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Karen Pattee David

SCGS NEWS

“Helping You Connect with Your Heritage”

Story County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 692
Ames, Iowa 50010

www.storygenes.com
email: storygenes@gmail.com
Facebook.com/storygenes

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President's Message



Hope everyone had a good summer and you were able to get some Genealogy Research done or maybe even got in a Research trip or two.

We will be starting our year on September 14 with Doug and Gwenna Jacobson. They will be giving us tips on how to use AI for research. Sounds very interesting.

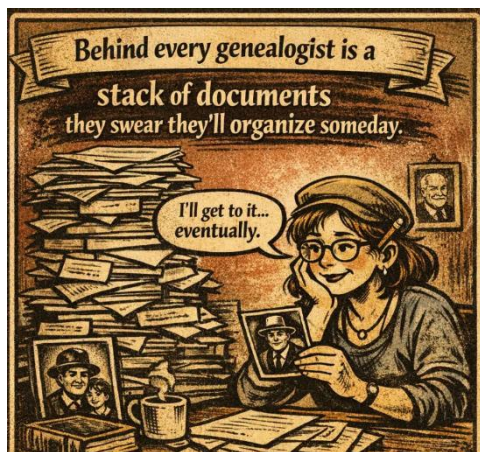
Then on September 16 for Genealogy Plus - Teresa Liewer with going over the Gems From IGS. She will be telling us all about IGS and what it has to offer.

We still have a few spots to fill for programing for the upcoming year (see ad in this newsletter) so if you heard someone you liked, please let me know.

We are also still looking for someone to take over the Newsletter.

See you on the 14th.

Nancy



From Facebook

Story County Genealogical Society

September 14, 2026 - 6:30 PM – page 3

Ames Public Library Auditorium

And Zoom to members

2nd Monday each month

Use AI for Genealogy

Speakers: Doug and Gwenna Jacobson

Genealogy Plus!

September 16, 2026– Page 3

Ames Public Library – 10 AM – Noon

And Zoom

3rd Wednesday each month

Gems from IGS

Speaker: Teresa Liewer

Just A Few of The Items Inside This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society **May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Present: 10 in person, 8 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

The March 9, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

Malvina Lutz, Vice President Membership, reported there are currently 66 members. As Librarian, Malvina requested the Ames Public Library purchase four books (SCGS pays half and APL pays half). Three of the books are in at the library but not yet on shelves. Librarians are trying to get the fourth book Malvina requested.

Long said the society is looking for someone to take over writing and distributing the newsletter.

The program was Preserving Your Family Story.

Fidela Marty showed her wall chart of ancestors on butcher paper that stretched across many tables. She takes it to family reunions and has relatives add Post-it notes with additions and corrections. Fidela showed several scrapbooks she has created – grandparents and then pages on each of their children. She has a first cousins' book. She said family reunions are held every two to five years with a different family hosting each time. She takes copies of her books to sell at her cost of printing. She also has 3x5 index cards with stories on them, often tales her father told. She shares those at reunions and gets more stories from relatives.

Lynette Spicer shared two family books she created and distributed to close relatives. Her books focus more on stories of individuals including diary entries from her husband's grandmother taking a trip to the west coast with five children and a companion in a 1929 Chevrolet with a small trailer. She also had books other relatives had put together on various families. She said she intended to donate some to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Both women used family group sheets, charts, newspaper clippings, maps, photos, certificates, hand written notes and letters to enhance the stories.

Technology Director Gwenna Jacobson and Doug demonstrated the new web site they are working on for Story County Genealogical Society.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Labor Day – What is It?

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. "Labor Day" was promoted by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor, which organized the first parade in New York City. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty states in the U.S. officially celebrated Labor Day.

Labor Day picnics and other public gatherings frequently featured speeches by prominent labor leaders.

In 1909, the American Federation of Labor convention designated the Sunday preceding Labor Day as "Labor Sunday", to be dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement. This secondary date failed to gain significant traction in popular culture, although some churches continue to acknowledge it.

President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law on June 28. The federal law, however, only made it a holiday for federal workers. As late as the 1930s, unions were encouraging workers to strike to make sure they got the day off. All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories have subsequently made Labor Day a statutory holiday.

Information from: [Labor Day - Wikipedia](#)



Back of t-shirt from Facebook

New SCGS Newsletter Editor Needed

Although the November issue will be the last issue before I give up the newsletter editing, I would hope that someone will step forward and become the new editor for this newsletter.

Editing the newsletter has been both a challenge (at times) but also enjoyable (most of the time).

I think that it is a vital connection between SCGS and many members and friends of SCGS who rely on the information found in the newsletter. It also provides a platform for members to send their articles on things that they do, etc.

Be assured that although the information in the issues may not be all genealogy, it will lead you to genealogical finds and tasks, such as family and friend interviews, cemetery trips, military, recollecting memories, etc.

Please note that I will be willing to assist anyone who may have questions about the newsletter editing or may have ideas about setting up the newsletter themselves. It is entirely up to the new person how the newsletter will be set up. Everyone has their own preferences.

Ames History Museum

Upcoming Events at the Ames History Museum

- **Music Walk**

Thursday, September 17, 2026 - 5:00pm to 8:00pm

- **Worldwide Day of Play - Free Admission**

Saturday, September 26, 2026 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

- **Octagon Art Festival**

Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

- **Ames Documentary Film Festival**

Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

Quick Links

[What to Expect When You Visit](#)

[Hoggatt School](#)

[Browse the Collection](#)

[Resource Collection](#)

Click on all of the links above to see information on each subject at the Ames History Museum.

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Monday September 14, 2026
In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom
Meeting via Zoom to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

“Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) for Genealogy Research”

They will give simple examples of using different AI platforms to help with genealogy research, translations and writing your ancestor's story. Including examples of using the Full Text Search, the new searching format on Family Search, etc.

Presenters: Doug and Gwenna Jacobson

Wednesday September 16, 2026
In-Person Meeting at Library and Zoom.
10:00 am to Noon pm

“Giving the Gems about IGS (Iowa Genealogical Society)”

Teresa will with going over the Gems From IGS. She will also be telling us all about IGS and what it has to offer regarding genealogy.

Speaker: Teresa Liewer

Editor's Note: SCGS is in need of additional speakers for 2027. The Board of Directors hopes that you remember someone that you liked to hear or know a member that has an interesting genealogy interest.

Fact or Fiction???

Recently a friend of mine posted some articles to social media that made me think about genealogy in another light. Truth be told, I have been a recipient of this same situation.

I'm talking about someone publishing information about common ancestors and they know that it's wrong. I was given ancestor/family information by a person/friend and told by that same person "do not give this information to XXXXXX." Well, I didn't give any information to that person even though that person asked me for it (by email), but the method didn't make any difference to me. Although, at least the person who wondered about the initials had the decency to call me and ask me.

I would encourage anyone who is re-publishing a family tree or family information, even for their own use, to PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. If the wrong information is incorrect, it may be hurtful to someone and that is not a good thing.

There are several publications out now that suggest very strongly that sources should be sourced and verified in writing before they are used. That is a very good suggestion. The one instance that I was involved in had to do with my grandfather's initials. I received a phone call from someone who said that his initials were "T.H." and I had 5 documents (pictures with newspaper captions) that showed his initials as H.T. The problem was solved very quickly when I sent my proofs to the person and I never heard from that person again. That's only one (1) instance when initials or name could have been hurtful, but I'm certain that other instances have happened.

There is information in the Internet that suggests "Citing your sources in genealogy ensures your research is credible, verifiable, and useful to others".

Source of quote: [cite your sources in genealogy - Search](#).

Please use it wisely.

Ames Public Library and Story County Genealogical Society

The following books can be found in the Ames Public Library under the numbers and locations listed at the end of each title listing.

- 1) **The Central Iowa Norwegian Project:** Preserving Central Iowa's Norwegian Heritage, by Arlen Twedt, published July 17, 2025. **Now on New Non-Fiction shelf: 977.75 TWE 2025.**
- 2) **Genealogy Proof Not Guesswork:** Mastering Family History Standards and Strategies for Proven Genealogy and Brick Walls the Right Way, by Dennis Fitzgerald, published October 8, 2025. **Now on New Non-Fiction shelf: 929.1 FIT 2025**
- 3) **Ultimate Guide to Mastering Family Search,** by Dana Ann Palmer, published November 7, 2025. **Now on New Non-Fiction shelf: 929.1 PAL 2025**

Our thanks to the Ames Public Library in the assistance in purchasing these genealogical books.



Back of t-shirt from Facebook

Dates Worth Remembering

September 7 – Labor Day

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 12 – Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day

September 13 – National Grandparents Day

September 15 – First Day of National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 17 – Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

September 18 – Air Force Birthday

September 18 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 22 – September Equinox

September 26 – National Public Lands Day

September 27 – Gold Star Mother's Day

Gold Star Mother's Day Significance



Gold Star Mother's and Family Day, a solemn observance honoring **families who have lost loved ones** in active-duty military service. It reflects the profound absence left at **dinner tables** once filled by those serving, symbolized by the transition from a **blue star to a gold star** on service flags. The tradition began during **World War I**, when Grace Darling Seibold, after losing her aviator son, formed the **American Gold Star Mothers** in 1928 to unite grieving mothers in mutual support. In 1936, **Congress formalized the day**, creating a national moment to honor the ultimate sacrifice of service members and the enduring resilience of their families.

For more information: [gold star mother's day - Search](#)

Air Force Birthday

The U.S. Air Force's birthday is September 18, marking its establishment as an independent military branch on September 18, 1947 under the National Security Act of 1947.

Overview

The United States Air Force (USAF) celebrates its official birthday every year on September 18, commemorating the day it became a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces in 1947. This transition followed decades of development within the Army's aviation units, culminating in independence after World War II.

Historical Background

- 1907: Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps formed, the earliest predecessor of the Air Force.
- 1909–1941: Evolved through several designations including Air Service, Air Corps, and Army Air Forces.
- 1947: President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act, creating the USAF as an independent branch.

Significance

Air Force Birthday honors the service's contributions to national defense, technological innovation, and global air and space operations. It recognizes the dedication of Airmen past and present and highlights the USAF's role in air superiority, global mobility, intelligence, and space operations.

The Air Force Birthday remains a key annual observance reflecting the branch's enduring legacy and mission.

For more information: [air force birthday - Search](#)



Editor's Desk

One of the items in the news these days seems to be the inability of people to find their birth certificate. It's fairly easy. Just contact your local genealogist, which there are getting to be many more of them. They can probably tell you where to find the birth certificate. If a woman needs a marriage license to show a name change, the church where you were married may be able to help you with that certificate.

Also, there are genealogy locations like Iowa Genealogy Society (IGS), State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), Ames Public Library and other similar libraries and places that will have access to birth certificates.

The key word at this time of the year is VOTE. Now is a good time to gather your identification information and make sure you are registered. I asked about it when I went to the Story County Treasurer's office. I have my DL, passport and birth certificate.

[Am I Registered to Vote | Iowa Secretary of State - Paul D. Pate](#)

"NOTICE TO VOTERS - Your polling place may have changed. Please visit this website before each election to check for updated information. County auditors must finalize polling places by 20 days before the election, but polling place locations could change due to an emergency".



Please read the article in this newsletter regarding a new newsletter editor.

Dick Cooper

Membership in SCGS

There are many good reasons why anyone with a computer and Internet access should visit the SCGS website.

- 1) Listing of current SCGS officers and links to email addresses
- 2) Meeting information
- 3) Location of Ames Public Library and resources
- 4) How to join Story County Genealogical Society
- 5) Listing of events with dates, speakers & details
- 6) Various SCGS newsletter issues
- 7) Many various handouts from presentations. Also helpful for genealogists to take home
- 8) Listing of members - for SCGS members only
- 9) Cemetery records – especially Story County
- 10) Research assistance in Story County, Iowa
- 11) Surname research
- 12) "Did You Know" facts page
- 13) Good website link page that you can share or use
- 14) Payment methods – the cost isn't that expensive.

NOTE: There are additional methods of payment if you don't want to pay online.

- Go to the NEWSLETTER page on the website (www.storygenes.com) and open any of the newsletters (except December 2017). Print the last page (page 8) for the membership application form.
- Or you can come to any of our meetings or seminars and ask an officer for a membership form and we'll make certain that you get it.

With a computer and Internet access, you can also visit YouTube and listen to the vast number of genealogists who have websites or otherwise want to share their information with other genealogists.

There is a larger list of genealogical sources every day. In September, attendees will hear ways to use AI for genealogy research.

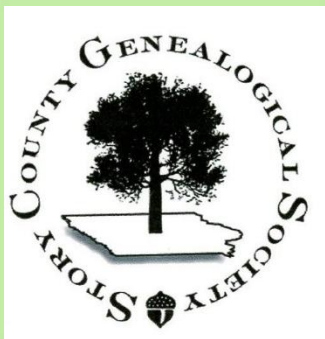
Remember Our Mission: To help you connect with your heritage and to research your ancestry.

Valentine's Day Words - SCGS Word Search

L	R	A	G	R	O	U	N	D	H	O	G	T	E	U	Q	U	O	B
I	U	A	F	F	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	R	A	D	I	H	N	D
L	S	P	P	E	L	C	H	I	L	M	E	A	N	I	T	A	R	A
S	W	E	E	T	S	R	E	Y	I	P	P	E	Y	N	H	P	N	D
E	S	C	A	R	D	Q	H	U	D	E	S	H	T	N	I	P	O	N
T	E	N	D	A	C	T	O	N	A	A	V	E	L	E	E	Y	L	R
A	W	V	E	D	E	A	L	N	Y	D	E	T	T	R	A	R	W	O
D	A	D	S	I	O	C	L	O	V	I	N	G	I	A	S	L	O	S
D	E	C	T	T	R	I	Y	I	S	N	L	F	O	S	E	A	B	F
M	E	H	N	I	T	A	L	P	A	R	O	E	I	D	I	E	R	F
T	R	O	O	O	U	P	W	H	Y	W	C	B	A	T	R	L	E	U
N	T	C	A	N	D	Y	G	O	L	D	N	R	B	A	O	N	P	D
I	M	O	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	I	U	A	N	M	U	U	F
A	C	L	K	R	A	M	L	L	A	H	L	A	I	C	E	P	S	A
S	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B	N	G	P	R	E	S	M	E	N	T
T	U	T	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	R	I	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H
P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	S	P	Y	T	R	E	P	O	R	P
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T

Words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and may be backward
Answers at [Word Search Answers](#) on the Story County Genealogical Society website

AFFECTION	DATES	HAPPY	LINCOLN	SPECIAL
BIRTHDAYS	DINNER	HEART	LOVING	SUPERBOWL
BOUQUET	FEBRUARY	HISTORY	LUPERCALIA	SWEETS
CANDY	FLOWERS	HOLIDAY	MEMORIES	TRADITION
CARD	GROUNDHOG	HOLLY	PRESIDENTS	TREATMENT
CHOCOLATES	HALLMARK	KINDNESS	SAINT	WASHINGTON



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: ____/____/____