson, age 82 of Moline, died Saturday, Aug. 14, 2010, at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House, Bettendorf.

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010, at Esterdahl Mortuary & Crematory, Ltd., 6601 38th Ave., Moline. Visitation is from 4 to 7



p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Entombment is in Moline Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to Riverside United Methodist Church, Moline.

Betty was born March 5, 1928, in Wapello, Iowa, the daughter of J. Russell and Marie (Crow) Bretz. She married Floyd G. Dotson on Sept. 5, 1948. He preceded her in death. She then married Vernon Maxson on May 19, 1951, in Wapello. He also preceded her in death.

Betty was self-employed as a bookkeeper. She was a member of Riverside United Methodist Church, where she was the finance secretary, a member of UMW and the Faith Circle. Betty loved to work, and especially enjoyed working for her clients. She enjoyed doing genealogy and was a member of the Genealogical Society. She was a member of the American Cancer Society where she was on the finance committee for Relay for Life. She also delivered for Meals on Wheels. Betty showed her love by cooking for people, but most importantly she was a selfless person that would go out of her way to do anything for anyone.

She is survived by her sons Victor (Mary) Dotson, Traverse City, Mich., Jim Maxson, Moline; daughter-in-law Becki Maxson, Moline; grandchildren Jennifer Maxson, Chicago, Kyle Maxson, Davenport, Justin Maxson, San Francisco, Dain Maxson, Moline; siblings Robert (Norma) Bretz, Jean Bean,

Alice Ann Teel, Bruce D. (Norma) Bretz; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by both her husbands, son Jerry, and brother, Edgar.

Online condolences may be expressed to Betty's family by visiting her obituary at [www.esterdahl.com](http://www.esterdahl.com).

Dispatch  
August 16 2010

# August and September 2010

Q-C Area

Monday, September 27, 2010 The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus A3

## Dead tell their tales at cemetery tour



Stephanie Makosky / staff  
Dorothy White of Moline portrays Rose C. Salisbury, 1858-1943, Sunday afternoon at the Riverside Cemetery Chapel Mausoleum in Moline. Rose C. Salisbury was a police matron making \$30 a month. She also was known for working with charities and making baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Echoes from Riverside, Gone but Not Forgotten, gave residents a glimpse into the city of Moline's past with guided walking tours and actors in costumes portraying some of Moline's early citizens.

By Bill Mayeroff

[bmayeroff@qonline.com](mailto:bmayeroff@qonline.com)

The dead came alive for a few hours Sunday

But worry not. The Quad Cities were not under attack by zombies. Rather, the dead were portrayed by local actors as part of Echoes from Riverside Cemetery.

Visitors to Moline's Riverside Cemetery got to tour the cemetery while listening to the stories of eight famous Moline residents buried within its gates.

Dorothy White, portraying Rose C. Alger Salisbury, told visitors how she became a police matron and truant officer for the city of Moline in 1912.

"I looked upon my job

as being a mother with a badge," Ms. White said.

Rose Salisbury, who died in 1943, also became the city's first female police officer in 1919, at the age of 61, Ms. White said.

"It was good to be busy," she said.

Visitors to Riverside also heard the story of Lancelinda N. Warren Warner, played by Gena Schantz. Ms. Warner, Ms. Schantz said, was one of the first settlers of East Moline.

Ms. Schantz said Ms. Warren had a farm with husband Jacob Warner near what is now downtown East Moline.

"The woods were wild back then," she said. "Our farm,

Warner Farm, was known for its berries."

After her husband died, she said, developers began buying up land around her farm for factories and she started selling parcels of land from her farm.

"I could see that more than just farmland was needed there," she said. "I never dreamed I'd be a land developer."

The most gruesome story of the day was told by Vince Grigsby, in the persona of John Capris, a Moline factory worker who died in 1882 at the age of 36. Mr. Capris, Mr. Grigsby said, was one of the first African American residents of Moline.

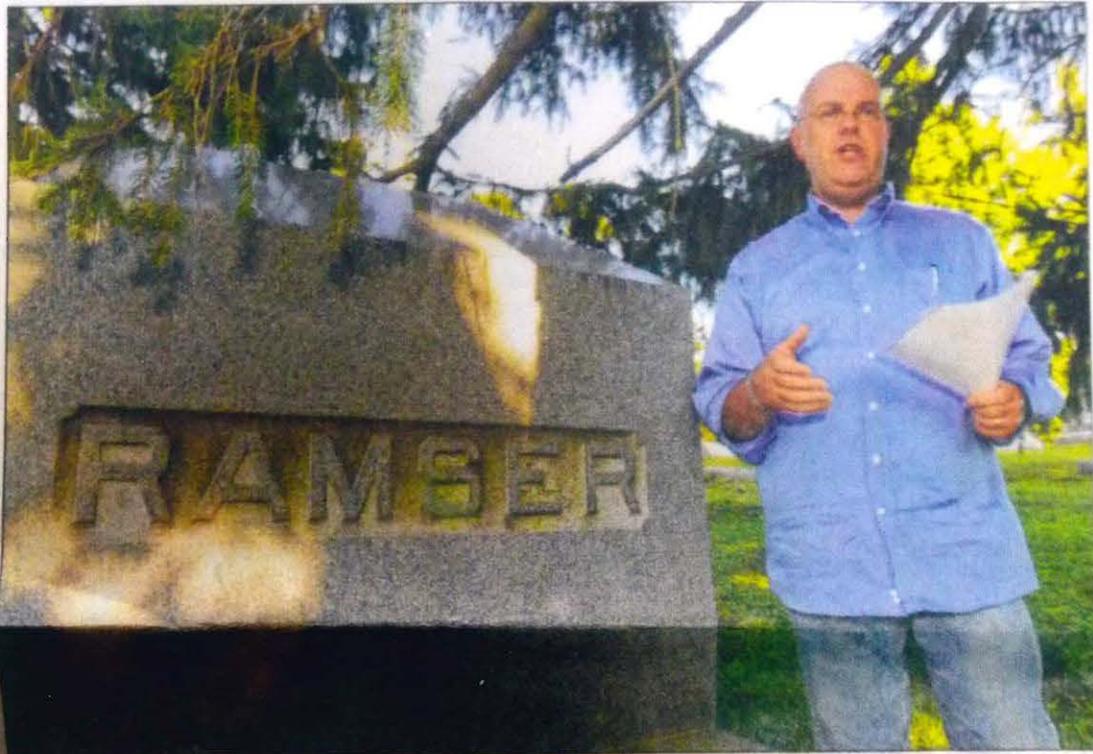
Mr. Capris worked as a

coachman for the Deere family and later at the Moline Paper Company. His death, Mr. Grigsby said, came at the hands of a machine used to turn straw into a paste that could then be turned into paper.

"Mr. Grigsby said Mr. Capris was trying to clear a jam from the machine when the machine grabbed the poker he was using. Because he didn't want the machine to break, Mr. Capris tried to retrieve the poker and got dragged into the machine."

"Before you knew it, my arm had been cut into six-inch pieces," Mr. Grigsby said. "In an inquest that was held, they called it a sickening sight."

DEATH, MURDER AND MAYHEM



Gary Krambeck / staff

Jeff Ashcraft of Eldridge rehearses his part as 'Jacob Ramser,' 1873-1934, a jewelry shop owner who had an argument with gangster John Looney who then pulled a gun on Mr. Ramser. 'Epitaphs Brought to Life: Death, Murder and Mayhem' will tell the story of gangster John Looney at Chippiannock Cemetery, 2901 12th St., Rock Island on Saturday from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

## Story of Looney will be told at cemetery walking tour

"Graves Tell the Story of Gangster John Looney," the latest walking tour and exhibit at Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island, will be brought to life Saturday.

Local actors will portray 10 people who crossed the path of John Looney, Rock Island's notorious gangster from the early 1900s. The 10 research-based vignettes are suitable for all ages and were written by local author and former Quad Cities Poet Laureate, Dick Stahl. Scott Nauman is director of this year's performances.

Tickets will be sold at the

gate and are \$10; children 12 and younger get in free. Antique automobiles from the Looney era also will be on exhibit and music will be provided by Joe Nobiling. Refreshments will be available for purchase, including Whitey's Ice Cream and bags of "Epitaffy." The "Citadel of Sin" and "Chippiannock" books also will be available for purchase and signing.

Performances begin at 1 p.m. and continue throughout the afternoon until the last tour steps off at 3:30 p.m.

Free parking will be available in the former used car

lot across from the cemetery. Cars may enter from either 12th or 11th streets. The cemetery will be closed to automobile traffic during the event.

The Epitaphs Brought to Life event has been on hiatus since 2005, when the cemetery celebrated its 150th anniversary. Revenue from this event will support the community outreach and cemetery restoration programs of the Chippiannock Cemetery Heritage Foundation. For more information call the cemetery at (309) 788-6622.

# RICIGS Members Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries!

Posted Online: Sept. 30, 2010, 10:51 am

## Fred and Linda Polich Anniversary

[Comment on this story](#)

Fred and Linda Bergren Polich, Coal Valley, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to the International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, N.M.

They were married Oct. 4, 1985, at the Little Brown Church in the Vale, Nashua, Iowa.

Their children are Stephen (Kathryn) Polich, Surprise, Ariz.; and Julie (Michael) Stieger, Littleton, Colo. They have six grandchildren.

Mr. Polich was employed at the Farnall Works in Rock Island and as an outside contractor at John Deere Product Development, Silvis, retiring in 1999.

Mrs. Polich was employed at Deere & Company, retiring in 2001.



**Photo:**  
Fred and Linda Polich



**Photo:**  
Linda and Fred Polich

Posted Online: Nov. 15, 2010, 8:14 am

## Milton and Phyllis Witherspoon Anniversary

[Comment on this story](#)

Milton and Phyllis Witherspoon, Rock Island, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Nov. 19.

Phyllis J. Miller and Milton A. Witherspoon, both of Rock Island, were married Nov. 19, 1955, at First Methodist Church, Springfield, Ill. The couple graduated from Rock Island High School and met while working at Servus Rubber in Rock Island.

They have a son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Stephanie Waite Witherspoon, who live in Evanston, Ill.



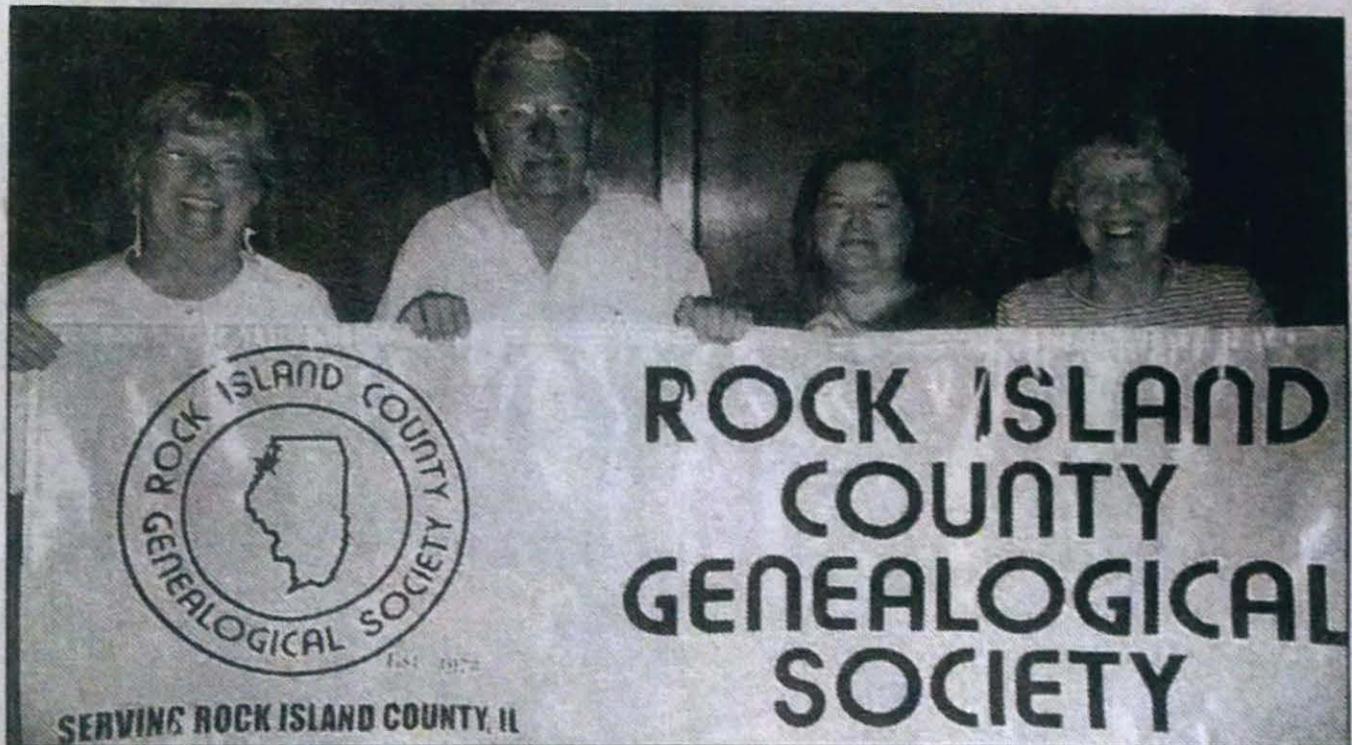
**Photo:**  
Milton and Phyllis Witherspoon

Milton served in the Army from 1946-1947 during the occupation of Japan. He was employed at Servus Rubber for 50 years, retiring as a foreman. After retiring from Servus Rubber, Milton was employed by Rock Island County for 13 years, retiring in July 2010.

Phyllis worked at Servus Rubber Company as a scheduling clerk, time clerk and power machine operator.

They are both members of the Rock Island County Historical Society, Rock Island County Genealogical Society, Friends of the Rock Island Public Library and several other organizations.

**October  
2010**



Submitted

## **Climb your family tree during October**

Linda Polich, left, Ken Jones, Linda Walker and Lorraine Hathaway invite people to 'climb their family tree' during a four-week Beginning Genealogical Workshop. Classes will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays in October at the Rock Island County Historical Society, 822 11th Ave., Moline, sponsored by the Rock Island County Genealogical Society. The workshop costs \$30. Registration deadline is Friday; call Ms. Hathaway, (309) 787-1826, or Ms. Polich, (309) 236-1985.



**October 2010**  
**Linda Polich teaching at one of our**  
**Beginning Genealogy classes**

I saw you in the news, and thought you might like to have an extra copy.

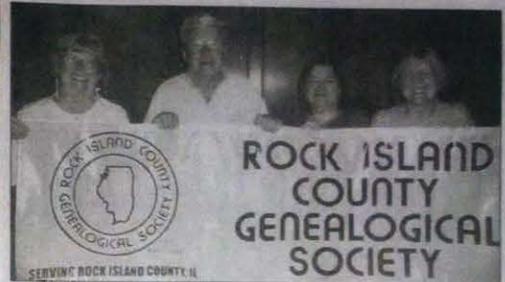
I hope that the year finds you happy and healthy!

*Genealogy is fascinating - we trace our "tree."*



*Mike Boland*  
**State Representative**  
**Mike Boland**

4416 River Drive  
Moline, Illinois 61265



Submitted

### Climb your family tree during October

Linda Polich, left, Ken Jones, Linda Walker and Lorraine Hathaway invite people to 'climb their family tree' during a four-week Beginning Genealogical Workshop. Classes will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays in October at the Rock Island County Historical Society, 822 11th Ave., Moline, sponsored by the Rock Island County Genealogical Society. The workshop costs \$30. Registration deadline is Friday; call Ms. Hathaway, (309) 787-1826, or Ms. Polich, (309) 236-1985.

## Cemeteries a window into the past, full of stories, according to genealogist

By Stephen Elliott  
sellott@uonline.com

**MOLINE** — She likes cemeteries, likes the quiet, the history.

For years, Wini Caudell, of Beloit, Wis., formerly of the Quad-Cities, has walked through them, taken pictures, followed the trail of lives long gone.

"This cemetery I love," Ms. Caudell said as she moved through Riverside Cemetery in Moline recently. "It's full of Swedes."

She knows cemeteries. Since she and her husband, James, founded the Illinois Ancestors Tombstone Project in 2008, Ms. Caudell has created a website with 100,200 pictures of tombstones throughout Illinois.

The couple travels throughout the state, taking pictures of the tombstones, hoping to

preserve the past. What some people may find as morbid, Ms. Caudell finds enlightening.

"We have visited over 100 cemeteries (in Illinois)," she said. "Usually, if you saw me this afternoon, I'd be filthy dirty."

"Yesterday, we were at Fulton, and I was crawling around all over the ground."

Asked why she would crawl on the ground to snap cemetery photos, Ms. Caudell said, "Because they're (tombstones) disappearing."

She points to a row of Civil War tombstones at Riverside Cemetery. "Look at them," she said. "You can't read them."

On the hill with the Civil War dead, Ms. Caudell bends over and pats one of the tombstones.

"This is my great-great-

uncle who fought in the Civil War," she said of Eric Asp, also known as Eric Swanson.

"He kind of went by both names," she said. "When they yelled roll call in the Army, there were probably a thousand Swansons. If you counted the Swansons, oh my Lord!"

"Their father picked the name Asp, which was a symbol of strength like the Aspen tree." They were born in Sweden and came here in 1863. They must have figured since this was their new country, they were proud to fight.

"Him and his brother got in, and they were wounded in the Battle of Franklin. His brother was shot in the head and sent to Andersonville for a year."

Ms. Caudell has been researching genealogy much of her adult life.

She spent nine months in Sweden just to find her own family tree. Taking a course in Swedish enabled her to read some of the church records of the time, which recorded family histories.

"They wrote everything down," she said. "Like, 'John was feeble-minded.' The government didn't want to be bothered with the people, so they left the church to do it."

"One lady that is related to me, they said she was weak-

minded and depressed. They locked her in the house, and when they went to church and came back, she got out into the barn and hung herself."

Each story is unique. "I think you should know where you came from," she said.

She pats the stone, thinking of her family's past.

"Eric came back here after the war and worked for John Deere," she said. "There were five brothers that came here. I always thought it took so much guts to get on that boat."

"And, they would just get dropped off on these docks in New York. And you're on your own."

Mr. Caudell said many people contact his wife, who will help them with genealogy searches. "She got me into it. She's the master."

The Caudells have assistants to take photographs of tombstones. Using their website at [www.illinoisancestors.org](http://www.illinoisancestors.org), others can find out information and contribute photographs.

Of the 75 or so Illinois counties they've toured, Ms. Caudell said she always enjoys coming back home to the Quad-Cities.

"You realize how much history is in these places?" she asked rhetorically.



Todd Mizener / staff

Quad-Cities native Wini Caudell, co-host of the Illinois Ancestors Tombstone Project, spent years searching for her great-great-uncle's tombstone in Riverside Cemetery only to learn that it was hiding in plain sight. Ms. Caudell finally found her relative's grave high up on a hill in the historic Moline cemetery. She had walked past it numerous times never knowing that he had been buried under another name.

2011

Rock Island County  
Illinois Genealogical  
Society

Formerly Blackhawk Genealogical Society



Annual Dinner Meeting  
November 16, 2010  
Quad City Botanical Center  
Rock Island, Illinois

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President - Linda Walker 309-786-6197  
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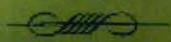
Quad Cities Spring Genealogical Conference  
April 16, 2011

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

The speaker will be Debra Meiszala  
Her topics will be:

- \*Wonderful Websites - Real Records Online
- \*Lessons from a Snoop: Collaterals and Associates
- \*The Curious Case of the Disappearing Dude
- \*Government Records

Don't forget that there will be genealogical vendors  
there as well. For further information please call  
Sandy Luse at 563-386-1367 or  
Len Stevens at 563-359-9672.



Welcome -  
Linda Walker

Invocation -  
Diane Lovell

Buffet Menu -  
Baked Virginia Ham  
Chicken Breast Supreme  
Cottage Cheese  
Fash Fruit Medley  
Pasta Salad Vinaigrette  
Mixed Greens with Two Dressings  
Grandmas Green Beans  
Rosemary Potatoes  
Dessert

Installation of 2011 Officers -  
Marilyn Mix

Program -  
Bill Fisher on the Celtic Heritage Trail



Posted Online: Dec. 14, 2010, 5:03 pm

## **Richard LeBow**

[Comment on this story](#)

Richard K. LeBow, 69, of Rock Island, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010, at Trinity Rock Island. In accordance with his wishes, he was an organ donor.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Friday at South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Inurnment will be at a later date in Highland, Kan. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home, 3030 7th Ave., Rock Island. Memorials may be made to the South Park Presbyterian Church Food Pantry program.

Richard was born Sept. 28, 1941, in Ottumwa, Iowa, a son of Bernard LeBow and Mildred Elder LeBow. With the passing of his mother at an early age, he was raised in the home of his aunt and uncle, Lawrence and Gussie Utz. He married Emma June Lucas on Sept. 8, 1962, in Highland.

His lifelong career was working in the financial field. He retired from Family Credit Union, Davenport, in 2003.

Richard was a member of South Park Presbyterian Church, Rock Island Moose Lodge No. 190, Quad-City Computer Club, and the Rock Island County Historical Society. He also was a volunteer with Alternatives for Older Adults in the Quad-Cities.

He enjoyed collecting John Deere toys, coins, attending auctions and flea markets, and feeding the birds. He is fondly remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He especially enjoyed following his grandchildren's activities.

Surviving are his wife, Emma June, Rock Island; daughters (and son-in-law), Susan LeBow, Stevens Point, Wis., and Miranda (David) Wells, Rock Island; grandchildren, Emily and Turner Young, Stevens Point, and Meghan and Nathan Wells, Rock Island; sister, Dianne LeBow, San Mateo, Calif.; and his half-brother, Robert LeBow, Sedalia, Mo. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [wheelanpressly.com](http://wheelanpressly.com).



**Photo:**  
Richard LeBow

## DAILY PLANNER



Submitted

### See if you have patriotic ancestors

Kitty Humphrey, of Milan, Linda Walker, of Rock Island, Pam Dunfield, of East Moline, and Stephanie Swanson, of East Moline, all of the Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, are ready to help people search their lineages for patriotic ancestors. Anyone thinking she may have an ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War and anyone wanting to join the DAR is invited to a meeting from 9 a.m. to noon March 12 at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library, 822 11th Ave., Moline. Reservations are required by March 9. For reservations or information, call Ms. Dunfield, (309) 755-8004, or Ms. Walker, (309) 786-6197.

# RICIGS Members celebrate milestone birthdays!

ay, March 13, 2011

Peo

## BIRTHDAYS

### Martha Hatch

Martha P. Hatch, Geneseo, will be honored at an open house, hosted by her family, March 19, 2011, in observance of her 85th birthday.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Geneseo Community Center, senior room.

Martha Bird was born March 19, 1926, in Fulton County. She attended Galesburg High School and San Pedro High School. She married George E. Hatch on June 2, 1944, in Galesburg. He died Jan. 1, 1993.

Her children are Grant and Sue Hatch, Colona; and Brianna and David Mallum, Geneseo. Her grandchildren are Marta and Matthew McConville and Matthew and Jennifer Mallum. Her great-grandchildren are Colin, Aidan and Isabella McConville and Corinne Mallum.

She retired from Royal Neighbors of America, Rock Island. She is a member of First United Methodist Church of Geneseo, Valley Chapter 274 of the Eastern Star, Rock Island County Genealogical Society, United Methodist Women, Circle of Friends, Royal Neighbors Social Club and Royal Neighbors Retirees.



### Betty Westensee

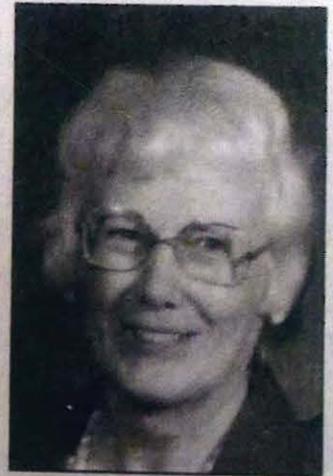
Betty R. Westensee, Rock Island, was honored at a reception and family dinner on March 12, 2011, to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Betty Ruth Ferong was born March 12, 1921, in Swedona. She married Emil John Westensee in 1939 in Davenport. He died in 1997.

Her children and their spouses are Christine Westensee, Rock Island; Carol (William) Strobel, Harrison, Idaho; and John (Colette), Moline. Her three grandchildren are Jay Westensee, Chicago; Erin (Ben) George, Bloomington, Minn.; and Laura Westensee, St. Louis.

Mrs. Westensee was employed at Broadway Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, retiring in 1981 after 20 years.

She is a member of First Lutheran Church, Rock Island; Friends of the Rock Island Public Library; and Genealogical Societies of Scott and Rock Island Counties. Her hobbies include research of family histories, bridge, reading, crossword puzzles and family gatherings.



## Louis Hathaway

Posted Online: March 20, 2011, 7:50 pm

[Comment on this story](#) | [Print this story](#) | [Email this story](#)

Louis R. Hathaway, 70, of Taylor Ridge, died Saturday, March 19, 2011, at Trinity Rock Island. Services for Mr. Hathaway will be 1 p.m. Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, Milan. Visitation will be Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home, 201 E. 4th Ave., Milan. Burial will be in the Rock Island Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Milan.



Louis was born on Nov. 21, 1940, in Moline, the son of Harold Hathaway and Leola Marvin Hathaway. Lou graduated from Cambridge High School in 1959 and attended Black Hawk College. He married Lorraine Hall on May 7, 1961, in Rock Island. Lou retired from Deere & Co. Technical Services Department in 1999 after nearly 38 years of service as a technical writer, editor and managing editor. He previously had worked at D.R. Light Company, Moline, as a technical artist and writer.

Mr. Hathaway was a member and past elder of First Presbyterian Church, Milan. He was past president of the Blackhawk Chapter Izaak Walton League and Citizens to Preserve Black Hawk Park. He earned his private pilot's license in 1977. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and has attended the EAA convention and air show yearly since 1976 in Oshkosh, Wis. Louis was an artist of many oil and watercolor paintings, specializing in aviation art. He was the author of several science fiction short stories and has written poetry for many years. He has been recognized with more than 25 international, national and state awards for excellence in technical communication and received numerous educational awards, including an Honorary American Farmer Degree from the national organization of Future Farmers of America. Louis also held memberships in American Society of Agricultural Engineers and Society for Technical Communication. He served on the board of directors of National Post Secondary Agricultural Students Organization and was chairman of the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education. He served on advisory boards for the National FFA Farm Business Management contest, the Agricultural Mechanics contest and the advisory board for the Mechanical Power Technology curriculum for Black Hawk College East.

Survivors include his wife, Lorraine; children, Christine (Jim) Moe, Pleasanton, Calif., Cindy (Tom) Schreppler, Chestertown, Md., and Carolyn Hathaway, Kansas City, Kan.; grandchildren, James, Julia and Bridget; sisters, Louise (Richard) Ulloa, Davenport, and Teresa (Jim) Headley, Moline; and brother, Archie Dove, Moline.

Mr. Hathaway was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Thomas J. Hathaway. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.wheelanpressly.com](http://www.wheelanpressly.com).

Lou Hathaway  
is the husband  
of Lorraine  
Hathaway,  
member and  
Past President  
of RICIGS.

Moline Dispatch 13 April 2011

## Genealogy conference is Saturday

The 37th Annual Quad Cities Genealogical Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Vikings Club, 1450 41st St., Moline.

The featured speaker will be Debra Mieszala, a certified genealogist specializing in forensic genealogy, 20th century research and Midwest research. Registration of \$25 per person includes conference handouts, coffee and a buffet luncheon.

For more information, call (309) 381-1753 or (309) 359-9672.

Posted Online: May 20, 2011, 10:46 am

## **R.I. County Illinois Genealogical Society class**

[Comment on this story](#)

**Press release submitted by Linda Polich**

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society

Interested in climbing your family tree? Let us help you get started by taking the first steps. This hands-on workshop will give you tips on where to begin, organizing your research, and using vital records. This is the first of three summer workshops presented by the Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society. It will be held on Saturday, June 4th, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at the Butterworth Educational Center, 701 – 12th Avenue, Moline. Cost is \$5.00 per person, payable at the door. Space is limited, so please call Linda Polich (309-236-1985) or Linda Walker (309-786-6197) to reserve your place today!

## Arlene Hudson

Posted Online: May 07, 2011, 5:26 pm  
Comment on this story | Print this story | Email this story

Arlene Kaye Hudson, 67, of Rock Island, died Sunday, April 24, 2011, at Trinity Rock Island.



Cremation rites were accorded. Service was private. Inurnment was at Leech Cemetery, Eliza Township, Mercer County. Memorials may be sent to the Rock Island Genealogy Society, Rock Island, or the Mercer County Historical Society, Aledo.

Arlene was born Sept. 9, 1943, in Muscatine, Iowa, the daughter of William LaVerne and Laura Mae Barlett Hudson.

She had a passion for genealogy. She loved animals and needlework, and she had a great compassion for others.

Survivors include her sisters, Carolyn (Albert) Hurry, Milan, Patricia (Peter) Connolly, Meridian, Miss.; and a brother, James L. Hudson, Azle, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.wheelanpressly.com](http://www.wheelanpressly.com).

## Hershel Roberts

Posted Online: May 03, 2011, 5:42 pm  
Comment on this story | Print this story | Email this story

Hershel L. Roberts, 68, of East Moline, died Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at Trinity Bettendorf after a long courageous battle with cancer.



Services are 10 a.m. Friday, May 6, at Calvary Church of the Quad Cities, 4700 53rd St., Moline.

Burial is at Greenview Memorial Gardens, East Moline. Visitation is 2-7 p.m. Thursday at the church. In lieu of flowers and statuary, a memorial fund has been established for a charitable gift in Hershel's Name. Van Hoe Funeral Home, East Moline, is assisting the family.



Hershel was born April 6, 1943, in Guin, Ala., the son of LeRoy and Delia (Shirley) Roberts. He married Betty Ann Sims on June 30, 1961, at the former Moline Gospel Temple.

Hershel was hired at John Deere Harvester in 1963. He was elected Union Steward for the UAW that same year. During his career at John Deere, Hershel served as a committeeman and held positions on many committees and councils. In 1982, he was elected president of UAW 865. Hershel's ability to communicate with people allowed him to negotiate every contract he was responsible for, never allowing a strike to occur, always thinking not only of the workers, but of their families as well. Hershel was appointed to the UAW Region 4 staff in 1987. Hershel was a devoted UAW member retiring in 2004. At that time, he had serviced 11 UAW Local Unions and had been the coordinator of the UAW Region 4 Women's Council for over 13 years. Upon retiring, Hershel received the prestigious Walter P. Reuther, Distinguished Service Award.

Hershel Roberts is a name well known in the dirt track racing circuit throughout the Midwest. His racing career began in 1968, when he bought a car from Benny Hofer, using shoe polish to paint the number 66 on the door, racing sportsman and figure 8 races. Over the years he moved to IMCA open wheel cars then to late model. In 2004, his dream became a reality when he and his son, Ken, teamed up to form Roberts Motorsports. Hershel raced even after his diagnosis, it was his passion. His final race was in October 2010 at the Quad City Speedway. He raced his infamous red 58 car, winning the "B" feature. He continued to race in the main event finishing to an entire grandstands of cheering fans, friends and family. Hershel won numerous track championships and awards, including the Ronnie Weedon award in 2006, was inducted into the Quad City Raceway Hall of Fame in 2007, and was presented a Key to the City of East Moline in 2010.

Hershel is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Ken (Beth) Roberts, East Moline, Wanda Roberts, East Moline, Steve (Peggy) Roberts, Northport, N.Y.; three brothers, Ted (Nancy) Roberts, Tony (Chris) Roberts, Lee Roberts (Darlene), all of Milan; grandchildren, Chelsea, Tess, Sadie, Katie, Luke and Elle. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Preston and Troy.

Hershel was the kind of person who treated people the way he wanted to be treated, often being called the "Country Gentleman."

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vanhoe.com](http://www.vanhoe.com).

## Carlisle 'Ki' Evans

Posted Online: June 04, 2011, 9:23 pm  
Comment on this story | Print this story | Email this story

Carlisle E. "Ki" Evans, 85, of Coal Valley, died Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House, Bettendorf.



Funeral services are 10 a.m. Monday at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Rock Island. Burial is at National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, where military honors will be presented by Moline American Legion Post 246. Visitation is 2 to 6 p.m. today at Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home, 3030 7th Ave., Rock Island, where the Trio Lodge 57 A.F. & A.M. will conduct Masonic services at 6 p.m. Memorials may be made to Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church or to the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities.



Carlisle Ellsworth Evans was born on July 27, 1925, in Rock Island, a son of Carlisle R. and Katharyn R. Earnst Evans. He married Barbara J. Haney on Dec. 9, 1944, in Oakland, Calif.

Ki graduated from Rock Island High School in 1943. He was a World War II Marine Corps veteran and was wounded while serving in Guam and was awarded a Purple Heart. After returning from World War II, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architecture. Ki later received his M.S. degree in professional management from Florida Tech. He was chief architect for U.S. Army Material Command, located at the Rock Island Arsenal. He retired in 1987, after 35 years of service. He later worked as a consultant for Nomura Industries, Rock Island.

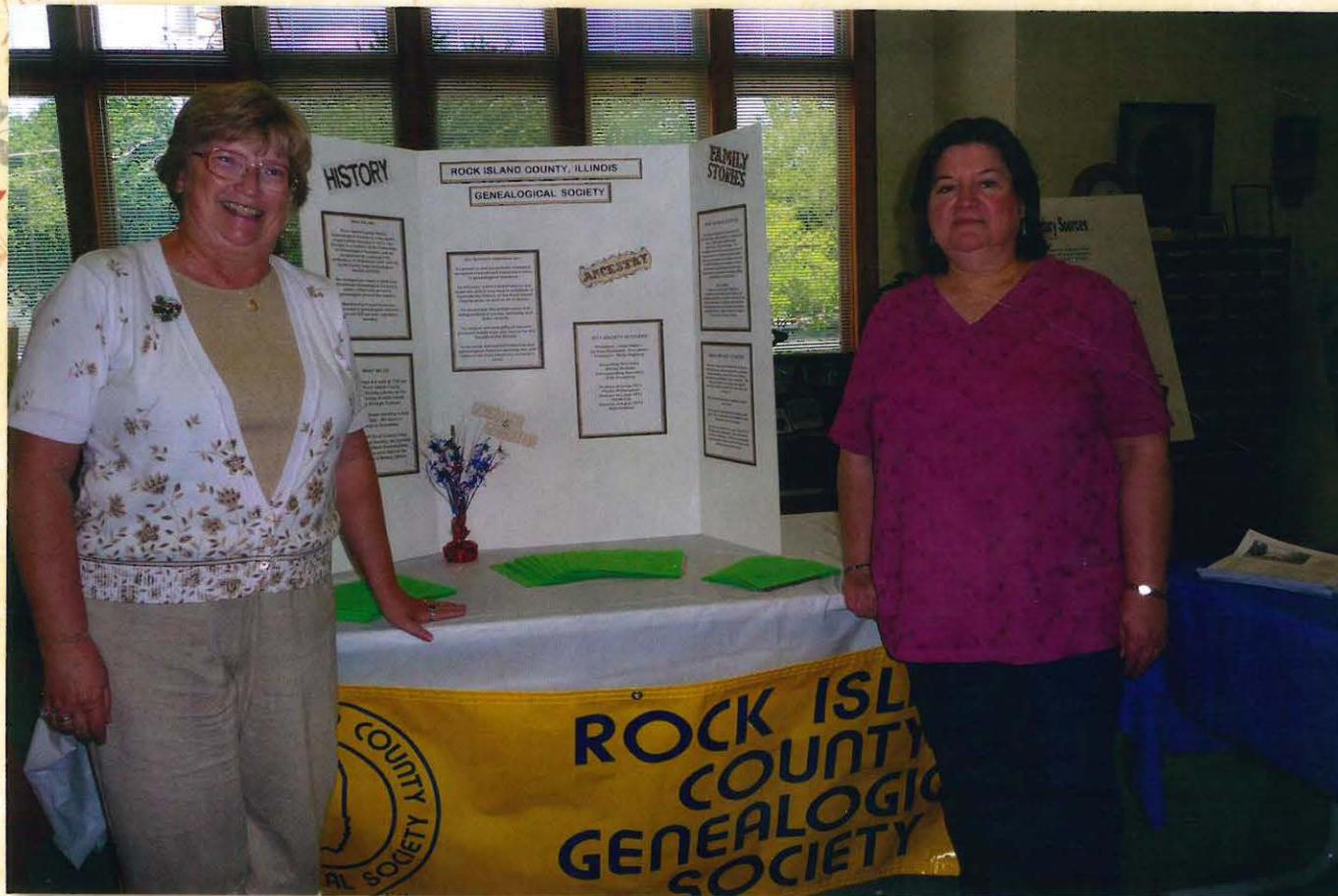
He was a member of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, and Moline American Legion Post 246. Ki was a member of Trio Lodge 57 A.F. & A.M., Milan; was a 32nd Degree Mason and longtime member of KAABA Shrine, Davenport. He was named a distinguished alumni of Rock Island High School by the Rock Island/Milan Education Foundation.

Ki was a baseball fanatic. He coached Little League baseball and played softball in the senior league until he reached his mid-70s. He was an avid patriot and beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Ki was a friend to many and never met a stranger.

Survivors include his beloved wife and best friend, Barbara; sons and daughters-in-law, Donald and Nancy Evans, Bettendorf, and Ken and Karen Evans, Coral Gables, Fla.; daughters and sons-in-law, Carol Evans and Bill Wall, Seeley Lake, Mont., and Christine Evans and Dennis Peck, Geneseo; grandchildren (and spouses), Amanda Evans, Cambridge, England, Justin (Katie) Evans, Bettendorf, Matthew Evans, Dunedin, New Zealand, Jason Evans, Bettendorf, John (Emilia) Evans, Coral Gables, Jessica Evans-Wall, Montana, Jared Evans, Ames, Iowa, Carlisle Evans Peck, Geneseo, and Emma Evans-Peck, Geneseo; great-grandchildren, Kain, Alyssa, Aiden, Tenley, Garrett, Sadie and Grace; and a sister. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert Evans.

Online condolences may be left at [www.wheelanpressly.com](http://www.wheelanpressly.com).

*(These obituaries were copied from QConline - Moline Dispatch) - all deceased are RICIGS members.)*



**26 June 2011**  
**Linda Polich and Linda Walker**  
**greeted visitors at the RICIGS**  
**table at RICHS Open House.**

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**DAILY PLANNER**

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Submitted

## Dig for your roots

The Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is sponsoring a Genealogy Workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. July 23 at Butterworth Educational Center, 701 12th Ave., Moline. This workshop will cover census and military records, lineage groups and ethnic resources. Cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door. Space is limited. Call Linda Polich (309) 236-1985 or Linda Walker (309) 786-6197 for reservations. Ms. Polich, left, and Ms. Walker are the instructors.



**23 July 2011**  
**Linda Polich and Linda Walker**  
**teaching at one of our Summer**  
**Genealogy Workshops.**



**Betty Hagberg became a "guest" at a tea party!**



**23 August 2011**

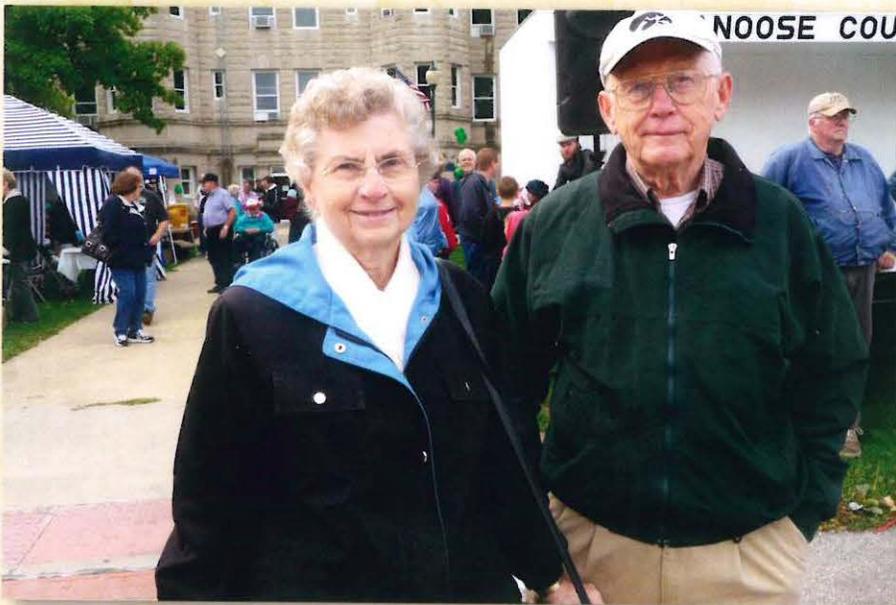
**Our Society took a field trip to the  
Geneseo Historical Society  
Museum, hosted by Angie Schnook.**

RICIGS Members attend the  
2011 FGS Conference in  
Springfield, Illinois  
(Pictured are Deb VanSant, Sandy  
Luce, and Linda Polich)



You never know where you will find  
RICIGS Members!

Ruth and Ed Evans and  
Linda and Fred Polich were in  
Centerville, Iowa, enjoying the  
Pancake Day celebration in  
September 2011!



(From  
QCOonline -  
May 2011)



**Photo:**

This photo was submitted to QC Capture by Denise Wassenhove. Pictured from left to right are Linda Walker, Betty Magee, Pat Staley and Ilene Correll, who are members of Mary Little Deere – Fort Armstrong Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. They attended the Illinois DAR State Conference in Bloomington, IL April 14-17, 2011. The theme of the 115th State Conference was "Spirit of Patriotism."



**Photo: Submitted / Denise Wassenhove**

From left, Linda Walker, Pat Staley, Eilene Correll, Kathy Carey and Stephanie Swanson, members of the Mary Little Deere / Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution attended a flag and banner commemoration ceremony Oct. 10 at the Silvis Fire Station in Silvis. One member purchased "We Remember 9/11" banner through DAR and donated it to her local fire station. Ms. Walker said, "The events of September 11, 2001, which had a profound effect on the United States, continue to resound today. They touched the lives not only of Americans, but also of people in 92 other countries whose citizens died that day. This banner is presented to you in remembrance of September 11, 2001, and in honor of the lives that were destroyed, the sacrifices that were made and the bravery that was shown. This flag represents our ongoing commitment to never forget." City officials, Chamber of Commerce representatives and U.S. Rep. Bobby Schilling, R-Colona, attended the ceremony.

(From  
QCOonline -  
December  
2011)



**Phyllis & Milt  
Witherspoon**



**Shirley Ricketts and  
Joyce Hanna**



**Fred & Linda Polich**



**15 November 2011  
Annual Dinner at QC Botanical  
Center and installation of 2012  
officers. Program speaker was  
"Betsy Ross", portrayed by Frances  
Plumb.**

2012

# (Dean Ring is an RICIGS Member)

Posted Online: Jan. 16, 2012, 5:45 pm

## Volunteer builder Dean Ring has the Habitat habit

[Comment on this story](#)

By Todd Welvaert, [twelvaert@qconline.com](mailto:twelvaert@qconline.com)

Sometimes it's hard for volunteers to see what progress they've made in the name of a worthy cause.

Not so for Dean Ring, 86, who has volunteered his time for the past 19 years for Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities and was one of the organization's founders. He has visible reminders of the contribution he has made: in the more than 70 homes he's helped build with Habitat, and on the faces of people he's worked alongside.

"It was something I could do in the construction area, something we could do for people who didn't have much," said Mr. Ring, a Rock Island resident. "Habitat builds homes for people who can't ordinarily get loans. From what I've seen of them, they are great people."

Mr. Ring retired from American Air Filter in the mid-1980s after working there in engineering and as a design supervisor.



**Photo: Todd Welvaert / staff**  
Dean Ring operates a chop saw at Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities' new home at 3625 Mississippi Ave., Davenport, next door to Habitat for Humanity ReStore, on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012. Mr. Ring has volunteered his time working on Habitat projects for 19 years. The 86-year-old Rock Island man said he has no intention of quitting.

In 1993, he was one of several volunteers from the Quad-Cities area who traveled to St. Andrew, Fla., to help with rebuilding after Hurricane Andrew caused \$26 billion in damages, \$16 billion in Florida alone.

"We decided we could do the same thing here and, when we got back, started a house, and it went from there," Mr. Ring said.

The Nebraska native moved to Rock Island around 1954 after he was drafted and served in the Marine Corps. He graduated from Denison University in Grantsville, Ohio, and met his wife, Lorraine, while at school there.

Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities builds about three houses yearly, depending on need and donations. Now volunteers are working to finish and move the organization into its own new home at 3625 Mississippi Ave., Davenport, next door to Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

Habitat families have to put in 250 hours of work, or sweat equity, to earn their homes, so many of the families work side by side with volunteers.

"I remember a lot of them," Mr. Ring said. "I remember who lives there and so forth, what's happened to them since. Some I see again; some I never see again. You get very close to them.

"I was a supervisor on one house -- it was very rewarding, but very traumatic. I see that family on the street, and they make a point of letting me know they see me. I get a hug from the kids. It's a pretty good paycheck."

Mr. Ring said that as soon as spring weather breaks, volunteers will start working on their first house of 2012, and he has every intention of being there.

"I'm never going to quit," he said. "I'm going to keep going until I'm unable. It's very rewarding. I'm able to do this and see the results, to see the reaction of the people who get the houses.

"It makes me feel good to be part of it."



The Rock Island County  
Illinois Genealogical Society  
is celebrating our

# 40th Anniversary!

You are invited to an  
**ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION**  
on Sunday, 25 March 2012  
from 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
at Butterworth Center,  
Moline

Please join us to celebrate  
this milestone anniversary!



Posted Online: Feb. 23, 2012, 10:20 am

## **Delmar Moore Birthday**

Delmar Moore, Rock Island, celebrated his 85th birthday on Sunday, Feb. 12, with a family dinner.

He was born Feb. 8, 1927, in Knoxville, Ill. He is an Army veteran, having served in the 120th Station Hospital in Germany.

He graduated from Rock Island High School in 1945, and Olivet Nazarene College in 1951. He married Donna Husemann on June 22, 1957, in Rushville, Ill.

He was employed by the former Augustana Book Concern and Bear Manufacturing, and retired from Augustana College in 1992.



**Photo:**  
Delmar Moore

His children are Martha (Ken) Wynes, Milan; and Daniel (Deborah) Moore, Rock Island. He has five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

# (Delmar is our Historian Emeritus)

Posted Online: March 03, 2012, 6:27 pm

## **Lois Rabe**

Lois F. Rabe, 88, of Silvis, died Saturday, March 3, 2012, at Illini Restorative Care, Silvis.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Esterdahl Mortuary & Crematory, Moline, is assisting the family.

Posted Online: March 04, 2012, 6:13 pm

## '50 Club truly friends for the long haul

[Comment on this story](#)

By John Marx, [jmarx@qconline.com](mailto:jmarx@qconline.com)

They have seen it, shared it, and walked and talked each other through it. Once a month for the past six-plus decades, they have shared all that is life with each other.

The '50 Club is a healthy clan (no officers) of caring pals from the Rock Island High School Class of 1950, a wonderful bunch that after high school, nearly 62 years ago, decided they would stay in touch.

Truth is, they have more than stayed in touch for more than six decades, and that is amazing.

The '50 Club consists of Joyce Peterson Anderson, Betty Williams Burns, Joyce Warner Leatherman, Carol Riceman Mitton, Lois Nielsen Nixon, Doris Snyder Sallee, Willie Teuscher Swain, Nancy Plantz White, Marilyn Klindt Jackson, Rita Pingel Humphrey, Penny Kish Flynn, Donna Mitchell Parr, Patti Montz Mack, Delona Spellmeyer Kennedy, Donna Lees Boyle, Trudy Petty Amidon, Wanda Livengood Pike, Jean Powers Chapman, Joan Lee Mueller, Marilyn Hancq Nowack, Jerry Ingram Swift, Carolyn Woeber Lund, Joyce Miller Hanna and Ruth Biscontine Anderson.



**Photo: Submitted**

Since 1952, members of the 1950 class of Rock Island High School have been meeting for lunch once a month. In February, they marked their 80th birthdays with a cake decorated in school colors. From left are: front row, Carolyn Woeber Lund, Joyce Miller Hanna, Ruth Biscontine Anderson; second row, Wanda Livengood Pike, Jean Powers Chapman, Joan Lee Mueller, Marilyn Hancq Nowack, Jerry Ingram Swift; third row, Marilyn Klindt Jackson, Rita Pingel Humphrey, Penny Kish Flynn, Donna Mitchell Parr, Patti Montz Mack, Delona Spellmeyer Kennedy, Donna Lees Boyle, Trudy Petty Amidon.

"When you are young and you have friends you want to stay in touch with, you can do a pretty good job of it for a couple of years," said Joyce Hanna, who was selected (by me) to be the club spokeswoman for today's sermonette.

"Some groups tend to part company after a short period of time," she said. "You lose touch. That we make an effort to get together is special, and that we have stayed true to it for over 60 years is special as well."

Special might not be giving the situation the due it deserves. This kind of diligence is above and beyond.

Through the years, Hanna says the '50 Club always has been above 20 members, hovering in the range of 25. They have shared weddings, children, ups, downs, workplace and health struggles, the passing of members from the group and loss of family.

Twice a year, spouses are invited to join the group, once in the fall for a weiner roast at Black Hawk Park, and once for Christmas.

"We have been through a lot together," Hanna said, marveling at the group's ability to be there for one another. "We're there for weddings and family things, and with getting older, have been there for funerals. It really does help to share all that we have with each other. It's a unique support system."

The '50 Club selects two hostesses for its monthly luncheon. Time was, with busy schedules, the meetings were evenings at a designated member's home.

"We have a class reunion once a month with the '50 Club," Hanna said. "And the '50 Club has helped push to have a high school reunion every year. I think others have seen how much the '50 Club loves getting together and decided having a class reunion every year is a good thing."

Truth is, it is better than a good thing. It is something special.

### Lois Rabe

Lois F. Rabe, 88, of Silvis, formerly of Port Byron, died Saturday, March 3, 2012, at Illini Restorative Care, Silvis.

A memorial service will be held 1:30 p.m. Monday at Esterdahl Mortuary & Crematory, 6601 38th Ave., Moline. Visitation is from 1 to 1:30 p.m. prior to service time.

Per her wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. Remains will be buried at National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, at a later date. Memorials may be made to River Valley District Library, 214 S. Main St., Port Byron.

Lois F. Rabe was born on June 30, 1923, in Dedham, Mass., the daughter of Earl W. and Ruth Farnsworth Pilling. She married Louis D. Rabe on April 3, 1948, in Bronxville, N.Y.

Lois was a huge genealogy buff and volunteered at The Family History Center. She also enjoyed rock hunting, photography, the river, tow boats and reading.

Survivors include her husband, Louis D. Rabe, Silvis; children, Dave (Stephanie) Rabe, Moline, Ann (Greg) Andrews, Hampton, and Bill (Gerda) Rabe, Washington Crossing, N.J.; grandchildren, Harley, Spence, Kara and Megan; and four great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be left for the family by visiting [www.esterdahl.com](http://www.esterdahl.com).



## Habitat QC honors 4 original volunteers

Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities recognized four longtime volunteers and supporters at its annual dinner and celebration on Saturday.

Wes Whiteside, Don Hiesterman, Richard Miller and Dean Ring received The Walter E. Neiswanger Lifetime Achievement Award, a new award given in honor of the late Dr. Neiswanger, a Quad-Cities philanthropist and Habitat supporter.

The four men were brought together in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew slammed Homestead, Florida City and part of Miami in Florida. They were part of a group that traveled to the area and helped Habitat for Humanity rebuild.



Along with others, the men learned about Habitat and helped organize a steering committee to form a local Habitat affiliate.

In May 1993, Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities became an official affiliate, and the four were members of the original board of directors and still are active with the organization.

Mr. Whiteside is a retired general contractor who was chairman of Habitat's site selection committee for many years. He also served

on the fundraising committee and was site supervisor for Habitat's Grant Street office remodel.

Mr. Hiesterman is an electrician and is retired from the Rock Island Arsenal. He has served on the site selection committee and is on the construction committee. He represented Habitat QC in Washington, D.C., during "Building on the Mall," a project to build homes for people affected by Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Hiesterman will be a construction supervisor on his 13th house this year.

Mr. Miller is retired from Oscar Mayer and was on the original family selection committee. He supervises concrete work at Habitat

build sites and has worked on all 73 Habitat Quad Cities projects. He volunteers for Habitat in Florida during his winters there.

Mr. Ring taught industrial arts and mechanical drawing in local junior and high schools and retired from American Air Filter. He was on the family selection committee for many years. He became close with many partner families and even walked one partner family member down the aisle for her wedding. Mr. Ring is helping Habitat remodel its new offices and warehouse and is warehouse manager.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities, go to [habitatqc.org](http://habitatqc.org).

## RICIGS members Lois Rabe and Dean Ring

Q-C Capture: Dec. 13, 2011



**Photo: Submitted / Denise Wassenhove**

From left, Linda Walker, Pat Staley, Eilene Correll, Kathy Carey and Stephanie Swanson, members of the Mary Little Deere / Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution attended a flag and banner commemoration ceremony Oct. 10 at the Silvis Fire Station in Silvis. One member purchased 'We Remember 9/11' banner through DAR and donated it to her local fire station. Ms. Walker said, 'The events of September 11, 2001, which had a profound effect on the United States, continue to resound today. They touched the lives not only of Americans, but also of people in 92 other countries whose citizens died that day. This banner is presented to you in remembrance of September 11, 2001, and in honor of the lives that were destroyed, the sacrifices that were made and the bravery that was shown. This flag represents our ongoing commitment to never forget.' City officials, Chamber of Commerce representatives and U.S. Rep. Bobby Schilling, R-Colona, attended the ceremony.

**Rock Island County Illinois  
Genealogical Society  
40th Anniversary Celebration  
Butterworth Center, Moline  
Sunday, 25 March 2012**



Fred and Linda Polich

Betty Hagberg

Geyer Hanna

Bobbi D. Jackson

Phyllis Wickersham

Jim Hayes

Dale Van Sant

Kathy Elliott

Diane Louell

Dug Elliott

Lorraine Hathaway

Pat McCoy

Linda Walker

Marilyn J. Mix

Shirley Ricketts

Pam Langston

Jean Westedt

Kim Doyle

Judy Hardisty

John J. Mater

**Rock Island County Illinois  
Genealogical Society  
40th Anniversary Celebration  
Butterworth Center, Moline  
Sunday, 25 March 2012**



Caram Johnson

Gay A Maxwell

Bonnie Rae

Dolphia Skinner

Beth Hoffman

Dorothy Darland

Helma Stoffbeam

Arin & Irene Rockhold

Don & Edlie Griffin

Sandy & Dick Perry

Delores Hanger

Harold Valley

**Rock Island County  
Illinois Genealogical  
Society**

**40th Anniversary  
Celebration**



*This 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet was created by committee members Linda Polich,  
Linda Walker, and Phyllis Witherspoon.*

**Rock Island County Illinois  
Genealogical Society Recognition  
Celebration and Reception  
Butterworth Center, Moline  
Sunday, 25 March 2012, 1-3 pm**

Welcome

A Few Words From Our President

Our History

Our Charter Members

Our Past Presidents

Presentation of Recognition Certificates

2012 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

Presentation of Riverside Book to Todd Slater by

RICIGS member Jim Hayes

Upcoming Events

*Reception and Fellowship*



# Our History

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society!

There were 110 charter members who founded this Society in 1972. Thanks to their efforts, we are a thriving genealogical organization with over 100 members today.

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 an informative website, and even our own Facebook page!



# Our History

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1972. Our Society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and we co-sponsored a national FGS conference in September 2001 with the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society (SCIGS).

We changed our name in 2005 from Blackhawk Genealogical Society to better reflect who we are to genealogists around the country.

Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogical research. Dues are \$20 per year, payable in January.



# **Our Charter Members**

Listed on the next several pages are our  
Charter Members and Past Officers.

Each of these individuals deserve a BIG  
THANK YOU for their foresight, and  
continued hard work preserving the  
genealogical records of our ancestors.



# Our Charter Members

Anna Albrecht, Berkshire, NY  
 Durward B. Allaman, Abingdon, IL  
 Mrs. George R. Baker, Rock Island, IL  
 J. Kenneth & Lorraine Baker, Rock Island, IL  
 Gertrude Becker, Geneseo, IL  
 Svan & Evelyn Benson, Rock Island, IL  
 Scharlott Blevins, Davenport, IA  
 William J. Blick, Geneseo, IL  
 Hazel Blocklinger, Rock Island, IL  
 Jesse Boone, East Moline, IL  
 Mrs. Walter Bristow, Jr., Savanna, IL  
 Jon Brodd, Moline, IL  
 Marge Buel, Moline, IL  
 Helen Burgess, Rock Island, IL  
 W. H. Clark, Milan, IL  
 Mary Clifford, Colona, IL  
 Phyllis Coopman, Moline, IL  
 Lawrence & Joyce Cornelius, Moline, IL  
 Byrle & Aletha Cosner, Woodhull, IL  
 Allen & Bradley Curtis, Coal Valley, IL  
 Cornelia J. & Harriet C. Darling, Moline, IL  
 Vicki L. Davis, Chicago Heights, IL  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dawson, East Moline, IL  
 Madeline Edwards, Rock Island, IL  
 Walter T. & Eva Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, IL  
 Sally Fuhr, Taylor Ridge, IL  
 Mrs. Leslie Griffin, Moline, IL  
 Mary Lou Hall, Davenport, IA  
 Delores Hauger, Milan, IL  
 Sally Henry, East Moline, IL  
 Ruth Herrick, Abingdon, IL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hillgoss, Milan, IL  
 Virginia Hinrichs, East Moline, IL  
 Jean Houston, Davenport, IA  
 Margaret Hudson, Davenport, IA  
 Larry E. Humberstone, Rock Island, IL  
 Florence D. Hutchison, Jacksonville, IL  
 Miss Helen E. Hutchison, Rock Island, IL  
 Bernice O. Irwin, New Boston, IL  
 Madaline Isaacson, Rock Island, IL  
 Patricia Kinney, Rock Island, IL  
 Ina M. Kuzel, Moline, IL

Joann Loete, Moline, IL  
 Jane Lundeen, Moline, IL  
 Harry Lyon, East Moline, IL  
 Maurite Mahlstedt, Geneseo, IL  
 Mona Kadel Martin, Davenport, IA  
 Mrs. Wm. Budd Matlock, Oak Harbor, WA  
 Mrs. Earle R. McBride, Austin, TX  
 Helen J. McMurtry, Oak Park, IL  
 Sister Frances Marie Melroy, Davenport, IA  
 Robert & Laura Millett, Rock Island, IL  
 Lois Mitchell, Moline, IL  
 Gilman & Helen Mitton, Moline, IL  
 Glenn & Jeannene Moffitt, Aledo, IL  
 Mary Morrissey, Moline, IL  
 Bernice & Dennis Moseley, Milan, IL  
 Verna Mumma, Hillsdale, IL  
 L. P. Neuerberg, Rock Island, IL  
 Caroline Newman, Milan, IL  
 Joseph A. & Phyllis Normoyle, Rock Island, IL  
 Darlene Ward Paxton, Bettendorf, IA  
 Janet Pease, Arvada, CO  
 Mrs. John Perry, Moline, IL  
 Harold & Kitty Pierce, Milan, IL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry L. Pittman, Abingdon, IL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Orin Rockhold, Milan, IL  
 Barbara Rosser, Gatesville, TX  
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Ruud, Moline, IL  
 Lucille Sampson, Rock Island, IL  
 Rachelle Schopp, Geneseo, IL  
 Gerry Sisson, Milan, IL  
 Marjorie Smith, Thomson, IL  
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Spaeth, Davenport, IA  
 Fredrick Steiner, Bettendorf, IA  
 Mrs. K. T. Stimpson, Rock Island, IL  
 Gladys Treadway, Bettendorf, IA  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Walker, Rock Island, IL  
 Mrs. John T. Walsh, Davenport, IA  
 Mrs. Richard A. Welch, Rock Island, IL  
 Mrs. Cecil Whiteside, Milan, IL  
 Mildred M. Wiggers, Eldridge, IA  
 Dorothy M. Williams, Rock Island, IL  
 Flora D. Wilson, Davenport, IA  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wood, Rock Island, IL  
 Sylvia B. Young, Moline, IL  
 Virginia Young, Creve Coeur, MO  
 Robert, Winifred, & Steven Ziegler,  
 Palatine, IL



# Our Past and Current Presidents

1972-1973	Phyllis Normoyle
1974	Gerald Wood
1975	Virginia Hinrichs
1976	J. Kenneth Baker
1977	Joyce Cornelius
1978	Scharlott Blevins
1979	Dennis Strieder
1980	James Lannoo
1981	Eulalia Garrett
1982	Joseph Normoyle
1983-1984	Grace Shager-Eastland
1985-1986	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
2002-2003	Marilyn Mix
2004-2005	Lorraine Hathaway
2006-2007	Linda Polich
2008-2009	Beth Hoffman
2010-2011	Linda Walker
2012-	Debra VanSant



# **Our Past and Current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents**

J. K. Baker  
Harry Lyons  
Ivan Rice  
Delores Hauger  
Eulalia Garrett  
Jim Lannoo  
Laura Millett  
Elsie Roba  
Larry Neuerberg  
Earl Tenpound  
Eva Johnson  
Grace Eastland  
Christine Cox Lage

Virginia Horton  
Judy Rueckert  
Chris Fiedler  
Zelma Stufflebeam  
Robert Millett  
Laura Millett  
Bill Burrows  
Eileen Nelson  
Linda Polich  
Pamela Langston  
Jill Hoff  
Beth Hoffman  
Ken Jones  
Jean Wistedt

# **Our Past and Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents**

Laura Millett  
Mrs. Jim Neumann  
Mrs. James Sampson  
Sally Schroeder  
Helen Mitton  
Cheryl McCaw  
Elizabeth Blixt  
Ralph Hughes  
Belinda Zukas  
Sally Etheridge  
Phyllis Winhurst  
George McMasters

Virginia Horton  
William Downing  
Judy Rueckert  
Ruth Thompson  
Beverly Francque  
Bill Burrows  
Barbara Evans  
Pam Lawson  
Jean Wistedt  
Pamela Langston  
Beth Hoffman



# Our Past and Current Recording Secretaries

Mrs. James Sampson  
Mrs. William Coopman  
Barbara Scott  
Mildred Martin  
Laura Millett  
Pam Lannoo  
Betty Westensee  
Joan Loete  
Claire Simonet  
Virginia Horton  
Beatrice Fritz  
Joan Lehan

Merriel Coon  
Louise Davis  
Lorraine Hathaway  
Tim Moore  
Ruth Thompson  
Lois Larson  
Christine Vanderkerchove  
Diane Lovell  
Jessica Wentzloff  
Linda Walker  
Shirley Ricketts  
Denise Wassenhove

# Our Past Corresponding Secretaries

Mrs. William Coopman  
Mrs. Harold Pierce  
Mrs. James Lannoo  
Phyllis Normoyle  
Ruth Kirby  
Barbara Scott  
Dorothy Johnston  
Phyllis Coopman  
Grace Eastland

Diane Lovell  
Lois Rabe  
Beverly Francque  
Shirley Herman  
Betty Westensee  
Zelma Stufflebeam  
Judy Rueckert  
Shirley Plumb  
Jill Hoff  
Shirley Ricketts  
Catherine Humphrey



## **Our Past and Current Treasurers**

Mrs. Francis Moseley  
Mrs. Lawrence Cornelius  
Mrs. William Coopman  
Thyra Perry  
Kenneth Baker  
Lucille Sampson  
Gerry Sisson  
Jon Brodd  
Betty Westensee

Joseph Normoyle  
Eugene McCarley  
Patty Doonan  
Lorraine Hathaway  
Greta Brooks  
Judi McDowell  
Pat McCoy  
Betty Hagberg

## **Our Past and Current Historians**

Mrs. Richard Henry  
Mrs. Lowell Hauger  
Eva Johnson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Betty Westensee  
Barbara Scott  
Lois Jackson  
Delmar Moore  
Linda Polich  
Phyllis Witherspoon



## **Our Past and Current Registrars**

Mrs. Albert Loete  
Sally Schroeder  
Scharlott Blevins  
Gerry Sisson  
Phyllis Anderson  
Grace Eastland  
Mildred Sutton  
Lorraine Ring  
Eleanor Calsen  
Carol Huber  
Marilyn Mix  
Barbara Evans  
Marilyn Mix

## **Our Past and Current Librarians**

Pamela Langston  
Dorothy Darland  
Debra VanSant



# **“You Make A Difference” Certificate Recipients**

***Janet Pease***

Compiling over 40 volumes of newspaper abstracts

***Dean Ring***

Serving as our Society’s registered agent, mailing out quarterlies  
and conference flyers

***Marilyn Mix and Dorothy Darland***

Spending many weeks at the Rock Island County courthouse  
making copies of birth, death, and marriage indexes – which were  
bound and added to our library collection

***Lorraine Hathaway***

Continuing to design, compile, and publish our Quarterly for  
many years

***Bill Burrows***

Designing and maintaining our Society’s website

***Elizabeth Casillas***

Continuing the obituary indexing project started by Dwight  
Muhlenbruck

***Shirley Plumb and Orin Rockhold***

Completing the Port Byron Globe newspaper abstracting project  
started by Dr. Albert Zimmer



## **2012 Officers**

President – Debra VanSant  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Jean Wistedt  
Recording Secretary – Denise Wassenhove  
Corresponding Secretary – (open)  
Treasurer – Betty Hagberg  
Director-at-Large 2012 – Pat McCoy  
Director-at-Large 2013 – Beth Hoffman  
Director-at-Large 2014 – Linda Walker



## **2012 Committee Chairs**

Cemeteries North –  
Cemeteries South – Kenneth Jones  
Cemetery Walk Updates – Diane Lovell  
Computer Interest – Debra VanSant  
Conference – Beth Hoffman  
Education – Linda Polich, Lorraine Hathaway, Linda Walker  
FGS Delegate – Jean Wistedt  
Historian Emeritus – Delmar Moore  
Historians – Linda Polich, Phyllis Witherspoon  
Librarian – Debra VanSant  
Newspaper Abstracting – Jean Wistedt  
Obituaries – Elizabeth Casillas  
Publication Sales – (open)  
Quarterly Editor – Lorraine Hathaway  
Queries & Research – Orin Rockhold, Jim Hayes  
Registered Agent/Mailing – Jim Hayes  
Registrar – Marilyn Mix



## **Upcoming Workshops**

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Getting Started

August 18<sup>th</sup> - Federal Records

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Genealogy Websites

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Writing and Publishing Your Family History

These Saturday workshops are offered free to RICIGS members; nonmembers pay \$5.00 per class. Each session will be at the Butterworth Education Center.

## **Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference**

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Moline Viking Club

## **Upcoming Meeting Programs**

April 24<sup>th</sup> – “Black Hawk’s Kin” by Dr. Jane Simonsen

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – “What Do I Do With All This Stuff?” by Amy Groskopf

June 26<sup>th</sup> – “Life & Times of a Volunteer Webmaster”

by Lynn McCleary

July 24<sup>th</sup> – Demonstration of FindAGrave.com by Shirley Plumb

August 28<sup>th</sup> – “Cemetery Research” by Orin Rockhold

\*September 11<sup>th</sup> – “Why is Francis Dickens Buried in Moline?”

by Betty Hagberg

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Researching William Dickson” by Alexandra Benedict

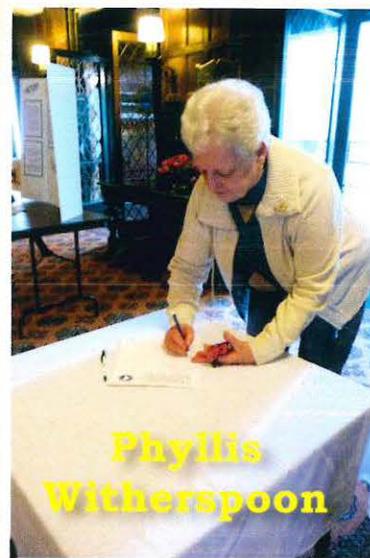
*\*All meetings are held at the Rock Island County Historical Society Library EXCEPT our special program in September that will be at Butterworth Center.*



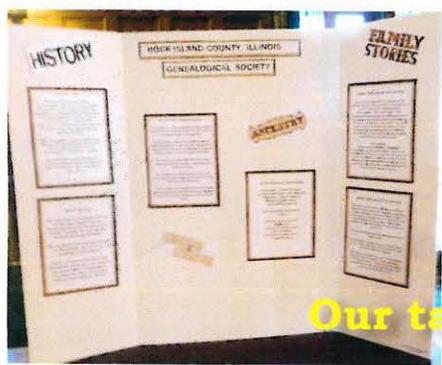
# 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, 25 March 2012



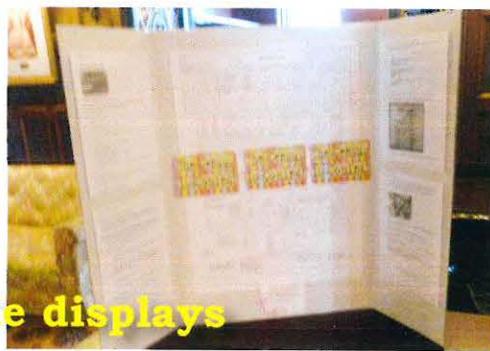
**Linda Polich and Phyllis Witherspoon**



**Phyllis Witherspoon**



**Our table displays**

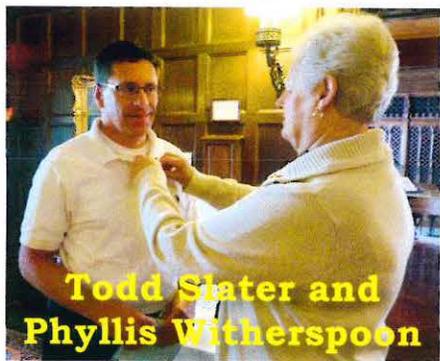
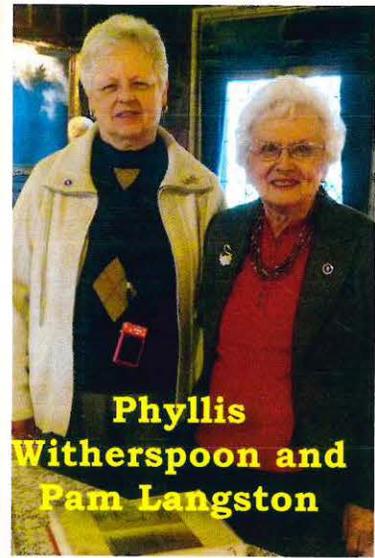


**Phyllis Witherspoon, Linda Polich, Linda Walker**

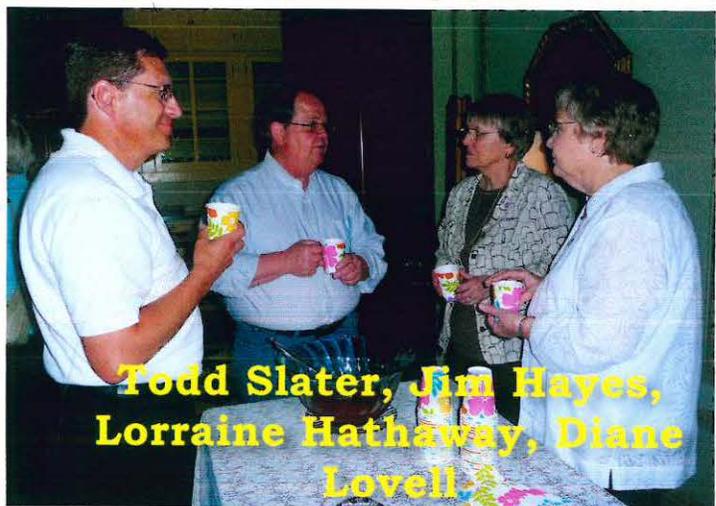
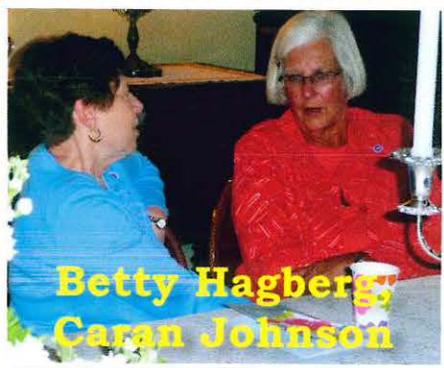
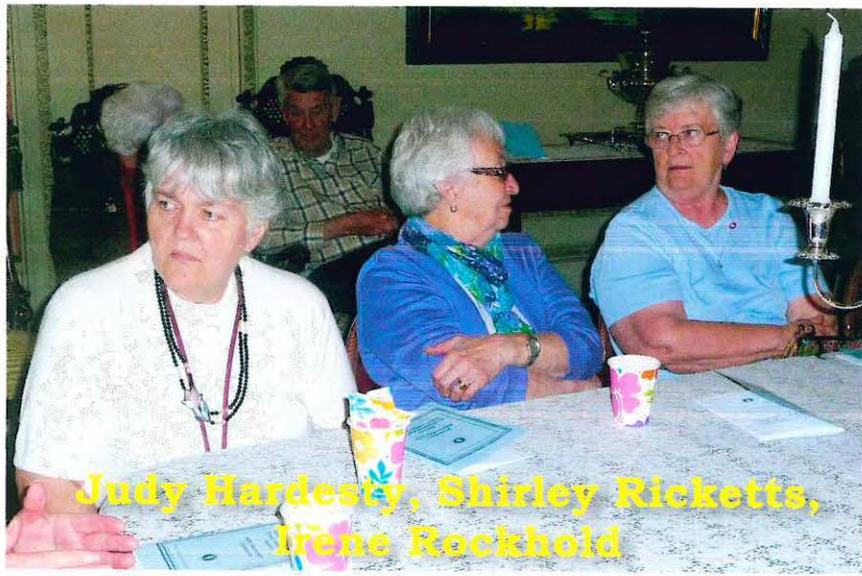


**Joyce Hanna and Fred Polich**

# 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, 25 March 2012



# 40th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, 25 March 2012



Posted Online: May 10, 2012



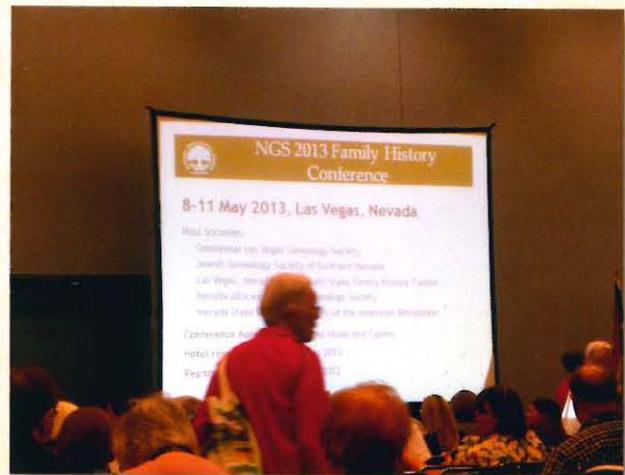
**Photo: Submitted**

Barbara Johnson and Linda Walker, from the Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, are ready to help people search their lineages for patriotic ancestors during a workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at Butterworth Education Center, at 7th Street and 12th Avenue, Moline. People who they think or know they have an ancestor that served in the Revolutionary War or are interested in joining either a DAR or Sons of the American Revolution Chapter, are invited. A representative from SAR will be available at the event. Reservations are required by May 17 to Ms. Walker at (309) 786-6197.

RICIGS Members Linda and Fred Polich attended the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in May 2012.



Entrance to conference



Keynote address



Entertainment after keynote, and escort to Expo



Lots of vendors!

## Help sought to solve Civil War-era mystery

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The names of the two little girls are an enduring mystery, their images found among crumpled bodies on Civil War battlefields. Each is posed primly on chairs, ringlets cascading past the rouged cheeks of one, the other dressed in a frilly hoop dress.

But no one knows the identities of the girls in the photographs, or the stories they might tell.

The photograph of one girl was found between the bodies of two soldiers — one Union, one Confederate, at Port Republic, Va., 150 years ago this June. The other was retrieved from a slain Union soldier's haversack in 1865 on a Virginia farm field days before a half-decade of blood-letting would end with a surrender signed not far away at Appomattox.

Though photography was in its infancy when the war broke out, its use was widespread. Many soldiers carried photographs of loved ones into battle and for the first time, photographic images of war were available and the Museum of the Confederacy has its own vast collection of images today, many of them identified.

But now museum officials are releasing the unidentified images of the two girls, along with six other enigmatic photographs, on the admittedly remote chance someone might recognize a familial resemblance or make a connection to a battlefield where they were found.

There is no writing on the backs of these photographs. No notes tucked inside their wallet-sized frames. For a museum that prides itself on knowing the provenance of



Associated Press

Ann Drury Wellford, manager of Photographic Services for The Museum of the Confederacy, holds a Civil War battlefield photo at the museum in Richmond, Va., May 25. Pvt. Thomas W. Timberlake of Co. G, 2nd Virginia Infantry found this child's portrait on the battlefield of Port Republic, Va., between the bodies of a Confederate soldier and a Federal soldier. The Museum of the Confederacy is publicly releasing eight images recovered on battlefields of unidentified persons in the admittedly remote chance a descendant might recognize a facial resemblance or make a connection to the battlefields where they were found.

its holdings, the photographs offer few clues.

"We don't know who they are, and the people who picked them up did not know who they were," said Ann Drury Wellford, curator of 6,000 Civil War images at the Richmond museum that has the largest collection of artifacts of the Confederate states, civilian and military. "They evoke an utter and complete sentimentality."

Museum officials can only speculate on the children and adults, including soldiers, shown in the photographs. But whether they were sons and daughters, fathers and mothers, or siblings the prospect of identifying each grows dimmer with the passage of time.

Typically they were found by another soldier and handed down through generations. Ultimately an attic would be cleared or a trunk

would be emptied and the photo would be given to the museum. Some have been in the museum's possession for 60 years or more.

Even in its infancy, photography was booming during the Civil War. Photographers were assigned to Northern divisions and traveling photographers were the early version of photo booths as they visited encamped troops between battles and photographed them.

Photography was evolving from daguerreotype to ambrotypes and other mediums in which images were produced through a wet emulsion on glass and were more accessible to a wider audience.

"It had more versatility than it had ever had," according to Jeffrey Ruggles, a historian of photography. "It was the early blossoming of photography. The war just happened to hit at a time when people were very interested

in seeing these pictures."

Bob Zeller, president of The Center for Civil War Photography said soldiers carrying photographs of wives, children and other loved ones off to battle was common. Finding a photo on the battlefield without a clear connection to a dead soldier was uncommon and highly evocative.

"Much of it is the unknown factor that the image carries," he said. "It's something that everyone cherishes, a photograph of their loved ones, but there it is out on this battlefield with these seemingly nameless, faceless corpses."

Zeller, the author of several books on Civil War photography, including "The Blue and Gray in Black and White: A History of Civil War Photography," described such photos as the link for many Civil War combatants to "a reality that, for many of them, had just disappeared."



**ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

900 Library Plaza • Fort Wayne, IN • 46802 • Jeffrey R. Krull, Director

28 June 2012

Linda Polich  
1698 Glenwood Heights  
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Dear Linda Polich:

Thank you for your generous gift of *Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society Recognition Celebration and Reception Butterworth Center, Moline*. It is a welcome addition to our collection of family and local history materials and I am sure it will be of great use to the hundreds of researchers who use the facilities of the Genealogy Center each week. It is through the generosity of individuals such as yourself that our department is able to maintain its margin of excellence. I deeply appreciate your interest in our collection.

Sincerely,

Curt B. Witcher  
Manager  
The Genealogy Center

ks

**Moline Dispatch, 22 June 2012**



**Photo:**

The Croatian Crest Club, 3600 North Shore Drive, Moline, will host a steak fry Saturday, July 14. Jennifer Wilson, author of the award-winning book "Running Away to Home," will speak about her travels to Croatia at 3 p.m. The steak fry will follow. Cost is \$10 per person for members; \$15 for nonmembers. Prepaid reservations are required by July 1. Fred Polich, Coal Valley, shows his niece, Diane Strom, Moline, where their ancestors lived in Croatia.

**RICIGS Member  
Fred Polich and  
his niece  
promoting an  
event at the  
Croatian Crest  
Club**

**Moline Dispatch, 03 July 2012**



**Photo:**

Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is sponsoring the first of four genealogy workshops from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 21, at Butterworth Education Center, 701 12th Ave., Moline. Classes are free for members and \$5 for nonmembers per workshop. Space is limited. RSVP to Linda Polich (309) 236-1985 or Linda Walker (309) 788-8197. Registration deadline is July 14. From left are Pat McCoy, Linda Walker, Lorraine Hathaway and Linda Polich.

**Our RICIGS  
instructors  
promoting the  
first of four  
genealogy  
workshops**

Jeff Roberts is the son of  
Deb VanSant, our current  
RICIGS president!

# Machinist traces family history to one of first employees

By Jennifer DeWitt  
jdewitt@qctimes.com

Jeff Roberts never imagined that becoming a machinist apprentice at the Rock Island Arsenal would lead him to discover he had an ancestor who helped to build the island from the ground up, including its iconic Clock Tower.

Now a machinist for the Arsenal's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, or JMTC, the 33-year-old learned of his family lineage quite by accident. Roberts was at a graduation ceremony for the machinist apprentice program in 2008 when Col. Craig Cotter, then JMTC's commander, spoke of the apprentice program's long history at the Arsenal. Cotter told the new graduates it was possible some of them were third-, fourth- or fifth-generation Arsenal employees.

That comment got Roberts thinking about his heritage and sent him with questions to his family's historian — his mother, Debbie Van Sant, a member of the Rock Island County Genealogical Society. What he discovered — that his mother had known from her research — was that her son's great-great-great-grandfather, George Downes, had been a master carpenter when the Rock Island Arsenal was being built. His mother's maiden name is Downes.

"It's funny how he worked at the Arsenal because my mother's family was from northeastern



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL PHOTO

**Jeff Roberts, a machinist apprentice with the Rock Island Arsenal-Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, is a descendant of an early Arsenal employee. Roberts' great-great-great grandfather, George F. Downes, was a master carpenter and worked at the RIA from its inception in 1862 until his retirement in 1873.**

Iowa," said Roberts.

"He was personally requested by Gen. (Thomas) Rodman to help build the Arsenal to what it is today," Roberts said of his ancestor. Among his roles was to work with the clockmakers who built the Clock Tower. "He encased the clock. I've never been up there, but I guess his name is on the case."

The family connection makes Roberts a sixth-generation employee, though he and Downes are the only two family members to work at the Rock Island Arsenal.

Roberts said the historical connection gives him even more pride

about working at the Arsenal, where he is part of the "Prove-Out Branch."

"Any new programs that come for equipment have to be proved out," he said of the troubleshooting process. "We make sure everything is going to work just right when it goes to the production floor."

A 1997 graduate of Davenport West High School, Roberts had no personal knowledge of what the Arsenal "was all about" and had lived in the Quad-Cities only since age 14. After graduation, he bounced around sheet metal jobs and other shops before landing the

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL 2012 LABOR SNAPSHOT

### Total employees

Civilian: 5,135

Contractors: 1,569

Military: 959

Total on-island work force: 7,063

Average age: 43

Average years of service: 13

26 percent of employees are veterans; 98 percent have high school education, and 47 percent have bachelor's degrees.

apprenticeship and joining the Arsenal work force — more than 130 years after his great-great-great grandfather retired in 1873.

Roberts' hiring put him on projects that have supported the Global War on Terrorism, including the armored Humvee door project and howitzer production. He now has become a specialist in the small arms division.

The Arsenal's role in protecting the troops was never lost on Roberts, whose own wife Lisa was deployed to Egypt for a year with the Army National Guard previously. "I've never had the job satisfaction I have now until I came here," he said, adding that is a clear recognition "of what you're doing and why you're doing it."

George Downes may have likely said the same about his role.

## Eleanor Calsen was an RICIGS member.

Eleanor J. Calsen, 83, of Moline, died Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012, at St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Services will be held Monday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m., at Wendt Funeral Home in Moline. A two-hour visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until time of the service. Burial will be at Greenview Memorial Gardens in East Moline.



In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 736 Federal St., No. 2318, Davenport, IA 52803.

Eleanor Calsen was born in Moline on Dec. 25, 1928, to John and Iris Sackett Calsen. She graduated from Moline High School and Monmouth College. She was employed for 35 years, by the Overseas Division of Deere & Company, retiring in 1987, as an administrative secretary.

Ellie was a fun-loving, social, active person who loved her cat, Misty, loved her family, friends and neighbors, and loved working at John Deere for so many years. She had a passion for swimming, bowling and crafts, and was the "BEST AUNT" in the world. She was always supportive to her niece, Pam, her nephew, Chris and his wife, Tammy, and loved spending time with her great-nephews, Josh, Ryan, Benjamin and Liam. Ellie was always up for an adventure, like traveling with her family and friends, hiking in the woods with Chris, fishing with her great-nephews or going to see all of the boys' sporting events.

Ellie, you will be greatly missed by your family and friends!

Survivors include niece, Pamela Abbott, Lone Tree, Colo.; nephew, Christopher (Tammy) Bryan, Lee's Summit, Mo.; and four great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a sister, Marcia A. Bryan.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.wendtfuneralhome.com](http://www.wendtfuneralhome.com).

Marilyn Mix is a board member, currently serving as Registrar of our Society!

## Marilyn Mix

Marilyn J. Mix, 109 W. 2nd St., Coal Valley, will be honored at an open house at her home on 25 Aug., 2012, in observance of her 80th birthday. Relatives and friends are invited to attend from 4 to 7 p.m.



Marilyn was born on 30 August 1932 at the home of her parents, Herbert Avery and Helen Hewitt Schaub

Armstrong in Joy. She graduated as salutatorian from Joy High School in 1950 and from St. Anthony's Hospital School of Nursing in 1953. She married William "Bill" Mix on 22 Aug. 1954 at the Presbyterian Church in Joy. Bill died while working with the Boy Scouts filling sand bags during the flood of the Mississippi River on 30 March 1969.

Her children are Michael W. (Kenya) Mix, Davenport; Steven A. Mix and Jeffrey L. Mix of Coal Valley.

She was employed at St. Anthony's Hospital, Franciscan Hospital, Riverside Retreat and Trinity Medical Center in Rock Island, retiring in 1994. She is a member of 15th Avenue Christian Church in Rock Island. She was active in scouting as a den mother for several years, is a life member of the PTA, belongs to Rock Island Genealogical Society and was past member of the local horticulture and computer societies.

Some of her hobbies include genealogy, gardening, knitting, making quilts and reading.

Her family is requesting a card shower.

from Moline  
Dispatch on  
19 August 2012

Sandy Perry is a member of  
our Society!



Gary Krambeck | staff

## Short Hills Country Club celebrates 90 years

Dressed for the time period of 1922 and standing in front of a 1925 Dodge and 1932 Pontiac, Richard and Sandy Perry, of Moline, left, and Lori and Bruce Dalfonso, of Moline, welcome guests to the Short Hills Country Club 90th anniversary celebration Aug. 18 at Short Hills Country Club in East Moline.

from Moline  
Dispatch on  
19 August 2012

**RICIGS Members Linda and Fred Polich attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference in Birmingham, Alabama in August 2012.**



**Keynote address**



**Photo opp with  
portrayer**



**Escorted to Expo**



**Always plenty of food!**

These photos are from our  
2012 classes - at the  
Butterworth Educational  
Center.



This was published in the Moline Dispatch on 25 October 2012. Chapter Regent Linda Walker is an RICIGS member.

## Local DAR chapter honors past members

The Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently honored six of its most accomplished past members with grave-marking ceremonies.

Chapter Regent, Linda Walker and members were joined by the Illinois State Regent Candy Fryburger and other members of the state board as they placed a bronze plaque with the DAR insignia at the Riverside Cemetery burial sites of Mary Little Deere (1814-1913), Katherine Deere Butterworth (1886-1953), Anna Deere Wiman (1864-1906) and Pattie Southall Wiman (1895-1976). Chaplain Sally Bartosh and Past Regent Patricia Staley offered brief biographies of each recipient.

Mary Little Deere was the organizing regent of the Moline Chapter. She and her daughter, Katherine Deere Butterworth, were chapter regents, Illinois state regents and national honorary vice presidents general. They were generous supporters of DAR. Anna Deere Wiman was a member from 1893 until her death in 1906. Pattie Wiman was the daughter-in-law of Anna and was a member from 1922 to 1976.

Through the generosity of Pattie Wiman, the Deere-Wiman House and Butterworth Center in Moline are available to the public. The Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter meets at Butterworth Center.

Following the ceremony at Riverside Cemetery, members went to Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island to honor two more past members, Bessie Cleveland Sweeney (1879-1976) and Anne Montgomery Bahnsen (1873-1951). DAR insignias were placed alongside their markers during the ceremony, and visitors were reminded of their accomplishments.

Both women were regents of the Fort Armstrong Chapter, Illinois state regents and were elected national vice presidents general from Illinois.



**Photo: Submitted**

The Mary Little Deere-Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently honored six of its most accomplished past members with grave-marking ceremonies. Here, Past Regent Patricia Staley reads biographies of the recipients during the ceremony at Riverside Cemetery in Moline.

# Gordon Grimes was a long-time member of our Society. He was always very helpful with our computer equipment!

Posted Online: Dec. 17, 2012, 5:55 pm

## G. Gordon Grimes

[Comment on this story](#)

G. Gordon Grimes, 82, of Moline, passed away on Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, at Trinity Rock Island.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1724 15th St., Moline. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at Esterdahl Mortuary & Crematory, 6601 38th Ave., Moline. Interment will be at the National Cemetery on the Rock Island Arsenal, and military rites will be accorded by the Moline American Legion Post No. 246. Memorials may be made to the Salem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

Gordon was born April 15, 1930, in Oelwein, Iowa, the son of George and Helen Orbell Grimes. He was married on June 6, 1954, to Ruth Gunther at Hope Lutheran Church in rural Westgate, Iowa.

Gordon worked for Deere & Co. for 33 years, starting at John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works and retiring from the Administration Center.

Gordon enlisted in the United States Navy in 1948 and was recalled in 1950 during the Korean conflict. He served until 1953 as a Seabee on construction projects in Morocco, Guantanamo Bay and Newfoundland.

Gordon was a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Moline and volunteered his time where needed, from computer technician to council president.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Ruth Grimes; three sons, Steven (Sue) Grimes, David (Farolyn) Grimes and John (Kim) Grimes; and eight grandchildren, Amy (Tim) Delaney, Laura Grimes, Brett Grimes, Alexa Grimes, Nathan Grimes, Kyslie Grimes, Austin Grimes and Corbin Grimes. Online condolences may be left for his family by visiting his obituary online at [www.esterdahl.com](http://www.esterdahl.com).



Photo:  
G. Gordon Grimes

# Photos from our 2012 Annual Dinner at the QC Botanical Center



# Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference at Moline Viking Club April 2013



# Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference at Moline Viking Club April 2013



RICIGS Members Fred and Linda  
Polich attended the FGS  
Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in  
May 2013



Linda and Fred  
Polich

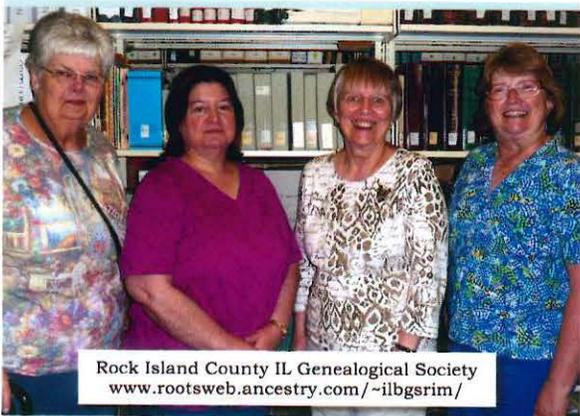


Keynote Address

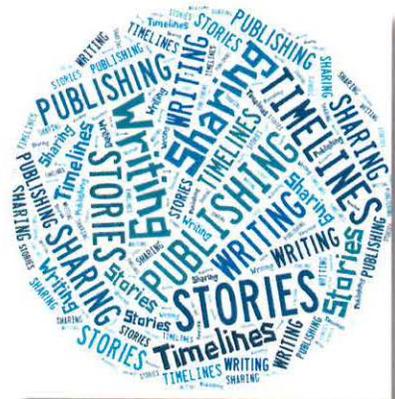
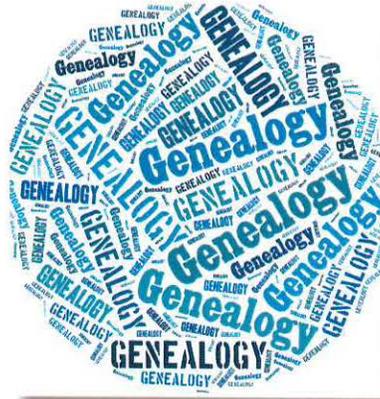


Fred met a new  
Kauzlarich cousin!

# RICIGS Beginning Genealogy Workshops 2013



Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgsrim/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilbgsrim/)



**Discover Your Heritage!**

The Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society will sponsor four monthly classes to help you start researching your Family History.

**Saturday, July 20th (Register by July 1st)**  
 "Let's Start at the Very Beginning"

**Saturday, August 17th (Register by August 1st)**  
 "Census, Military, and Records Galore"

**Saturday, September 21st (Register by Sept 1st)**  
 "Everyone Has a Story, Have You Told Yours?"

**Saturday, October 19th (Register by Oct 1st)**  
 "Online Research Tools"

All classes will be held at the Butterworth Education Center, 701-12th Avenue, Moline, from 1 - 4 pm.  
 Cost for each class is \$5.00 (free for RICIGS members). Prepayment and registration is a **MUST!** Seating is limited -- Sign up today!

Questions? Call  
 Linda Polich (309-236-1985)  
 Linda Walker (309-786-6197)

— Jul 20 — Aug 17 — Sept 21 — Oct 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society  
 P. O. Box 3912, Rock Island, IL 61204-3912  
[www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilbgsrim)

Photos from our Annual Dinner  
November 2013



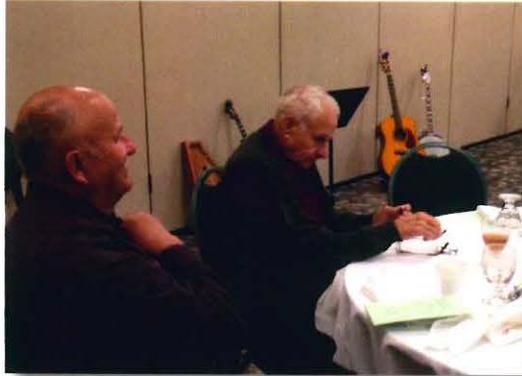
New Officers



New Officers



Attendees

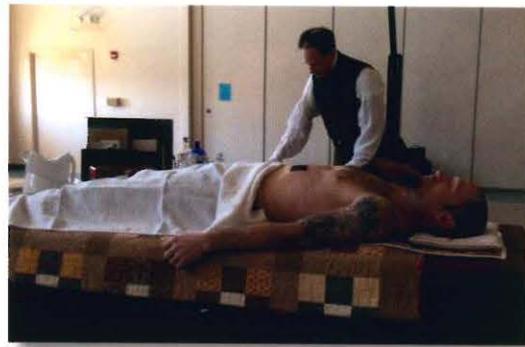


Attendees



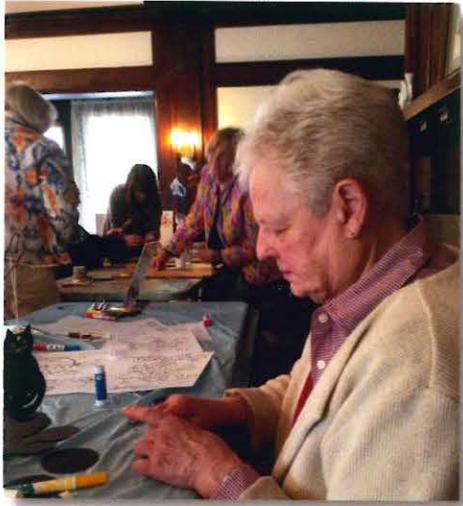
Entertainment

RICIGS Members Linda Polich and  
Beth Hoffman attended a Civil War  
Era Field Embalming Demo in  
Orion, Illinois in March 2014





RICIGS Members Linda Polich and  
Phyllis Witherspoon attended the  
Swedish Easter Workshop at First  
Lutheran Church in Rock Island in  
April 2014



# Quad-Cities Genealogical Conference - April 2014



Millie Kale - Center  
for Belgian Culture



Full house - 200  
attendees



Cupcakes to celebrate  
our 40th Conference!

**Center for Belgian Culture has new home**  
**By Laura Anderson Shaw, landerson@qconline.com |**

**Posted: Thursday, May 1, 2014 6:51 pm**

MOLINE -- After a few months in limbo, the Center for Belgian Culture has a new home. It will open for the first time at 1 p.m. today at 1608 7th St., Moline, and will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

On the first Saturday of every month, beginning this weekend, the center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Its monthly Belgian waffle breakfasts will be served from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the Friends Circle Club Hall, 701 18th Ave., Moline, two blocks south of the center's new location. Breakfasts are \$6, including a drink.

Health regulations require that the center have a commercial-grade kitchen to serve the breakfasts, and rather than installing one in the new location, members decided to use the kitchen at the nearby Friends Circle Club Hall.

The center, which showcases the heritage of the Quad-Cities Belgian population, left the building it formerly rented at 712 18th Ave., Moline, at the end of last year after the building's owner claimed bankruptcy.

"Even if a new owner came forward and brought the current building up to code, it would take too long," Kevin DeRoo, board president, said at the time. That building had foundation issues, a leaking roof and electrical problems.

The center's "Belgian treasures" were packed into boxes in March, and were moved to and arranged at the new leased site in April, said Celie Donohue, of Moline, the center's museum curator.

"We just want the whole community to be able to come and see what we have," Ms. Donohue said.

Ms. Donohue said the new center offers a "good-sized area" that houses a museum; genealogy information; a gift shop, called Kleine Winkel, which is Flemish for "little shop"; lace makers; and more.

The museum has displays on several topics, including beer, the Belgian game of rolle bolle and lace, Ms. Donohue said.

The new center is handicapped accessible, and plenty of parking spaces are available behind the building, Ms. Donohue said.

She said the center has been seeing a number of younger people coming in who are interested in learning more about their family's heritage. They are "wanting to know where Grandma or Grandpa came from," Ms. Donohue said.

Younger folks also have been buying Lukken irons to make the Lukken cookies their relatives made years ago, Ms. Donohue said.

"I've been amazed," she said.

Moline boasts the second-largest concentration of Belgian population in the U.S., according to the cultural center's website, [belgianmuseumquadcities.org](http://belgianmuseumquadcities.org). Belgians flocked to the region to farm and work in the area's factories in the mid-1800s to the early 1900s.

The website states those settlers had an influence on the community through their ingenuity and work ethic, and brought with them sports such as rolle bolle, pigeon racing and bike racing, as well as art, lace making and culinary skills.

The center will celebrate its new home with a grand opening from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 25.



## Hanna Township restores Henry County's earliest gravestones

Lisa Hammer, rlhammer@qconline.com | Posted: Sunday, August 17, 2014 8:25 pm

COLONA — Hanna Township Cemetery is stranded in rural Colona's Bullock Addition, with houses grown up around it. The former road up the hill to the cemetery off Quarry Road now is a woods. Some of the cemetery's dead were born in the 1700s.

A grassed 100-foot easement leads between houses to the cemetery, a secluded, silent place. The cemetery was started by a church in nearby Cleveland and ultimately deeded over to the township. Last winter, township officials decided that if the cost wasn't too great, they wanted to restore gravestones at the cemetery.

Ten stones were selected to be replaced this year — among them four from the Paddelford family. Township supervisor Jesse Crouch dug up the old stones in March. One still was frozen in the ground.

Many members of the Hanna family, for whom the township is named, are buried there. Also there is George Brandenburg, whose name appears in many if not all early accounts of Henry County as the proprietor of Brandenburg's Tavern at Colona Township — the county's first post office and first polling place where the settlers voted to form the county on June 9, 1837.

Four Hanna brothers came to Henry County in 1835 from the area known as "Egypt" in southern Illinois, according to Henry Kiner's 1910 history of Henry County. Three of them -- Philip, Luke and Henry — settled "in the edge of the forest of Rock River near where Cleveland now is."

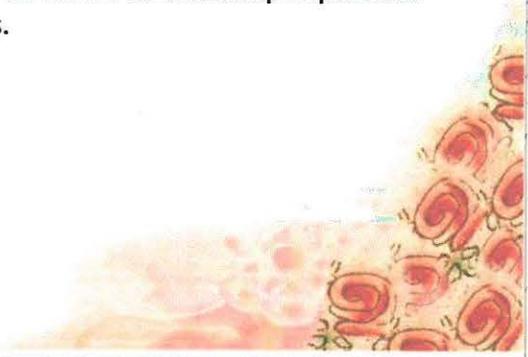
An 1885 Chapman Brothers account from the Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago, notes three people gave a history of the county at the second annual Old Settlers meeting in 1876 with information they received from P.K. Hanna, George Brandenburg "and probably others."

According to that account, a small party including the Rev. P.K. Hanna left Knoxville in June 1835 and found the family of Dr. Baker living in a wagon in Colona Township near the mouth of the Green River. They followed the Black Hawk trail northeast to Phenix Township before heading home. P.K. Hanna made a second trip to the area the following month, and then brought his family, arriving Aug. 13, 1835, to become the first family to settle in Hanna Township and the fourth in Henry County.

The same account states George Brandenburg came from Ohio on Sept. 9, 1835, to Hanna Township, but later went to Colona Township and laid out the town of Dayton in October 1836, building a log cabin and opening Brandenburg's Tavern.

William Paddelford bought land in Hanna Township in early 1837 and settled in the fall. His children included James, who was sent to Andover and Colona schools and, later, a winter term at Moline, according to the 1885 Chapman Brothers account. The Paddelfords spent their first year there with Brandenburg, then farmed 160 acres. James Paddelford served 10 terms as township supervisor and in 1884 was elected state representative with 13,912 votes.

(continued on next page)





As the half-dozen volunteers worked to dig holes and lift the new stones alongside the faded, unintelligible ones which will be retained, Mr. Crouch explained the plan is to restore 10 gravestones each year.

The township spent less than \$100 each on the markers, getting a special deal from Geneseo Monument and Bronze. To fill in the blanks when they couldn't read stones, they used a list provided by the Henry County Genealogical Society, whose members had done a cemetery inventory in 1990. Mr. Crouch said even 25 years ago the stones were in better shape. The genealogical society's website provides directions to the cemetery with a helpful picture of the grassy easement that leads to it.

Saturday's volunteers included road commissioner Bob Gramling, whose family practically lived local history in 1945 when they moved to a structure several miles from the site of Brandenburg's Tavern. Their home had been an early stagecoach stop in Hanna Township.

"It's pictured in the 150th year Geneseo history book in two places," Mr. Gramling said.

Everett Swanson paused with his shovel. "It's the history of the thing, and they're going to be lost."

Kenney Atwell recalled one person for whom it had been too late. "Gene Ague, of Geneseo, came to me, and his grandfather was buried here. I talked to another man and he said, 'Yeah, I helped dig the grave,' but we could never find the location, and that's too bad."

Mr. Crouch said the flat, broken stones are the township's top priority. "They're deteriorating the quickest," he said. "We want to get it back where you know who was here."



Fall Flemish Fest  
14 September 2014  
Hosted by Center for Belgian Culture



You never know where you will find a  
group of RICIGS Members!  
Linda Polich, Diane Lovell, Lorraine  
Hathaway, Dorothy Darland, Marilyn  
Mix, Phyllis Witherspoon

# "Echoes of Riverside Cemetery" 28 September 2014



**RICIGS Member  
Kathleen Seusy**



SwedGen Tour at Augustana College  
12 October 2014

*This event was sponsored by the Swenson  
Swedish Immigration Research Center.  
Rock Island was selected as one of three  
locations that Swedish genealogists visited  
this year.*

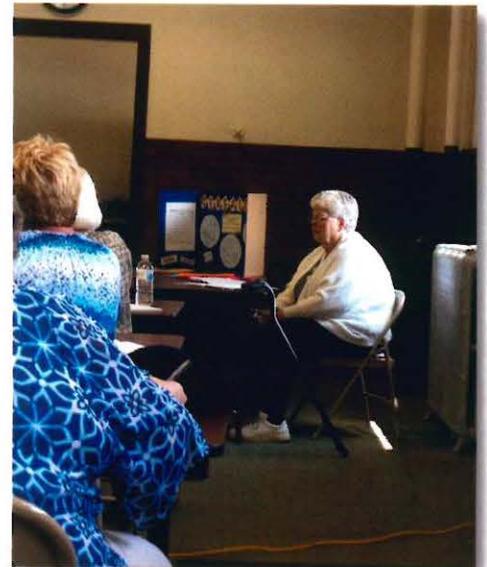


RICIGS Member Linda Polich was one of  
18 attendees selected to have a one-on-one  
session with one of the three genealogists  
from Sweden!

# RICIGS Beginning Genealogy Workshops - June 2014 to October 2014



**Pedigree Chart**  
**What is a pedigree chart?** A chart that shows your direct ancestors, on both your father's and mother's sides.  
 Identify what you know about your ancestors, and how many generations you already know about them by filling out a pedigree chart from your personal knowledge.  
 Then you research their vital records, and then you painstakingly working backwards, one generation at a time, if possible.



Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society is sponsoring another series of Beginning Genealogy classes in 2014!

- June 28 - "Who Are Your Ancestors and Where Did They Come From?" (Pedigree Chart, Immigration, Passenger Lists, Naturalization)
- July 19 - "Where Did Your Ancestors Live?" (Census and Land Records)
- August 16 - "All Things Military - Did Your Ancestors Serve?"
- September 20 - "Everyone Has a Story - Have You Told Yours?"
- October 18 - "Continuing Your Research with Online Resources"

All classes are on Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Butterworth Educational Center, 701 - 12th Avenue, Moline.

Cost:  
 \$7.00 per class or  
 \$30.00 for all FIVE classes or  
 FREE for RICIGS Members!

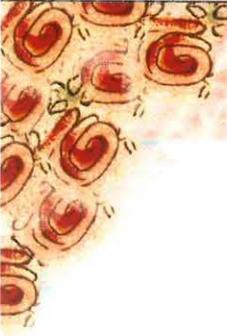
You must preregister for these classes, as seating is limited. Sign up today with the form below!

Questions? Call Linda Polich (309-236-1985) or Lorraine Hathaway (309-787-1826).

All 5 classes OR  June  July  August  Sept  Oct  
 RICIGS member?  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form, along with your check made payable to RICIGS, to: Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 3912, Rock Island, IL 61204-3912.



"An Afternoon of Research"  
co-sponsored by RICIGS and  
RICHS on 26 October 2014

The Rock Island County Historical Society  
and the  
Rock Island County IL Genealogical Society  
invite you to

**"AN AFTERNOON OF RESEARCH"**

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2014

Time: 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Place: Rock Island County  
Historical Society Library,  
822 - 11th Avenue, Moline

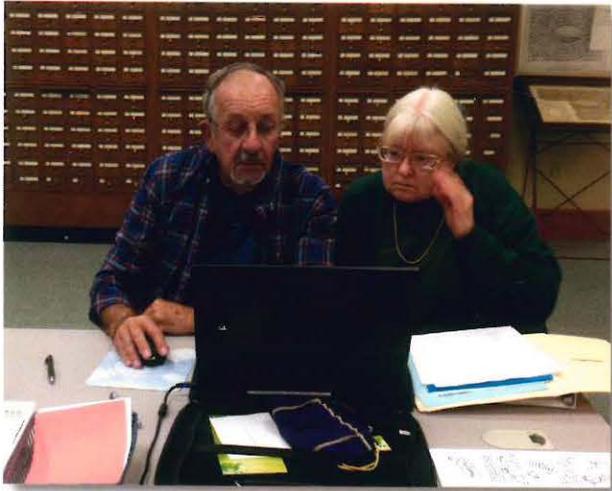
Cost: \$5.00 per person (pay at the door)  
*Bring your friends - open to the public!*

October is  
Family History  
Month!

Bring your current  
genealogy projects and  
spend the afternoon  
with us, or just stop by  
and say Hello! There will  
be several volunteers on  
hand to help you.



"An Afternoon of Research"  
co-sponsored by RICIGS and  
RICHS on 26 October 2014



*RICIGS member and  
RICHS Director Orin  
Rockhold assisting  
one of our guests*



*RICIGS members  
Linda Walker and  
Gary Maxwell doing  
some newspaper  
research*



*RICIGS members  
Beth Hoffman, Kim  
Doyle, and Marilyn  
Mix working on their  
research*

## Elaine Vinzant is a former member of our Society.



### Is your child a son of a witch? Find out

By Elaine Vinzant | Posted on Quad-Cities Online: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 11:10 pm

On a wintry day in February, 2012, when I opened my mail I was excited to find a certificate proclaiming me to be a "Life member of Associated Daughters of Early American Witches (ADEAW) by virtue of direct descent from Mary Bliss Parsons." When my son came home from work I told him that I am the daughter of a witch, therefore he must be a son of a witch.

The purpose of ADEAW is to search and preserve the names of those accused of witchery in Colonial America, and to locate the living female descendants of all witches who were accused in the American colonies. I first heard about this organization at a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) meeting.

A list of qualifying witches was distributed, and I recognized the name of one of my ancestors. I then forgot about it, but later when visiting the Silvis home of Kathy Carey I noticed an ADEAW coffee mug. Kathy told me she was currently the registrar for the group and encouraged me to join. After serving as registrar, she was elected president general of for a couple of years.

It was mainly the latter 1600s when many women and a few men were accused of being witches. Some were burned at the stake. Others were hung, jailed, or were tried but acquitted. That was the case with my ancestor. She was arrested and acquitted twice. The accusations were mainly the result of an ongoing feud with another family. Her first trial was in 1656, then in 1675 she was ordered to travel from Springfield, Mass., to Boston where she was imprisoned for 10 weeks while awaiting trial, then acquitted by a jury of 12 men.

ADEAW is just one of dozens of Heritage Societies available to join if you can prove descent. That is just one benefit of genealogy as a hobby. The main reason is that you get to play detective, and you never know who may turn up on your family tree. It is much easier to search family history now than it was in the past. While some people still hire genealogists or visit places their families once lived to check court records, visit cemeteries, etc., you can now do extensive research without leaving your home. Tons of information can be found on the internet.

Some sites require a subscription, such as [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), while others, such as [RootsWeb.com](http://RootsWeb.com), are free. You can even order DNA testing online.

We are fortunate in the Quad-Cities to have excellent resources on both sides of the river to help search your past. They can give you tips and tricks to help you avoid pitfalls and break through those "brick walls." The Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society library is located in the Rock Island County Historical Society library at 822 11th Ave., Moline. Or, contact the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society, with vast resources in the downtown Davenport library. These organizations also offer classes, and can assist with your research.

Another excellent venue is the Family History Center in Davenport. Volunteers are usually available to help you Tuesday through Saturday. Call (563) 386-7547 for address and hours. This is a branch of the prestigious Family History Library in Salt Lake City, started by the Church of Latter Day Saints in 1894.

I hope I have inspired you to start digging for your roots. Have fun adding leaves to your family tree!



## **Genealogy Society workshop on sharing family stories**

Press release submitted by Brian "Fox" Ellis, Fox Tales International  
Posted: Thursday, November 6, 2014 10:57 am

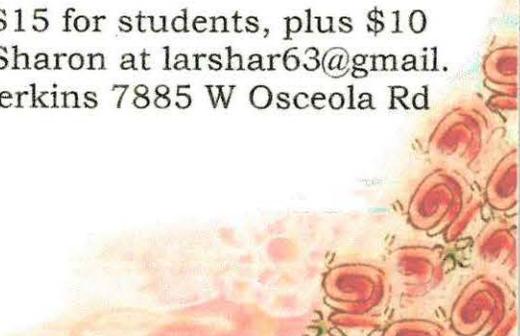
The Holidays, with all of the family gatherings, is a great chance to get together to collect and record family history. The Henry and Stark County Genealogy Societies are teaming up to host a workshop with storyteller, author and historian Brian Fox Ellis to help you do just that.

Mr. Ellis will entertain and inspire workshop participants by telling a few of his family stories and helping folks to write their own at the Bishop Hill Welcome Center from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Saturday, November 22nd.

The workshop title says it best, "On Beyond Genealogy", moving beyond the research and turning notes into stories. Once someone has collected family bibles and obituaries, and surfed Ancestry.com, the question arises: How do you translate this list of names and dates into tell-able tales? This workshop will walk you through the steps of telling and writing stories to keep our ancestors' memories alive. Everyone has a story to tell. This workshop will help you find ways to pass on this deep sense of who we are and where we come from. These stories can become the foundation for a book that is a legacy for generations to come. Fox will also present lessons on narrative and poetic writing styles to bring family lore to print, and a primer on what you need to know to self-publish your family history. Participants are asked to bring paper, pencil, 5 of their favorite family photographs, and a family tree if you have one. Come to listen and come to tell! Advance registration is required. Seating is limited.

The presenter, Brian "Fox" Ellis, presents dozens of family literacy programs across the country every year. He is the author of more than 100 magazine articles, 12 CDs and 16 books, including the acclaimed children's picture book, *The Web at Dragonfly Pond*, (Dawn Publications 2006) a true story about fishing with his father.

The fee for the program is just \$25 for adults, or \$15 for students, plus \$10 for lunch from Bishop Hill's Filling Station E-mail Sharon at [larshar63@gmail.com](mailto:larshar63@gmail.com) to register. Send checks to HCGS ? Sharon Perkins 7885 W Osceola Rd Neponset, IL 61345.



(From Quad-City Times newspaper, Monday, 10 November 2014)

### Veterans honored with quilts in Rock Island



*Kitty Humphrey of Milan recently retired from the Army after a 30-year career with both the Marines and the Army.*

(Kitty Humphrey is our Society's Vice President 2014-2015)

Rock Island resident Beth Ater couldn't hold back tears Sunday as she recalled the years she held her breath every time there was a knock at her door.

Ater's three sons, Matt, Michael and Jared, all served tours in the Middle East at different times throughout the last decade, but now they're all back home in the Quad-Cities.

"There was not a lot of communication, so we watched the news constantly," said Ater, whose husband, Rick Ater, also served in the Army in the 1970s. "But they're home safe now, and it's great."

On Sunday, Ater's sons and more than two dozen other Quad-City veterans from World War II to the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan received handmade quilts for their service at the second annual Quilts of Valor presentation at the Quad-City Botanical Center in Rock Island.

(continued on next page)



More than 120 veterans, friends and family members shared stories — not all happy — tears, hugs and laughs throughout the presentation.

Before the presentation of quilts, organizers warmed up the crowd with excerpts from Robin Williams' "I Love Liberty," where he portrays the American Flag, and comedian Red Skeleton's interpretation of "The Pledge of Allegiance."

As attendees recited the pledge in unison, Lyle Zugg, 83, put one hand to his forehead as he saluted the American Flag, while his left hand rested on his wooden cane.

"I've been doing that for years," said Zugg, who received a quilt Sunday for his service in the Air Force during the Korean War. "No one ever knew we were gone, and nothing happened when we got back. It's still tough."

Terry Austin, the local representative for Quilts of Valor in the Quad-Cities, hugged all the veterans before volunteers wrapped them in their personal quilt and said the hours spent designing patterns on each quilt symbolize one way to honor those who may not have ever received a "thank you" for their service.

"They put their life on the line for us, and because of them we're doing what we're doing today," said Austin, who added 10,000 Quilts of Valor volunteers nationwide have pieced, quilted and bounded 108,000 quilts in the last 11 years.

Local volunteers, many of whom are involved with the Mississippi Valley Quilters Guild, design, cut fabric and piece together about 100 quilts for Quad-City veterans each year, Austin said.

"Don't tell me what we do is not important," she told the crowd.

Fighting back tears, volunteer Deb Kopacz, of Davenport, said Sunday's presentation "makes me want to go home and 'burn' more thread."

Kopacz said her father-in-law was a prisoner of war during World War II, which motivates her involvement.

"He was a very quiet man, and he never spoke about the atrocities he suffered in the war," she said. "I do it to honor him."

Sporting a navy blue dress suit and an American Flag scarf, Milan resident Kitty Humphrey, 50, enlisted in the Marines when she was 19 years old and recently retired from the Army.

Humphrey said former U.S. Rep. Lane Evans, whose funeral is Monday, encouraged her to enlist when the two rode the bus together in Rock Island.

"This is my closure to my military career," said Humphrey, who noted she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder throughout her years in the service. "I served my country with great pride and loyalty, and this helps me close the door and move forward."

Rick Ater, 58, who served stateside in the Army from 1975 to 1978, said he also worried a lot about his sons when they were gone, but made it clear that he couldn't be more proud of them.

The family's youngest veteran, 24-year-old Jared Ater, served in the Marines from 2007 to 2013, including one tour in Afghanistan.

"It was just something we all wanted to do," Jared said. "I don't think we ever looked at it as a tradition, but I guess that's what it became."





*Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society  
Annual Dinner Meeting  
Monday, November 10, 2014*

QC Botanical Center  
2525 – 4th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois  
Doors open at 5:30 pm - Dinner served at 6:00 pm

*Buffet Menu: Carved Ham, Chicken in Creamy Herb Sauce,  
Grandma's Green Beans, Rosemary Potatoes, Fresh Fruit,  
Pasta Salad Vinaigrette, Pea Salad, Tossed Salad with  
two dressings, Rolls & Butter, Dessert (assorted cakes)*

**Cost: \$20.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity)**

Agenda after dinner:  
Installation of 2015 Officers  
Program will be provided by Gretchen Small, Program Director at  
Butterworth Center – topic is ***A Victorian Christmas.***  
Reservations accepted through October 28, 2014.  
For additional information, call Shay Elliott (563-381-8185).

+++++

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Rock Island County Illinois  
Genealogical Society (RICIGS) P. O. Box 3912, Rock Island,  
IL 61204-3912



# RICIGS Annual Dinner – 10 November 2014





## Lois Jackson was a member of our Society.



Lois Allene Erickson Jackson, 87, formerly of Rock Island, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014.

Service and visitation location have been changed. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the church. Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island. Burial will be in Chippiannock Cemetery, Rock Island, where four generations are buried. Online condolences may be expressed at [hodgsonfuneralhome.com](http://hodgsonfuneralhome.com).

Lois was born March 20, 1927, in Rock Island. She lived on the same street all of her life. Her parents were Emil P. and Mabel R. Bollinger Erickson.

She attended Rock Island Public Schools, played in the school bands and graduated from Rock Island High School and Rock Island Business College. She attended night school at Augustana College and played French horn for two years in that symphony orchestra and for one year also played cornet in the band.

She was employed at the former International Harvester, Farmall Works, Rock Island, and occasionally worked at the former Boot Hobby Shop in Rock Island.

Lois married Thomas M. Jackson on Dec. 15, 1946, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rock Island, where she was a lifelong member. She was a member of the former Two-by-Two Couples Club and the Ageless Group of the church, serving as coordinator of the group for four years. In early years, she taught Sunday school and helped with the junior choir.

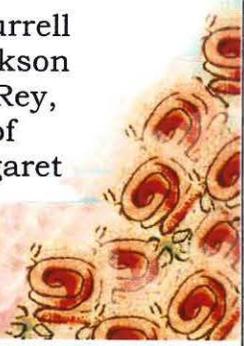
She served as den mother in the Boy Scouts of America for six years.

Lois was also a member of the Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer County, Quad Cities Computer Club, Keystone Neighborhood organization, Community Caring Conference and Coalition of Rock Island Home Owners.

She enjoyed needlecraft, photography, genealogy (having collected data, written and printed 11 volumes of her and her husband's lines), traveling, hiking and her pets, but the shining spot in her life was her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends and being sustained by her abiding faith in God.

She is survived by her sons, Robert W. Jackson and wife Sheila, Moline, and Murrell R. Jackson and wife Diane, Reedsburg, Wis.; two grandchildren, Thomas R. Jackson and wife Mackenzie, Moline, and Emily M. Clack and husband Matt, Playa del Rey, Calif.; great-grandchildren, Brenden H. Jackson and Alex R. Jackson, both of Moline; and special lifelong friends, Mary Allis Snowden, Rock Island, and Margaret Wadsworth, Rock Island.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents.



## Mercer County documents join world-wide genealogical site

Posted: Friday, December 26, 2014 7:29 pm



Stephen Elliott

From left, Viola Walter, her husband Michael, and Mercer County Historical Society President Bill Bertrand look over records in the basement of the Mercer County Courthouse. The Walters were documenting thousands of Mercer County records as part of FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service.



Stephen Elliott

Michael Walter looks through probate records at the Mercer County Courthouse recently.

ALEDO — The tattered, old document in the Mercer County Courthouse opened a small window of one man's life.

His name was William Morrison, 32. A native of Scotland, he traveled across the Atlantic on the steamship Caledonia more than a century ago.

According to his naturalization papers, Mr. Morrison arrived on Ellis Island and declared his intentions to become a United States citizen. The papers, certifying his arrival, note that Mr. Morrison would live in Matherville, Ill.

He was a coal miner.

His is just one of the thousands of documents Mike and Viola Walter, of Manhattan, Kan., have spent months researching and preserving. As part of FamilySearch, they are one of 275 couples around the world providing digital imaging of probate estate files along with naturalization records.

In 2013, Mercer County Circuit Clerk Jeff Benson signed an agreement with FamilySearch. The genealogical organization has digitally captured images of the county's probate records from 1840 to 1930.

They will be available online for anyone seeking information on their ancestors, likely in the coming months. Last February, Steve and Jill Guymon, of Utah, also a part of FamilySearch, arrived and started the project. In September, the Walters took over.

FamilySearch is a genealogy arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Free access to the records is open to anyone.

All told, the couples captured, via digital imaging, documents of more than 4,000 Mercer County deaths from 1840 to 1930 from the county's probate records, along with pictures of more than 225,000 probate and naturalization documents.



## Mercer County documents join world-wide genealogical site

Posted: Friday, December 26, 2014 7:29 pm

(continued)

The Mercer County Historical Society also contributed countless hours assisting on the project.

"I signed a contract at no cost to the county," Mr. Benson said. "My office got a lifetime preservation of those very old and fragile records that are corroding. What we gained from it was for those records to be preserved for eternity because they are digitally imaged."

Mr. Benson said his office also is being provided with hard drive copies of the probate and naturalization records FamilySearch has imaged.

Probate documents are court records of a person's belongings, Mr. Benson said, adding that it's one of the steps in administering the estate of a deceased person.

The yellow and brown papers, many from more than a century ago, describe the deceased giving away cows, tracts of land, bushels of corn.

"In this document from 1930, we've got Jersey cows, a bull, a harness, a corn planter," Mr. Walter said.

In one document from 1920, a Mercer County man is given guardianship of four children. The children's names are listed in the probate file. Mr. Walter said for those researching family histories, it can be a small, or large, piece of a puzzle that puts together a past.

"This project is very important," Mercer County Historical Society president Bill Bertrand said. "A good portion, between a third and half of the people, come through our museum for genealogical research.

"Now, all of that is on film. A lot of times, the files are just scraps of papers. Sometimes, it's IOU's from people trying to get something from the estate. A lot of times, it's a ridiculously small amount, like he owed me 35 cents."

Ms. Walter said 35 cents likely went a long way in 1840.

Mr. Bertrand said signatures also are important, validating a relative for researchers viewing the probate records.

In the coming months, those searching for family roots in Mercer County can go to the FamilySearch.org website and access the records without going to the courthouse basement and searching through drawers and drawers of old documents.

"We feel this is important work," Ms. Walter said. "Everybody knows this is important. This way, you can find who you belong to."

Mr. Walter agreed. "We're trying to preserve our heritage and connect to our families. We like to know the source from whence we came."

The Walters moved onto to Bureau County this week to continue their work.

