

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



2025

January 2025

The New Year began with 130 members and new and returning officers.

President: Julie Vogel – Returning

Vice President – Sandra Derenbecker –NEW

Recording Secretary: Sally Bartosh –NEW

Corresponding Secretary: Open

Treasurer – Judi McDowell – Returning

Member at Large 2025—Ann Noyce

Member at Large 2026—Pam Lawson

Member at Large 2027—Deb VanSant --NEW

Committee Members

Cemeteries: Judi McDowell

Digital Technology: Julie Vogel

Education Linda Polich, Linda Walker, Mary Karcher, Beth Hoffman
and Betty Hagberg

Fundraising: Linda Polich

Funeral Card Indexing: Jan McKenzie

Historian: Judi McDowell

Librarian: Kathy Snyder

Mailing: Open

Publications: Betty Hagberg

Queries & Research: Team Members

Registrar: Ann Noyce



From our Blog

Past RICIGS Member Jean Wistedt Passes Away

Published January 7, 2025



Jean Wistedt, of Illinois City, IL, was a past member of RICIGS. Her knowledge of township cemeteries was extensive. She passed away on Monday, December 30, 2024, in Rock Island, IL.

Our condolences to Jean's family. She will be greatly missed!

Norma Jean Wistedt Obituary

Norma Jean Wistedt, 78, of Illinois City, passed away Monday, December 30, 2024, at Generations at Rock Island.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Thursday, January 9, 2025, at Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home and Crematory, 201 E. 4th Avenue, Milan. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. at the funeral home. Burial will be in Edgington Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society in Jean's memory.

Jean was born February 8, 1946, in Morrison, Illinois, a daughter of Fred and Norma (Olson) Gartz. She graduated from Morrison High School and attended Augustana College. Jean married William "Bill" H. Wistedt on August 22, 1970.

Jean was a beloved member of the Rockridge community, a dedicated bus driver for 31 years in the Rockridge School District, and a beloved softball coach. Born with a passion for life, Jean cherished her time spent outdoors. She enjoyed fishing, walking, gardening, photography, and genealogy. Jean was a member of the Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society, where she devoted a lot of time. She was also a member of the Volks Walk Club, where she traveled the Midwest on various hiking trips.

Jean was not only a devoted caregiver to the children on her bus, but also a loving grandmother who delighted in taking "adventures" with her grandchildren. She created countless memories and abundant laughter during her baking days around the holidays. Jean's vibrant spirit, kindness, and unwavering love for her family will be profoundly missed. Her love for her grandchildren and extended family and the joy she brought along with all of her "adventure" time will be greatly missed and forever in our hearts.

Those left to cherish Jean's memory include her husband of 54 years, William "Bill"; sons, Christopher (Laura) Wistedt and Andrew Wistedt; grandchildren, Hadley (Lane) Weinert, Logan Wistedt, Hunter Wistedt, and Caleb; great-granddaughter, Luella Weinert; and daughter-in-law, Nichole Monson.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Raymond Gartz.



The First meeting of 2025 was an educational event held via zoom at 6:30 pm on Wednesday January 8th. ***The topic was New Year/New Start.***
15 members attended and the following handout was provided



RICIGS Education New Year – New Start

January 8, 2025

6:30-7:30 Zoom

Let's share our best ideas of how we can make 2025 a great year for our family history. Instead of resolutions, let's make plans and set goals! Not just what we want: but how and why.

There are so many ways to move forward with our family history. Pick a project that includes activities that you like to do. Play to your strengths.

Organization – Research - Digitization Writing - Publishing - Education

Do any of these “smart goals” inspire you?

- Gather info, write and edit two brief family history stories before the family reunion in June
- Scan 10 photos per week until the shoebox is empty- or for two months - whichever comes first.
- Attend two [RootsTech](#) sessions on a specific topic of interest before mid-March.

research log for a brick wall
ancestor during 2025. Try
something new:

Education: [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

DNA: What are your next steps?
Can you use DNA to solve a family
mystery? Free DNA education by
[Diahan Southard](#)

Video Essays: Review William
Simmons presentation – “Show,
Don’t Tell: Using Video to Share
Family Stories” [Handout](#)
[1](#), [Handout 2](#), [Video](#)

[Family Tree Notebooks](#): Helps with
Organization, Writing, Publishing

Is there something new you would
like to try?



The board of directors meeting for January was held on Thursday January 9th via zoom at 6:30 PM. 10 members attended.



The first general meeting for 2025 was held on January 28th via Zoom at 6:30 PM. The guest speaker was Kate Penney Howard and her topic was ***Squeezing Out All the Info for Your DNA Matches***. 25 Members attended.

Kate caught the genealogy bug at the tender age of four as she sat on the lap of her great-great grandmother watching a 4th of July parade. She soon became the storyteller and story-keeper for the family. In 2016 she began teaching herself Genetic Genealogy and has given web-based seminars to various Genealogical Societies. She is also an ordained minister.

February 2025



The educational event for February was DNA -
-Updates. Three members shared
information.

Laura Reich shared the numbering system she uses for all her genealogical data whether online or on her computer. She said she has used this system for many years and can find any document with 3 or 4 clicks.

Sandra Derenbeker demonstrated the Pro Tools feature available on Ancestry. She reminded everyone that even though it is an additional monthly fee, it can be started and stopped upon request.

Mary Karcher shared details about how she has helped a friend find his biological parents using DNA matches. The following handout was distributed. 15 members attended the meeting via Zoom at 6:30 pm

RICIGS Education Event
DNA – Update Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025
6:30-7:30 Zoom

Join us as several members share how they are using DNA

- Adding DNA matches to your family tree – Laura Reich
- Using Ancestry Pro Tools – Sandra Derenbecker
- Finding unknown ancestors using DNA – Mary Karcher

Round Robin:

Share your findings or questions about your use of DNA

What's new:

23andMe Update – Download now

Ancestry (25 million) – Pro tools, Expanded dots, change in terminology:

- New ethnicity estimates (now Origins) 500- 1000 years ago, new regions
- Communities (now Journeys): 50-200 years ago

Register Free for RootsTech March 6-8, 2025

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/>

March 6, 10:30 CST

How Does DNA Fit into Your Family Story? Identity. Connection.
Answers

Diahan Southard

March 6, 2:30 PM CST

What's New at Ancestry Crista Cowan

March 6, 2:30 PM CST

A Matter of Standards: DNA and the Genealogical Proof
Standard

Judy Russell

March 7, 10:30 AM CST

Uncovering Your Story with MyHeritage DNA Gal
Zrihen

March 7, 10:30 AM CST

DNA and Endogamy: Strategies to Analyze Your DNA Matches
Adina Newman

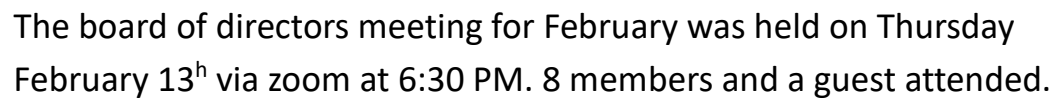
March 7, 2:30 PM CST

Combine Multiple DNA Test Types (How
atDNA+YDNA+mtDNA=More Answers!) Diahan
Southard

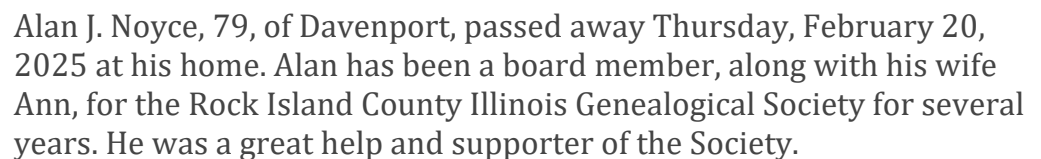
March 8, 10:30 AM CST

DNA for Native American Genealogy Roberta
Estes

March 8, 2:30 PM CST



Published on our Blog February 22, 2025



Alan's Obituary

It is always difficult saying goodbye to someone we love and cherish. Family and friends must say goodbye to their beloved Alan J. Noyce of Davenport, Iowa, who passed away at the age of 79, on February 20, 2025. You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family.

He was loved and cherished by many people including: his parents, James Noyce and Charlotte Noyce (Wentworth); his wife Ann Marie Noppe; his children, David, Michael Noyce of Cambridge, WI, Shauna Robinson (Scott) of Luxemburg, WI, James Noyce (Antoinette Newbury) of Watertown, WI, Linda Noyce (Bryan Sawyer) of Kenosha, WI and Spencer Noyce of Garberville, CA; his siblings, Sharon Saeger (Ken) of Luxemburg, WI, Tom Noyce of Madison, WI and Tim Noyce (Melissa) of Cuba City, WI.; his son Daniel; and his brother Gerry. He was also cherished by 9 grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, February 26th 2025 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Rafferty Funeral Home (2111 1st Street A a, Moline, IL 61265, USA). A funeral service was held on Thursday, February 27th 2025 at 10:00 AM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (4800 Kennedy Dr, East Moline, IL 61244).

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to New Kingdom Trailriders.



Thomas MacEntee was our guest speaker for February, held February 25th via zoom at 6:15 PM. Thomas has been our guest many times and is always well received. 31 members attended this evening. His presentation was **Photo Organizing and Preservation**. He provided a very detailed 10 page handout and allowed us to record and view his presentation for 30 days.

March 2025



From our Blog

Men of Company L

by [pjvogel83](#) | Published March 1, 2025

Company L – 132nd INF – 33rd DIV

This organization, and website company-l.com, honors the WWI service of an Army combat infantry company. Their descendants, and relatives, may be searching for genealogy information about their ancestor. Our website is an important and unique genealogy resource. The *Men of L* website contains the WWI history of *Company L*, from its formation, training, and overseas combat operations, to post-war demobilization, and includes information about every assigned soldier. The [Men of L website](#) contains 466 soldier's biographical information and details of their training and combat operations. Their descendants and relatives are estimated to number over ten thousand.

Discovering an ancestor's WWI wartime service with *Company L* could add important details to a family history. We encourage you to publicize the WWI wartime service and sacrifices of our Men of Company L WWI heroes. A searchable biography database of soldier's names allows for easy research <https://company-l.com/biographies/>.

Company L was assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the 132nd Infantry Regiment of the 33rd Division, “The Prairie Division”. The *Men of L* fought in France on the Western Front, participating in many of the famous battles including in the historic Verdun Sector, the Meuse Argonne and Somme operations.

Company L was created from members of Company L of the Illinois, National Guard who were based in Chicago. They were mobilized for Federal service in April 1917 for war duty during World War I. They were augmented by draftees primarily from the Chicago area. *Company L* replaced many of the original 241 soldiers who sailed for France. During training, and especially during combat operations in France, replacement soldiers were sourced from many other states. Company L soldiers were born in 26 states, and 23 foreign countries.

The *Men of L* is an Illinois not-for-profit organization with these purposes:

1. Educate the public and descendants on the history of the soldiers of Company L" of the 3rd Battalion of the 132nd Infantry Regiment of the 66th Brigade of the 33rd Division "The Prairie Division".
2. Honor the WWI sacrifices of Company L soldiers by maintaining a website of their history.
3. Promote the legacy of Company L by locating descendants.
4. Encourage descendants to visit the website to learn their ancestors' history.
5. Encourage descendants to provide their soldier's family WWI history comments, photos, memories,



On March 11, 2025 a learning event was held via zoom at 6:30 PM. The topic was **What's New in Belgian Records**. 11 members attended. The following handout was provided.



Finding Your Belgian Roots

What's New in Belgian Records

March 11, 2025, 6:30 PM CST to 8:00 CST

Please log in early to allow for registration. Zoom also sends frequent desktop updates that may slow the process of joining the web seminar.

Zoom Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XDAh-0bhQYSFBAKf23Vrsg>

1. Center For Belgian Culture
 - a. New Location
 - b. Holdings

2. Changes in Access to Belgian Records
3. GeneaNet Blog on Belgian Research
 - a. Blog - <http://bit.ly/4bxxUgk>
 - b. Indexed records (Premium) - <https://bit.ly/4i2ir2K>
4. Family Search User Interface Changes – familysearch.org > Search > Catalog
5. Website changes
 - a. Volunteers of the Brugge Archives <https://www.vrijwilligersrab.be/en>
 - b. GeneaKnowHow.net
6. Rijksarchief: AGATHA – agatha.arch.be
7. Demo
8. Discussion/Questions



The March Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday March 13, 2025 via zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 7 members in attendance.



On Tuesday March 25, 2025 Lisa Louise Cooke returned via Zoom at 6:15 PM to present our March program entitled **Reconstructing our Ancestors World with Google**. Lisa demonstrated new and old tools to construct stories and videos about our ancestors. 27 members enjoyed her presentation with a detailed handout and the opportunity to view her recorded presentation again in the next 30 days.

Lisa Louise Cooke is the author of several books including *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*, 3rd edition. She produces and hosts the popular *Genealogy Gems Podcast*, and the free weekly YouTube show, *Elevenses with Lisa at the Genealogy Gems YouTube channel*.

by [kathys730](#) | Published [March 27, 2025](#)-

We have added books on “hot” genealogy topics like AI and also updated some classic reference books for Ireland, New England and the classic *Evidence Explained*. Books are shelved according to the Dewey number shown before each title below.

929.1 Mar Simple Citations for Genealogical Sources (La Marca, Jeffry P., 2024)

April 2025



The April Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday April 10, 2025 via zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 6 members in attendance.



The Learning event for April was held in person at Butterworth Education Center on Wednesday, April 16th from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. The topic was Family Tree Notebooks Update with the following agenda and handout. 11 members attended

**RICIGS Education Event Family Tree Notebooks
System
Wednesday, 16 April 2025 (In-Person Only)**

Quick Review - What is the Family Tree Notebooks System?

Show and Tell

Getting Started

Tips and Ideas to Share

Quick Review - What is the Family Tree Notebooks System?

- ❓ Series of PDF pages that you purchase and download from the www.familytreenotebooks.com website
- ❓ Recently added another format called Canva – a web-based, drag-and-drop system of templates to create a family history book
- ❓ Lots of videos and ideas available on the website, including an informative blog
- ❓ Check out Facebook groups: Family Tree Notebooks and Family Tree Notebooks Genealogy

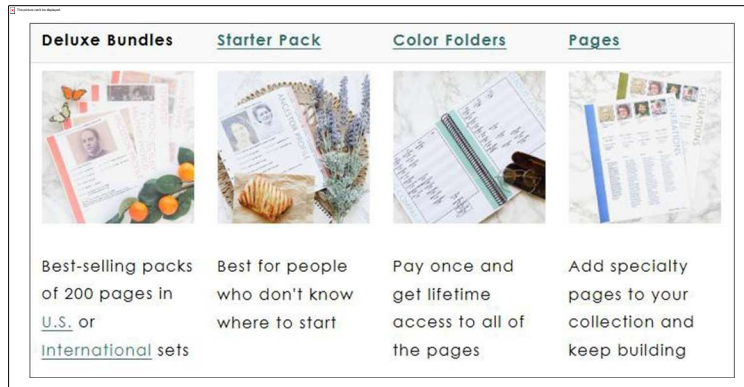
Show and Tell

- ❓ Who is currently using Family Tree Notebooks pages to compile their family history?
- ❓ Everyone's books will look different! Show us your current projects!

Getting Started

- ❓ Sign up for Carly's email list and get several free pages to try out this system!
 - o New downloadable pages added to the website for purchase each month
 - o Occasional free downloadable pages through email from Carly

? Several ways to purchase pages



(copied from www.familytreenotebooks.com website)

- 1 Hundreds of PDF pages available for purchase/download ... in addition to the birth, marriage, and death pages
- 1 Broken down into Categories (copied from www.familytreenotebooks.com website):



? Here are a few I've found and incorporated into my Ancestor Book:

- o Arts and Crafts: "Quilts" and "Lacemaking"
- o Book Organization: "About This Book" and "FTN Book Stylesheet"
- o DNA: "DNA Results"
- o Miscellaneous Pages: "Automobiles", "Family Recipe", "Family Traditions", and "Pets"

- ? Using a PDF Editor program on your computer, or the GoodNotes app on your iPad, add text and photos to the pages to create a family history book to share with your family.

Tips and Ideas to Share

- ❓ Once you purchase a PDF page from Carly's website, you can change it to fit your needs
 - o Examples: delete or move a field, move a title bar to the left side and margin strip to the right side for two-sided printing
- ❓ Use the FTN Book Style Sheet to keep your pages consistent
 - o Example: font size and color, formatting (italics, bold, underscore)

What tips have you learned while using the Family Tree Notebooks system



The General Meeting for April was held on April 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM via Zoom. 19 members logged in to hear J. Mark Lowe with his topic of "Locating Hard-To-Find Family With New Tools and Old Tested Methods."

J. Mark Lowe is a semi-retired professional genealogist, author, and teacher who researches primarily in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. He enjoys sharing what he has learned over the years through Webinars, YouTube, and Institutes.

May 2025



From our Blog

Published by **Betty McLaughlin Hagbert**

May 2, 2025

Half-price sale through Wednesday, May 7. If you have been thinking of subscribing to these great webinars, now is the time!

Legacy Family Tree

Celebrate 15 years of genealogy discovery with us! Get 50% off a full year of Legacy Family Tree Webinars membership—just \$25! Dive into over 2,300 webinars anytime, anywhere, and join our exclusive series on "AI for Genealogists". Don't miss out, offer ends April 30th! Claim Your Membership Now (new members only)

<https://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/checkout.php...>



On Wednesday May 7, 2025 Judi McDowell presented via Zoom at 6:30 a learning event about using the Find A Grave website. 23 members waited patiently for the presentation due to technical difficulties. Finally with help from Mary Karcher, Judi was able to show some features of the website. The following agenda was distributed and a handout from 2019 was shared as well.

RICIGS Education Event May 7, 2025

6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

There is more to Find a Grave than you might think! Join us as RICIGS member Judi McDowell brings us up to date on this fabulous resource.

History of Find a Grave Free vs
Membership

How to search and link family How to add
information:

- Flowers
- Photos
- Biography
- GPS coordinates

Creating a virtual cemetery

Working with other memorial members

What's new

Handling problems



The May Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday May 8, 2025 via zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 9 members in attendance.



The General Meeting for May was held on Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 6:15. It was a hybrid meeting with 8 members attending at the Moline Public Library and 13 via Zoom. Our guest speaker was Michael John Neill and his topic was **Responsible Use of AI chat bots**. He demonstrated how to create queries to get the best results from Claude, Google Gemini and ChatGPT. Three in person attendees received gift cards for Whitey's Ice Cream and the speaker and in person attendees visited nearby Whiteys for an ice cream treat following the meeting.

June 2025



From our Blog

New online RICIGS library catalog

by [kathys730](#) | Published [June 3, 2025](#)

We now have a new online catalog for our RICIGS library materials, linked on our website at [Our Library > Genealogy Library Collection](#).

To see the online catalog you can click the [link](#) there. It is easy to use (you don't have to log in to view the catalog) but we also have a linked [video](#) that goes through the basics of how to use the site.

Note that the printed materials themselves are not available online, but use the catalog to find information on your research topics and make a list for your next visit to the library.

About our library

Did you know that Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society (RICIGS) maintains a library of over 3,000 books, publications, documents, CDs, maps, and periodicals?

These materials span from colonial times to the present, covering many regions of the US, especially Rock Island County and other Illinois counties.

The materials are housed on our shelves at the Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS), 822 11th Avenue, Moline. The building is typically open 9 am to 4 pm

Wednesday through Saturday, but call first to verify hours or for more information at 309-764-8590.



On June 7, 2025 the Education team hosted an event at Moline Memorial Park Cemetery. **10** members attended. Deb VanSant demonstrated Grave Witching and shared what she carries in a "Cemetery Bag" when visiting cemeteries. Most attendees also tried their hand at grave witching. Additionally, information was provided about how to add photos to Billion Graves and also how to add photos with GPS coordinates to Find A Grave. Everyone seemed to enjoy this live event. Mary Karcher provided the following photos. Deb demonstrating grave witching and a group photo of attendees.



The June Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday June 12, 2025 via zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 9 members in attend



Nancy Loe was our guest speaker for the June 24, 2025 general meeting. It was held via Zoom at 6:30 PM with 20 members in attendance. Her topic was **Discovering European Immigrant Ancestors, Their Experiences and the Records.**

Nancy has been our speaker several times, she is a genealogist who has worked professionally in libraries and archives for many years. She holds a dual Master's degree from the Catholic University of America in American History and Library Science. In 2010 she began ***Sassy Jane Genealogy*** and has published many E-books.

July 2025



The July Board of Directors meeting was held on Tuesday July 8, 2025 via Zoom at 6:30 PM. This was a few days earlier than usual due to President Julie Vogel's move back to Moline. There were 9 members in attendance.



The learning event for July was held on July 9, 2025 in person at the Butterworth Education Center from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. 18 members attended. This month Kathy Snyder demonstrated the updated software used to catalog our library holdings and members then walked over to Rock Island County Historical Society to see our library in person. The following agenda was provided in advance.

RICIGS Education Event

July 9, 2025, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Meet at Butterworth Education Center for a short program, followed by a visit to the RICHS building

View the RICIGS library catalog

View the RICIGS library online catalog at <https://cloud.clz.com/313361/books>. No login is required.

The catalog website is mobile-friendly on your phone, which makes it easy to check while you are on-site at the library.

(There is also a CLZ Books app available but it requires a monthly fee and is not really necessary.)

Find links to the online catalog, a video on how to use it and a list of recent additions on our website at <https://ricigs.org/our-library/genealogy-library-collection/>

Visit the RICIGS library

We house our library materials at the Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS). The building is typically open Wednesday through Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm. You can call to make sure they are open at (309) 764-8590.

822 11th Avenue

Moline, Illinois 61265-

1221 Website:

www.richs.cc

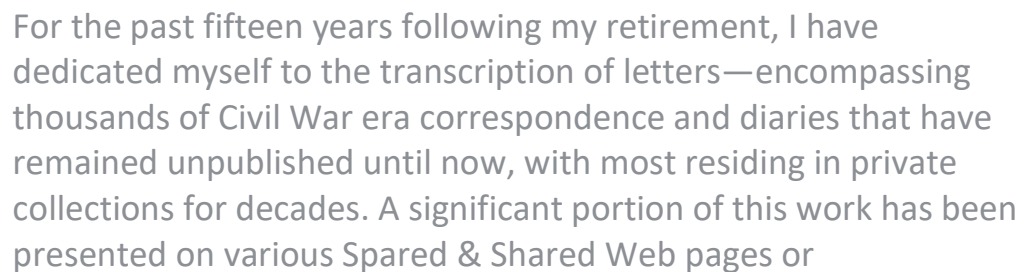
As an added benefit, our genealogical society members have free full access to RICHS materials. Donations are always welcomed and accepted by Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS).

Also, the holdings of the Belgian Museum of the Quad Cities & Center for Belgian Culture (CBC) of Western Illinois are now located at RICHS in the area adjacent to our materials.



Civil War Letters

I stumbled upon this website today and thought with our upcoming program on July 22 about the Civil War, this site would be of interest to members. ***Billy Yank & Johnny Reb Letters***



<https://billyyankjohnnyreb.wordpress.com/>



From Our Blog

New additions to RICGS Library

by [kathys730](#) | Published [July 22, 2025](#)

We have recently added a number of books to our library, some purchased new and some generously donated by former member Eileen Nelson from her personal library.

929.1072 Mac AI and Genealogy: A Practical Guide to Summarizing, Transcribing, and Translating Historical Documents (MacEntee, Thomas; 2024)

929.1028 Mac Ancestor Sketch: How to Turn Years of Genealogy Research into a Captivating Family Story (MacEntee, Thomas; 2025)

929.5 Lee Using Gravestones to Trace Your Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historian (Leedham, Amanda; 2025)

929.1 Nig Kids and Family History: Fun Ways to Spark Their Interest (Niggemeyer, Vicki Korn; 2015)

929.1 Nig Get Creative with Your Family History (Niggemeyer, Vicki Korn; 2016)

943 Smi German Church Books: Beyond the Basics (Smith, Kenneth Lee; 1989)

976.9 Ell Kentucky Research (Elliott, Wendy; 1987)

977.3415 125 Years – Alexis 1870-1995 – This paperback booklet was produced for the 1995 celebration in Alexis, Illinois and includes local history and photos

Come in and take a look during library hours at the Rock Island County Historical Society, 822 11th Avenue, Moline, Wednesday-Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm.

Tina Beaird returned as our guest to speak at our July 22nd general meeting. Her topic **“Billy Yank, Union Soldiers from the Civil War.”** Tina provided valuable information on how to find Civil War Records locally as well as Nationally. This was a Hybrid meeting held at 6:15 PM with in person attendance at the Moline Public Library and others on Zoom. There were 13 members at the Library and 13 on Zoom. 3 Whiteys Gift Cards were drawn as door prize at the Library. Most attendees went to Whiteys after the program to enjoy some ice cream and conversation on a Hot July night.



Tina Beaird is the owner of Tamarack Genealogy and is the Genealogy/Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She lectures extensively on military research, Scottish records, and archival preservation. She is First Vice President of the Illinois State Genealogical Society and board director for the Oswegoland Heritage Association. Tina volunteers her time with several local historical and genealogical societies scanning and indexing historic records. Occasionally, Tina finds time to research her own family tree, which she has been pursuing for over 25 years. As many of you know, Tina is a rabid baseball fan; she and her family have visited 26 out of 30 Major League Ballparks and can't wait to get back on the road to visit the last four!

August 2025



On August 6, 2025 a Learning event was held in person at the Butterworth Education Center from 11:30 to 1:00 PM. The topic this month was ***How Do You Share Your Family History***. There were 10 members in attendance and the following handout was provided.

RICIGS Education Event

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Butterworth Education Center

In-Person 11:30 – 1:00

How Do You Share Your Family History?

Let's generate ideas for sharing our family history with others.

Bring examples – What has worked for you?

Holiday Traditions - Display of family heirlooms - Photos

Books - Videos – Food – Reunions - Dinner conversations

Round Robin

Have you found something that has generated interest among family members? Tell us about it.

Share Your Family History in 10 Fun Ways

<https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/10-ways-to-share-your-family-history>

SharingFamilyHistory:FamilyHistoryFun

<https://www.thefhguide.com/blog/sharing-family-history-family-history-fun/>



From Our Blog

World War I



by [pjvogel83](#)|Published [August 12, 2025](#)-

The Great War – Tracing Your WWI Ancestors

By Kate Penney Howard – katepenneyhoward.com

August 1914 marked the beginning of World War I. As genealogists, we often encounter ancestors whose lives were dramatically altered by this “war to end all wars” – not just those who served, but those on the home front as well.

On August 4, 1914, Britain declared war on Germany, automatically bringing Canada into the conflict. The United States would follow in April 1917, but August 1914 began the massive mobilization that would affect many people around the world.

WWI records offer unprecedented documentation. The Canadian Expeditionary Force enrolled over 600,000 men, creating detailed attestation papers, medical records, and service files now available through Library and Archives Canada. US researchers can access draft registration cards from 1917-1918, covering nearly 24 million men aged 18-45.

WWI Research Tips:

Start with draft registration cards on FamilySearch or Ancestry
Check for military service records through national archives
Look for local newspaper coverage of departures and returns
Examine pension records for post-war documentation
Don't overlook women's roles in faith communities and organizations like the Red Cross

Soldiers' correspondence often reveals family relationships, while casualty lists provide precise dates and locations. Hospital records sometimes include next-of-kin information not found elsewhere.

And in a broader context, families left behind often moved for wartime employment, creating migration patterns that continued post-war. Victory gardens, rationing, and war bond drives created community records that mention civilian ancestors.

What about your WWI ancestor, did he see action in August? Almost certainly. The Battle of Amiens (August 8-12, 1918) involved substantial Canadian forces, while American troops participated in preparations for the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Action Items for Researchers:

1. Create a WWI research checklist for your family lines
2. Map your ancestors' locations in 1914-1918
3. Search local historical societies for war-related records



The August Board of Directors meeting was held via Zoom on August 14 at 6:30PM with 8 members in attendance.



From Our Blog

The Jamieson Children

By Betty Hagberg Published August 16, 2025



RICIGS Member, Betty Hagberg, submitted a 10-minute video presentation on her Jamieson great-grandfather and his siblings.

An 1884 portrait of the 9 children of Alexander and Norah Helen Jamieson is used to share information about their lives in this video.

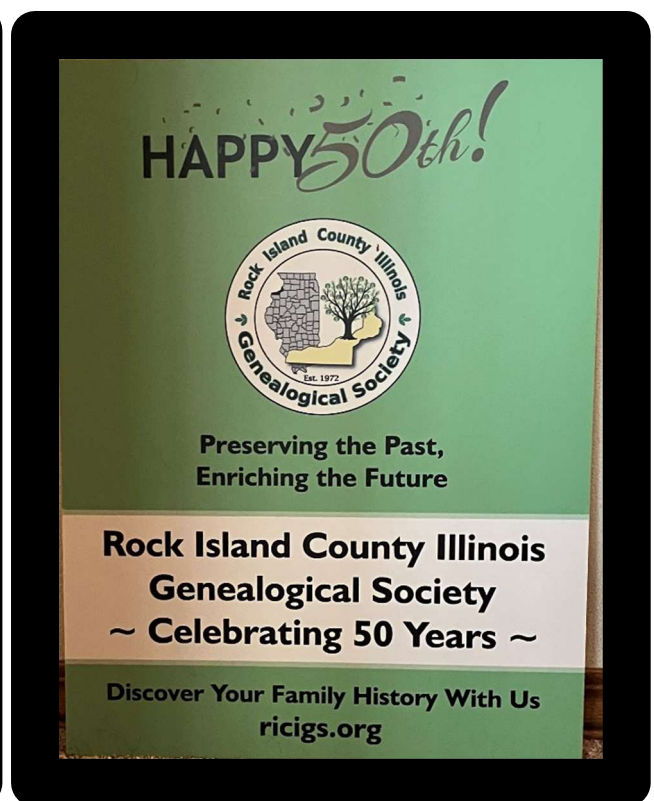
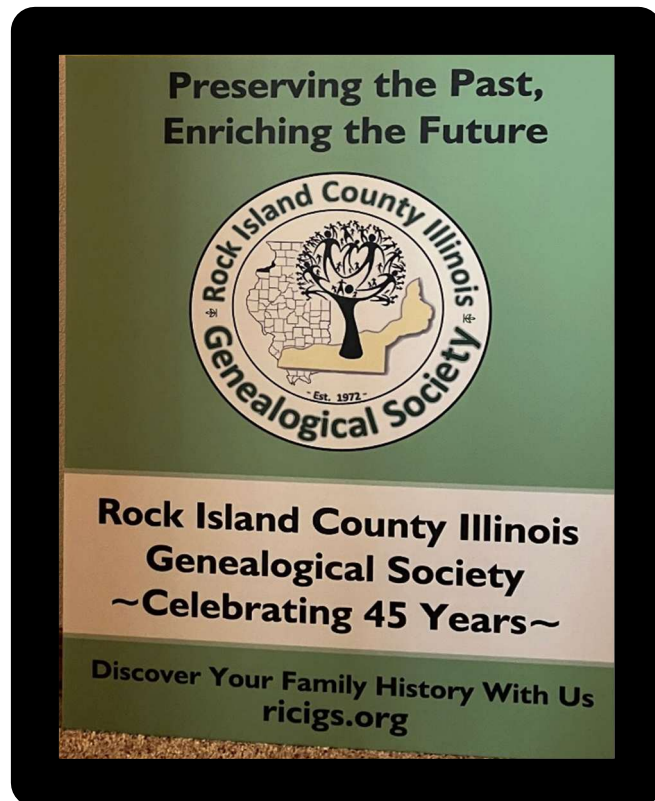
<https://youtu.be/t0036vxB37I>



On Monday August 25, 2025 the General Meeting was a field trip to the newly renovated Special Collections Department of the Davenport Public Library. This meeting was held a day earlier due to extended hours of the Library on Mondays. 20 members convened at 6:15 PM in the Lower Level of the Library where Kathryn Whalen, supervisor of the department, gave an overview of the collections available and explained how to request items not on the shelves. We then moved to the 2nd level for a tour of the new location.

September 2025

On Friday September 5th, Julie Vogel, Deb VanSant, Kathy Snyder and Judi McDowell met at 1:30 PM at our storage area at the Rock Island County Illinois Historical Society to organize records, supplies and publications. We also purged old outdated items such as old catalog cards, magazines and CDs. Some items were kept to consider gifting to members and some books are being considered for a book sale. We discovered some framed photos/documents donated by the late Nomie Budelier. We have no place to display them and Julie is going to contact cousins of Nomie to see if they are interested in these items. We also purged some celebratory posters.





The learning event for September was held in person on September 10, 2025 at the Butterworth Education Center. The topic was **Working With Photos**. 14 people attended and the following handout was provided.



RICIGS Education Event

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Butterworth Education Center
In-Person only – 11:30-1:00

Working with Images

Bring your questions and examples of what has worked for you when working with images.

Printed –Digital – Albums-Video - Film

- Storing
- Identifying
- Preserving
- Organizing
- Scanning
- Enhancing
- Repairing
- Editing
- Sharing
- Copying

Case study: Digitizing an album

Photo digitizing services

<https://kodakdigitizing.com/>

<https://thedigitizecenter.com/>

<https://legacybox.com/>



On September 11, 2025 the board of directors held their regular monthly meeting via Zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 9 members in attendance. The new slate of officers for 2026 was finalized; will be announced to the General Membership in September and voted on in October. The Annual Dinner is scheduled for November 4th at Butterworth Center and final plans for catering by the Augustana College are in progress. Jeff Adamson has been booked as the speaker for the event.

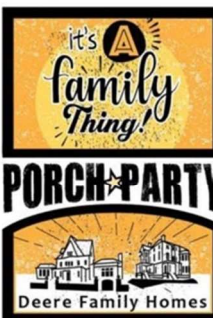


On Sunday September 21, 2025 Julie Vogel and Judi McDowell participated in a "Porch Party" hosted at Butterworth Center from Noon until 5:00 PM. They greeted guests interested in our Society, distributed brochures and made free forms available for people interested in beginning research into their family history. Pens, Notepads and Candy were also given away. Sally Bartosh and Betty Hagberg volunteered to sit at the table while Julie and Judi took a break.




**Butterworth Center
Deere-Wiman House**
 COMPLIMENTS OF
 THE WILLIAM
 BUTTERWORTH
 FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 21ST


It's A Family Thing!
PORCH PARTY
 Deere Family Homes

1105 8TH STREET MOLINE, IL

12 TO 5 PM



**CHARLES DEERE
DAD**



**KATHERINE DEERE
BUTTERWORTH
DAUGHTER**

Some members of RICIGS are also members of the Mary Little Deere-Ft Armstrong chapter of NSDAR and they were there promoting the "America 250" project celebrating the 250th birthday of the United States on July 4, 2026. This will be a year long endeavor with a display planned for the Moline Public Library beginning in April 2026.



September 23, 2025 was the General Meeting for the month. Josh Taylor was scheduled to speak but had a conflict, however he provided a recorded presentation on his topic of **Resources of the DAR: Beyond Revolutionary War Soldiers**. He provided a 4-page handout and offered to answer questions via email. 20 members attended. His presentation was also made available to members for an additional 30 days to watch again.



D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA is a nationally known and a recognized speaker and author on genealogy and family history. Passionate about the diverse and dynamic field of genealogy, Joshua is the President of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B). He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including RootsTech's Distinguished Presenter Award, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Award of Merit, the Rubincam Youth Award from the National Genealogical Society, and was named as one of *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers in 2017. He served the genealogical community as the President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) from 2013-2016 and was a member of the FGS Board of Directors from 2007-2019. Joshua's website is found at <http://djoshuataylor.com/>

October 2025



The learning event scheduled for October 7, 2025 at the Family History Center was canceled.



The board of directors met via Zoom at 6:30 pm on October 9, 2025 with 7 members present. The slate of officers for 2026 was confirmed and will be voted on by the membership at the October 28 meeting. Annual Dinner arrangements are being finalized with Augustana College providing the food and Jeff Adamson has been chosen to give a program. Birdies checks were picked up by President Vogel and the amounts will be announced at the Annual Dinner.



The Quad Cities Archives Fair

Was held on Saturday October 18, 2025 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Dan Vinar's Furniture at 500 – 20th Street in Rock Island

On October 18, Rock Island's Dan Vinar Furniture Company (and current Rock Island Haunted Roadhouse), hosted the 2025 Quad Cities Archives Fair, allowing the public to experience Quad Cities history by visiting with regional cultural and historical organizations, learning about unique collections and services, listening to talks on historical topics, and discovering some of the area's hidden gems.

The annual Archies Fair allows guests to chat with and learn from exhibitors, with nearly two dozen scheduled to participate, among them: Augustana College Special Collections; Bix Beiderbecke Museum & Archives; Butterworth Center & Deere-Wiman House; Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation ; Davenport School Museum; German American Heritage Center and Museum; Lydia Bookmobile with a 1925 replica of the first bookmobile in Iowa; Mississippi Spoon Gallery; Palmer College of Chiropractic-- Special Collections and Archives; Putnam Museum and Science Center; QC PastPort; Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center; Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society; Scott Community College Archives; Scott County Historic Preservation Society; St. Ambrose University Archives; St. Ambrose University Art History & Museum Studies

Department; Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College; Vasa Order of America National Archive; Vintage Audio Restoration; and Scottish American Society of Quad Cities.

Julie Vogel, Jay Matlock and Kathryn Snyder participated on behalf of Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society. They greeted visitors with handouts and details about our society and our resources for researching ancestor in Rock Island County.



Other participants included Richardson Sloan Special collections of Davenport Public Library and German American Heritage Society.



The October general meeting was held on Tuesday October 28, 2025 both in person at the Moline Public Library and via Zoom at 6:15 PM. After a short business meeting voting for the slate of officers to serve in 2026, several members shared stories about their ancestors.

Julie Vogel told about her ancestor that served in the Revolutionary War

Mary Karcher told about her ancestor that served in World War II

Kathryn Snyder talked about her ancestor that served in World War I

Betty Hagberg related a story from her husband's book about an uncle

Debra VanSant showed a document from her ancestor that included a signature by Paul Revere

Judi McDowell told about her 2 GG-grandfathers that served in the Civil War

There were 6 members in attendance in person and 13 on Zoom.

November 2025



The Annual Dinner was held on Tuesday November 11, 2025 at the Butterworth Center in Moline. A buffet dinner of Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, a toss salad, rolls and butter with Apple Pie for dessert and coffee or iced tea beverages. After dinner the program was held in the library; new officers for 2026 were installed. President Vogel presented two checks for participation in the Birdies for Charity fundraiser, a total of \$822.95. This money helps support the society especially to provide exceptional monthly programs by nationally known speakers. President Vogel thanked all board members and the general membership for their support during 2025. Julie was then presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift card for \$50 for her excellent leadership and for wearing many hats during the year. The program for the evening was ***Creepy Tales of the Quad Cities presented*** by Jeff Adamson. He showed photos with descriptions of some of the historic events in the Quad-Cities. 34 members and guests enjoyed the evening event.

Here is a copy of the 2025 Annual Dinner Program

2026 Programs

- January 28 - Organizing Genealogy - Less Piles, Better Files
Presented by Jacquie Schattner
- February 24 - Revolutionary Choices: Exploring Loyalists and Patriots at 250 Years
Presented by Kathryn Lake Hogan
- March 24 - Germans to America's Midwest, 1848-1900
Presented by Scott Norrick
- April 28 - Exploring DNA
Presented by Michelle Bray Wilson
- May 26 - Finding Your Landless Ancestors
Presented by J. Mark Lowe
- June 23 - Researching the Entire Family and Beyond
Presented by Michael John Neill
- July 28 - Why WikiTree? Global Collaboration, Powerful Tools, Completely Free
Presented by Eric Vavra
- August 25 - Unusual Place to Find Births and Naturalizations
Presented by Debra Dudek
- September 22 - Rock Island Preservation Society - Preservation & RI Landmarks
Presented by Diane Oestreich
- October 27 - New Tools and Ideas in Research
Presented by Joshua Taylor

*Rock Island County Illinois
Genealogical Society*



*Annual Dinner Meeting
November 11, 2025
Butterworth Center
Moline, Illinois*

2026 Officers

President – Ann Noyce 309-781-3965
Vice-President – Julie Vogel 309-236-4492
Treasurer – Judi McDowell 309-314-1780
Recording Secretary – Sally Bartosh 309-762-0328
Member-at-Large 2026 – Pam Lawson 309-738-4524
Member-at-Large 2027 – Jay Matlock 563-381-1028
Member-at-Large 2028 – Nancy Licko 309-629-2266

Committee Chairpersons

Cemeteries – Judi McDowell 309-314-1780
Digital Technology - Julie Vogel 309-236-4492
Education - Linda Polich 309-236-1985
Linda Walker 309-236-0379
Betty Hagberg 309-762-0384
Beth Hoffman 309-737-3299
Mary Karcher 563-508-0886
Fundraising - Julie Vogel 309-236-4492
Funeral Cards – Mary Karcher 563-508-0886
Historian – Judi McDowell 309-314-1780
Librarian – Kathy Snyder 309-721-5377
Publications – Betty Hagberg 309-762-0384
Queries & Research – Debra Van Sant 563-349-5380
Registered Agent – Beth Hoffman 309-737-3229
Registrar - Debra Van Sant 563-349-5380



Welcome - Julie Vogel

Invocation – Linda Walker

Buffet Menu:

*Slow-Roasted Turkey Breast with Gravy
Traditional Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce
Green Bean Casserole
Dinner Rolls with Butter
Apple Pie
Decaf Coffee, Soda, Water*

Installation of 2026 Officers

Program:

*"Twisted Tales of the Quad Cities/The Creepy Side
Explore the Dark Side of the Quad Cities"
Presented by Jeff Adamson*

A few photos from the evening:



President Julie Vogel



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Julie



Officers Installed for 2026

Ann Noyce
Julie Vogel
Judi McDowell
Sally Bartosh
Pam Lawson
Jay Matlock
Nancy Licko (absent)

Installed by Linda Walker

Jeff Adamson was our guest speaker for the evening with his presentation ***"Twisted Tales of the Quad-Cities, The Creepy Side"***



The November Board Meeting was held on Thursday November 13, 2025 via Zoom at 6:30 PM. There were 10 members in attendance. It was decided to cancel the board meeting for December; instead, Julie, Ann and Judi will meet to discuss the budget and other items for 2026.

December 2025

No meetings scheduled for December.

This post from our Facebook Page



Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society. Posted by Mary Karcher on December 26, 2025

Did Santa bring anyone a Samsung TV for Christmas? I was happy to discover a Samsung Plus channel that is genealogy 24x7! Check out channel 2905 PBS Genealogy. Shows include 'Finding Your Roots', 'Long Lost Family' and 'Genealogy Roadshow' featuring one of our Society's favorite speakers- Joshua Taylor.