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SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

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December 2025
Volume 58, Issue 12

President's Message



Just got an email that Dick was putting together a newsletter for December.

I am writing this on the very snowy Saturday after Thanksgiving. It has been a very good day for Genealogy, crafting, reading, baking, Christmas decorating or just anything you want.

In reflecting about our programing so far, it has been fantastic and looking forward to the presentations lined up for 2026. Always welcome suggestions from you.

Just wanted to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Nancy

NOTE: This newsletter will be an “abbreviated” one because normally there isn’t a newsletter in December. I think that most of this one will be humor – but that’s OK since now we have snow and cold weather.

Things My Mother Taught Me

Circle of Life: I brought you into this world and I can take you out.

Justice: Some day you’ll have kids...and I hope they turn out just like you.

Logic: Because I said so...that’s why.

REMEMBER
NO DECEMBER
MEETINGS
SEE YOU IN
JANUARY 2026

Just A Few Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society (SCGS)
November 12 Meeting Minutes
Ames Public Library and by Zoom Video

Present: 12 at the library, 7 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

The October 13 society minutes were approved.

Pete Peterson, treasurer, reported dues are starting to come in.

Malvina Lutz, vice president membership, reported there are currently 64 members. Most people need to renew in December or January. As librarian, she has a list of six books for possible purchase by the society and the library.

Election of officers

Motion (Carol Sharpnack/Pete Peterson)/passed: Re-elect Lynette Spicer as secretary.

The Vice President for Programming position is still vacant.

There are no meetings in December.

In January and February, the society meetings are via Zoom online only. Genealogy+ will remain hybrid at the library and online.

The business meeting concluded at 6:44 p.m. The program was general discussion.

The group discussed where is the society going. There were a variety of opinions from we are not getting good attendance at Monday evenings to PBS programs have helped get people interested in genealogy.

Where do you have your family tree and how does your family access it?

When you pass away, who can access your information?
Researchers need to give others passwords to access. Family Search is public. Other services are public. On Ancestry, one can designate a legacy contact. You could make designations in your will. Online one can list only people who have died, not those who are living.

Continued in next column (**Minutes**)

Continued from previous column (**Minutes**)

How do you want to share your genealogy research?

Print a book and give away or sell copies. Some are self-publishing with lulu.com. Iowa Genealogy Society keeps family histories.

Program topic ideas

- How to self-publish books.
- What nationalities settled in various areas of Iowa?
- The Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa has broken ground on a new museum, which is slated to open in late 2026. Could be a road trip to Des Moines.
- What are the benefits of belonging to the Iowa Genealogical Society? (Interest groups for various nationalities, some are online meetings.)

The May 20 Genealogy+ meeting could be members each taking 5 to 10 minutes to share how they are presenting their genealogy research to family members.

Fidella Marty volunteered.

Bonnie Norman in using Storyworth and will present hers (she will be done in half a year).

Lynette Spicer will present how she has done several family histories.

Last week board members decided the society could skip society meetings when Genealogy+ falls in the same week. There will not be a society meeting on April 13.

Discussion concluded at 7:39 p.m.

Lynette Spicer, Secretary

Amazing Facts

- A hummingbird's heart beats at over 1,000 times a minute.
- Dragonflies have 6 legs but can't walk.
- A crocodile can't move it's tongue.
- A group of frogs is called an army.
- A group of geese is called a gaggle.

REMEMBER **NO DECEMBER** **MEETINGS**

Coast Guard Happy Birthday



The **history of the United States Coast Guard** goes back to the United States Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on 4 August 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Life-Saving Service were merged to become the Coast Guard per 14 U.S.C. § 101 which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939 the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on 1 March 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. However, under 14 U.S.C. § 3 as amended by section 211 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, upon the declaration of war and when Congress so directs in the declaration, or when the president directs, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Department of the Navy.

The information above was derived from Coast Guard history: [History of the United States Coast Guard - Wikipedia](#). More information can be found by clicking the various links.

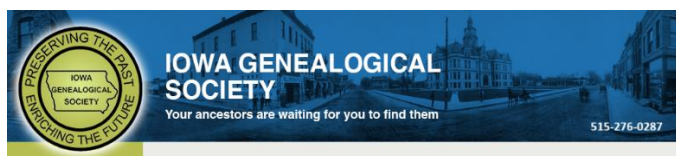
AMES HISTORY MUSEUM **UPCOMING EVENTS**



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 Contact Us page to send them a message via email. They have re-published their hours on the Home Page. Please read the articles that are published.

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



The Iowa Genealogical Society (IGS) is located at 628 E Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA. 50309-1924

The telephone number is 515-276-0287 and email address is igs@iowagenealogy.org.

SCGS is a member of the IGS and suggests that you visit their library. Visit the IGS website to discover the many military, vital records, family histories, international and other items available at IGS. A look through the website menu will yield many ideas.

The November minutes for SCGS contain more information about IGS – please read the minutes.

“Your ancestors are waiting for you to find them”

Holidays and Other Reasons to Celebrate December 2025

December 1 – Cyber Monday
 December 1 – Rosa Parks Day (AL, OH)
 December 2 – Giving Tuesday
 December 6 – St Nicholas Day
 December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
[Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2025 in the United States](https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/pearl-harbor-remembrance-day-2025)
 December 7 – Delaware Day (DE)
 December 10 – Wyoming Day (WY)
 December 13 – National Guard Birthday
 December 15 – Bill of Rights Day
 December 17 – Pan American Aviation Day
 December 17 – Wright Brothers Day
 December 21 – December Solstice
 December 24 – Christmas Eve
 December 25 – Christmas Day
 December 26 – Day After Christmas (NC, SC, TX)
 December 31 – New Year's Eve

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

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, did some laundry, ate too much food, and took a nap.

Other Holidays to Celebrate but Not Well Known

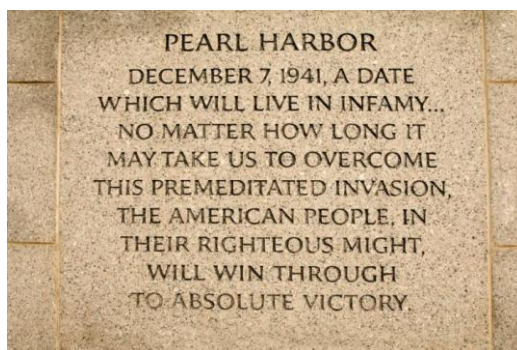
December 4 – National Cookie Day
 December 5 – Bathtub Party Day
 December 11 – Official Lost and Found Day
 December 12 – Gingerbread Decorating Day
 December 13 – National Horse Day
 December 14 – Monkey Day
 December 15 – National Ugly Sweater Day
 December 15 – National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
 December 15 – Cat Herders Day
 December 19 – Underdog Day
 December 26 – National Whiners Day

I hope that everyone took time (whether over a good, healthy meal or social media to be thankful for everything that we all have.



Be thankful every day for what you have instead of what you don't have.





Background

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured. The Americans also lost a large proportion of their battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was “a date which will live in infamy”. Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan “Remember Pearl Harbor” swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.

In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal and can be awarded to any veteran of the United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

Symbols

Memorials have been built to remember or to symbolize the day. For example, the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor is a marble memorial built over the sunken USS *Arizona*, which was dedicated in 1962. The memorial remembers all military personnel who were killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. The memorial was designed by architect Alfred Preis, an Austrian-born resident who lived in Honolulu and was placed at a detainment camp after the Pearl Harbor attack as part of the internment policy of Japanese and German Americans at the time.

Another memorial that commemorates Pearl Harbor Day is the USS *Utah*, a battleship that was attacked and sunk in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A memorial to honor the crew of the USS *Utah* was dedicated on the northwest shore of Ford Island, near the ship's wreck, in 1972. The ship was added to the National Register of Historic Places and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1989. It is also Utah's official state ship. Memorabilia, books, and movies about the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 have also been made available to the public over the years.

The information above was obtained from the link to Wikipedia from www.timeanddate found in the newsletter page containing December dates. If you wish to read more about the Pearl Harbor attack such as any other memorials, etc. please follow the link: [Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2025 in the United States](#).

Editor's Column

This issue has a little bit of humor. If I get some articles or information from SCGS members I will be glad to delete the humor articles in future newsletters. The snow and cold weather force me want to stay inside.

The military articles in this issue can also be used for genealogy, unless you already do. The record for many service men and women can be found in military grave sites on many of the search engines and also at some of the information sites established for military information.

We recently had a presentation from a SCGS member who told about his father and the many facts that he uncovered just by digging into his military history. Also, the library and genealogical sources located in Des Moines are good places to go. Cemeteries and cemetery search sites are good also.

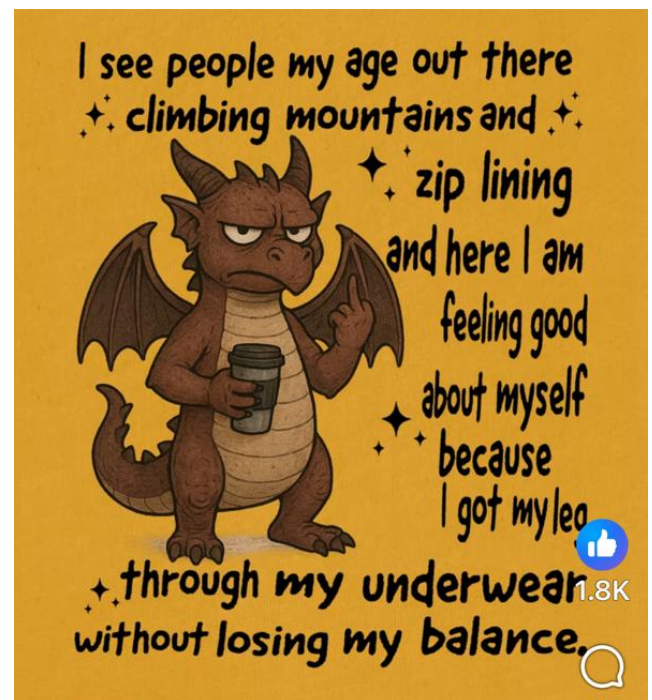
The article for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day takes up a full page because there were many service people that died in that attack and a lot of ships and planes destroyed. It is also one of the most important military dates in our history, as you can see.

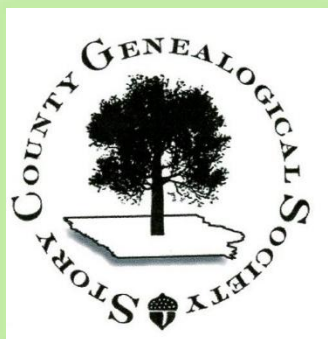
I will check my email daily in hopes of seeing articles from the SCGS members. The articles can be of importance to the member(s) as family articles and/or genealogy importance. Remember that history is often be related to genealogy and you may find a long, lost relative in an article.

Please check the Ames Public Library, Ames History Museum, Iowa Genealogy and the state of Iowa Library directly across the street for many leads and a lot of information about genealogy. Of course, there are many more places to visit in and around Iowa. Don't forget YouTube also. There are many genealogy videos there also.

If anyone has an idea for a Word Search that hasn't been done in the newsletter, please let me know. Maybe we'll have to go to another type of puzzle.

As Mary Lohr always says – **Happy Hunting**





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: ____/____/____

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Ames, Iowa 50010

Membership dues and donations can be sent to SCGS by:

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OR

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OR

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

Individual Membership - \$20

Family Membership - \$25

(12-month membership period)

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