



Logo Design by
Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

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President's Message

We had two excellent presentations in March by two of our members.

Mary Lohr started us out telling us about The Ancestor.com website. So much available on one site. She gave us tips on how to look up information/news in newspapers to help us with our research. Lynette Spicer told us about the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Ind. So many records to help with our research and sounds like staff who take the time to help you when needed. She also gave us a few tips on how to be prepared for a visit.

We are not having a Society Meeting in April, but Dr. Jeremy Best will be giving a presentation on The Disappearance of German Americans for Genealogy Plus on April 15 - 10 - 12 at the Ames Public Library.

Remember - no Society meeting in April.

Nancy

Editor's Comments: If you are in search of more information on genealogy (everyone wants more information), the Story County Genealogy Society (SCGS) web page is chocked full of information. The connections in the web site's left column are just a few of the links. They are Handouts, Cemetery Records, Facts Page and Links Page. Of course, there are many other links that will give you information as well. You don't have to be a member of SCGS to get into any of the information except the Members page. There you must have your Log In name and Password.

Story County Genealogical Society

April 6, 2026

There will not be a SCGS meeting on this date as the Genealogy+ meeting on Wednesday April 8, 2026, both fall within the same week.

Genealogy Plus

Wednesday April 15, 2026

10:00 AM - Noon

Ames Public Library and Members via Zoom

"The Disappearance of German Americans"

See Page 3 also

Presenter: Dr. Jeremy Best

During the 1800s, nearly 6 million Germans immigrated to the United States. Many of them settled in Iowa and lively German-speaking communities emerged in every county of the state, proudly declaring their heritage. Where did they go? Dr. Jeremy Best will offer a presentation explaining why so many Iowans' German ancestors "disappeared."

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Story County Genealogical Society Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2026, via Zoom only

Present: 16 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The February 8, 2026, minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer Pete Peterson gave the treasurer's report.

Malvina Lutz, Vice President Membership, reported there are currently 66 members. As Librarian, Malvina recommended four books to the Ames Public Library to order with SCGS paying part of the cost. The library accepted the list and will order them. When they are shelved, Malvina will let the society know.

Technology Director Gwenna Jacobson said the new website will probably be live in a month.

There is no society meeting in April because Genealogy+ falls in the same week.

Mary Lohr presented the program on Exploring Historic Newspaper Websites. She demonstrated using two different websites.

TheAncestorHunt.com

The site's purpose to categorize and link resources. Mary focused on newspaper links on the site that are listed by state and country. She used an example of the Boone County Republican in 1875. If you know a time frame and area, this is a good resource.

The County and Library Collections are from public libraries, and most are searchable. The Nevada, Iowa archives have the Story County Watchman which was a very early newspaper. Click on Small Town Papers to view. You may need to create an account to get to the small-town papers. Different newspapers have different ways to clip an article or download it. Mary said Iowa libraries have digitized many newspapers. The site's resources include military records, obituaries, naturalizations and much more. The Google News Archive was digitized for some years and then discontinued when copyright issues developed. Kenneth R. Marks maintains the website.

Continued in next column (Minutes)

Continued from previous column (Minutes)

Of note ---

Key word searches of digitized newspapers are very helpful in genealogy research. Mary suggested using the Resources tab and read tips of how to search newspapers.

-Genealogy research quick sheets.

-A newsletter one can subscribe to.

-There are pop-up ads on the site but one can subscribe to eliminate the ads.

Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Chronicling America is a historic newspaper site supported by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Under the About tab, one can see front pages of newspapers from today's date 100 years ago. Under Expert Resources, there is a directory of U.S. newspapers in American libraries. Collection Items is the most user-friendly choice for searching. The Advanced Search feature provides the best results, Mary said. She suggested researchers being with a surname and a state.

Another site, WorldCat.org is a good beginning place to find where a specific newspaper may be held.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Lynette Spicer, Secretary

**Don't Mess Around with Old People.
We didn't get to be this age by being
STUPID.**

**Sometimes it's hard to figure
out people's fascination with
their ancestry.**

**Sometimes knowing your
current family is bad enough.**

Story County Genealogical Society**April 6, 2026**

There will not be a SCGS meeting on this date as the Genealogy+ meeting on Wednesday April 8, 2026, both fall within the same week.

Upcoming Events At SCGS**Monday April 8, 2026****Zoom meeting link to be sent to members****6:30 pm to 8:30 pm****"The Disappearance of German Americans"**

During the 1800s, nearly 6 million Germans immigrated to the United States. Many of them settled in Iowa and lively German-speaking communities emerged in every county of the state, proudly declaring their heritage. Where did they go? Dr. Jeremy Best will offer a presentation explaining why so many Iowans' German ancestors "disappeared."

Presenter: Dr. Jeremy Best**Genealogist's Wish List (From Ancestry)**

1. 1890 Census.
2. Some spit from my dead great-grandmother.
3. A brick-wall buster K3000.
4. The restoration of records from three burnt courthouses.
5. That missing page from my ancestor's pension file.
6. The long-lost family Bible.

That's Not Too Much to Ask, Is It?**AMES HISTORY MUSEUM**

NOTE: Picture is from Ames Historical Museum website

You can go to <https://ameshistory.org> and register or call 515-232-2148 or go to the index on the main website page to find Upcoming Events. Visit their website above for other information. The photo above is an example of the quilts that have been made in Ames.

Ames History Museum is located at 416 Douglas Ave #101, Ames, Iowa 50010, 515 232 2148.

State Historical Society of Iowa Update

The *Iowa City Press-Citizen* newspaper has published an article that headlines: *Closure of Iowa City's Historical Society site was OK, state org rules.*

All records from Iowa City Historical Society will be available through the Des Moines SHSI or some local facilities throughout the state of Iowa.

[Iowa City Historical Society closure was permissible. state org rules](#)

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate April 2025

April 1 – April Fool’s Day
April 2 – Pascua Florida Day (FL)
April 6 – National Tartan Day
April 9 – National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
April 13 – Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday
April 15 – Tax Day
April 15 – Father Damien Day (Hawaii)
April 16 – Emancipation Day (DC)
April 17 – Arbor Day (Colorado)
April 20 – Boston Marathon
April 20 – Patriot’s Day (ME, MA)
April 21 – National Library Workers Day
April 21 – San Jacinto Day (TX)
April 22 – Administrative Professionals Day
April 22 – Oklahoma Day (OK)
April 23 – Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
April 24 – Arbor Day (Nebraska)
April 24 – Arbor Day (AZ, DE)
April 26 – Confederate Memorial Day (FL)
April 27 – Arbor Day (WY)
April 27 – Confederate Memorial Day (Mississippi)
April 27 – Confederate Memorial Day (Alabama)

There are many other religious and regional holidays to celebrate. For worldwide holidays and observances: <https://www.Timeanddate.com/holidays/>.

Other Fun Celebrations in April

<https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/your-ultimate-guide-to-wacky-funny-and-weird-holidays/>

Military Reasons to Celebrate in April 2025

April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Birthday - Honors surviving spouses of fallen service members.
April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday - Anniversary of the Air Force Reserve establishment.
April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday – Anniversary of the Army Reserve establishment.
April 30 – National Military Brats Day – Recognizes children of military personnel.

Other dates at: [2026 Military Holiday Calendar - Complete Guide to Military Holidays & Observances](#)

Editor

This is a topic that I have dreaded for quite some time. When I took on the duties of newsletter editor in 2016, I mentioned at the SCGS meeting that I have done a newsletter before, but I needed member input (articles) to help me.

The articles have been coming in very good, but I am getting older and the duties of the newsletter need to be passed to some else, younger. The full-page Irish article included in this newsletter is a good example of this; there just need to be more of these articles.

I am told that according to the most recent bylaws, the Board of Directors must designate the new newsletter editor.

Although there are many items/columns that appear in each newsletter regularly (President’s Column, Editor’s Column, SCGS upcoming events, dates to remember, minutes, etc.) this does not indicate that a new editor can’t change them. When possible, I will continue to be a contributor and wish to remain on the email list for the newsletter.

My age is catching up with me so I must pass the newsletter to someone that may have a fresher and newer outlook on genealogy and distributing information to the membership.

Story County Genealogical Society has a very good, active membership and I’m certain that someone will step forward and accept the Newsletter Editor position.

Irish Made Up a Significant Population in Iowa's Early Statehood

Iowa was admitted to the Union as a state in December 1846. From 1850 to 1890, the decennial censuses of the United States show Iowa's foreign-born population was dominated by those born in a German state (there was no "Germany" until 1871) and secondly by people born in Ireland. By the 1900 census, Germany still made-up 40 percent of the foreign born in Iowa. Swedish immigrants moved into second place making up 9.7 percent of the foreign-born population and Irish immigrants were a close third, making up 9.3 percent of the foreign-born living in Iowa.

In its early years, Iowa was a state with many foreign-born residents. In 1850, 1 in every 8.5 residents were born abroad. By 1870, 1 in every 4.8 residents was foreign born.

The Irish came to the US to escape the oppression of poverty and the brutality of English control of the Irish government, the economy and the state-supported church. As early as 1830, more than 30 Irish came to work as miners in Dubuque. In the 1840s the potato crop, Ireland's main – and in some cases, almost total - food source simply vanished. Millions of Irish either starved or were forced to leave.

Many Irish migrated to Iowa in the 1850s. Some Irish lived in cities such as Keokuk and Des Moines. Some Irish went to work in Iowa coal mines, but far more worked as general laborers. Census reports show that in every major river city, particularly Dubuque, Irish males frequently listed their occupation as "laborer," whereby they dug ditches, loaded and unloaded steamboat cargo, operated drays and performed other manual labor.

A large number of Irish came to Iowa to work on the railroads. The initial construction of Iowa's east-west railroad lines came about a decade after the Irish began immigrating because of the potato famine. Some Irishmen later purchased land and became farmers.

The Irish were prominent in many areas of Iowa, including Dubuque, Palo Alto and Dallas Counties.

One Irish immigrant's story --

John Mulroney lived a life of migration and entrepreneurship. He was born in Ireland in 1832. He came to New York at age 13. He then moved to Connecticut, on to Wisconsin and then mined for gold in the California gold rush. At age 25, he moved to Palo Alto County, Iowa. Seven Irish families had come to that county from Illinois a year earlier. The town of Emmetsburg was named after an Irish patriot, Robert Emmet, who fought British rule. John Mulroney served as the first county treasurer and recorder, a justice of the peace and operated a cattle ranch. He then moved to Fort Dodge to run a mercantile and did contract work on the Mason City and Fort Dodge Railroad line.

Sources

A History of Iowa by Leland L. Sage, 1974

Iowa: The Middle Land by Dorothy Schwieder, 1996

This Is the Place – Iowa by Margaret L. Posten, 1967

A New History of Iowa by Jeff Bremer, 2023

Iowans celebrate their Irish roots beyond St. Patrick's Day –

- North of Waterloo, there is the Lawler Irish Fest – always the 3rd weekend in June.
- In Waterloo, the Iowa Irish Fest is dedicated to celebrating Irish culture. Entering its 20th year, the festival is an open-air event held on the first weekend of August. There are classes and workshops, a cultural village, music acts, sports and games. In 2026, the dates are July 31 - August 2.

Submitted by SCGS member – Thank You



LibraryThing

A Home for Your Books.

Many genealogists have books and often read and refer to them for information. The LibraryThing is a place where everyone can keep books listed so that you know what you have read and refer to them later. If you haven't checked into www.LibraryThing.com, following is a little bit of information about them. There are even book reviews available.

- LibraryThing is completely free.
- Add books, movies and music from Amazon, the Library of Congress and 4,941 other libraries.
- Track your reading progress, rate and review.
- See detailed charts and stats about your library and reading life.
- Find your new favorite book with personalized recommendations.
- A warm and welcoming community of nearly three million book lovers.
- Join [groups](#) and [talk](#) with other book lovers.
- Our [Early Reviewers](#) program offers over 3,000 free, early-release books every month.
- Apps for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#).
- [Available in over 50 languages.](#)

LibraryThing is a library-quality catalog to track reading progress or your whole library.

[LibraryThing](#) | [Catalog your books online](#) | [LibraryThing](#)

Attention genealogists and book lovers. This website might be worth passing on to others in the form of a presentation at a SCGS meeting some time. Think about it.

Another Place to Search for Genealogy Information (from a 2016 newsletter)

If you have not visited the genealogy section at our Ames Public Library, put it on your “to do list!” You’ll find the genealogy section on the west wall on the second floor of the library.

You will find a wide selection of genealogical books and materials, including resources from many states (Iowa too), how-to books, and others covering a range of topics important to family researchers.

There are also reference materials at the Adult Services desk, including census microfilms for Iowa.

More Genealogy Sources

In the past several weeks, months or years the SCGS members have been given a lot of information regarding sources for genealogy information about your ancestors. Some of this information below is repetitive but some of it may be new. This article contains additional information that may be found on the Internet. Although the Internet has been given as a source before now, personally I didn't give it much credibility until I looked around.

The Internet is a wealth of information. Of course, there are the big web sites such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and genealogybank.com, etc. All these web sites have a wealth of information, which most genealogists know about.

I would also suggest that genealogists also search for:

Genealogy Webinars - Many topics included
Genealogy Web sites in addition to those listed
Genealogy Videos

There are many, many other topics also, such as routes that your ancestors may have used to get to Iowa or other parts of the United States, including rivers, trails etc.

Many people/genealogists have given many hours to assemble the videos, webinars, etc. and all these items are on the Internet so that we can take advantage of them.

Of courses, don't forget the basic methods of obtaining information about your ancestors – memories, stories, newspaper articles, interviews etc.

Genealogy, as we all know, is a HOT subject on the Internet so take advantage of it while you can.

Other Internet items are

Search Sources

Other Web Sites

FamFinder (name meaning)

And many, many other places on the Internet – Use Your Imagination!!!!

Much of the information available concerns the USA and foreign countries and may be available in various languages.



The Iowa Genealogical Society (628 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa – 515-276-0287) has added many new events and happenings to their website. The menu in the left margin will guide you through many of the Classes and Events.

- 4 evenings of workshops
- Evening IGS Watch Parties
- Beginning Genealogy
- Google useful tools
- Ancestors in 1776?
- Where There's a Will... program
- Lunch & Learn about MyHeritage
- From Maine to Colorado – learn about Civil War
- Jewelry Sale – Fund Raiser for IGS

The website also contains many other pieces of information such as Special Interest Groups, Publications and other information. The IGS Library contains many items of interest to genealogists of Iowa.

Please visit the website at [Welcome to the Iowa Genealogical Society website!](#) And see what all they have to offer.

This may be another source of genealogical information for Century Farms, family histories, and other information in the form of Marriage Licenses and other similar information.

What Did You Do Today??
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME
IF I DID ANYTHING EXCITING OVER
THE WEEKEND...

Like I'm over here skydiving.

I'm Old.

I went to Walmart.

I did some laundry.

Ate too much food.

Took a nap



Logo design by Karen
Pattee David

STORY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Send dues and donations to P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit Cards are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Membership - Individual \$20 ____ or Family (2) \$25 ____

OR

Donations (Voluntary)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society

Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Story County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

SCGS, P.O. Box 692, Ames, Iowa 50010

OR

Pay the Treasurer at a SCGS meeting

OR

Credit cards and PayPal are accepted also (www.storygenes.com)

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

Make checks payable to Story County Genealogical Society