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SCGS NEWS

"Helping You Connect with Your Heritage"

Story County Genealogical Society

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President's Message



We had two good presentations this month. Even though Mary is living in South Dakota now, with Zoom she is still able to be with us and give a very interesting presentation with lots of useful tips.

Fall is in the air and Halloween is not far away. I have noticed many Genealogical Societies and Historical Societies have been having very good programs the last two months. Chance to gather lots of information on many subjects. Maybe use it this winter when the snow starts to fly. Hopefully it is kind to us this year.

We have **election of officers** at the November meeting and are still looking for a Vice President of Education and a Newsletter Editor.

See you November 9th.

Nancy

Daylight Saving Time

I hope this newsletter makes it in time for Daylight Saving Time (DST). Everyone probably knows what to do for DST. My computers and iPhone automatically change but the microwave and oven are wrong all year.

Remember: The clocks change on November 1, 2026. That means that at 2 a.m. in the morning on Sunday November 1st, the clocks will change to 1 a.m. Sunday morning so you/we will get an extra hour of morning sunlight. Maybe this is the last time for time to change.

Story County Genealogical Society

November 9, 2026 - 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
page 3 also
Ames Public Library And Zoom members
2nd Monday each month

"Election of Officers and Member Sharing"

Election of Officers and Sharing

The SCGS Board of Directors has some Genealogy presentations scheduled for the Ames Public Library – Auditorium. Regular meetings are scheduled for the Danfoss Room.

Please look at the new website for more details and information.

December is the "Quiet Month" at SCGS. It's a time for members to think about speakers and presenters for SCGS meetings. Check Website.

Just a Few Items In This Issue

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Story County Genealogical Society
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2026 at the Ames Public Library and via Zoom

Present: 4 in person, 12 online

President Nancy Long called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Malvina Lutz, Vice President Membership, reported there are currently 65 members. As Librarian, Malvina has found two new research books to recommend to the Ames Public Library for purchase.

Technology Director Gwenna Jacobson said the updated website is live. All members need to update their passwords and log in to see the directory. She said anyone who has changes or questions can contact her. Gwenna said the society meetings always have the same Zoom link, https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81690310824.

Treasurer Pete Peterson gave the monthly report. There was no income during September. The expenses were two speakers' fees totaling $100 and the post office box rental of $236.

The November society meeting is election of officers. The president and treasurer terms are up for election. Pete said he is willing to continue as treasurer and Nancy will continue as president.

Nancy said we really need a vice president for programming. The society also needs a newsletter editor.

Upcoming Events
Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. Genealogy+ John Liepa is speaking on "Iowa's Ethnic Heritage: A Short History".
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. Cambridge Memorial Library is hosting presentation "If Barns Could Talk" by Rich Tyler.
Saturday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. Webster County Genealogical Society is hosting Jill Morelli, author of Journeys of the Forgotten: *The Orphans of Hamilton County.*

Continued in next column **(Minutes)**

Continued in from previous column **(Minutes)**

The evening's program was Keeping Genealogy Affordable presented by Mary Lohr. The flyer with specific websites and links she discussed is available at storygenes.com/Recordings.

Frugal Genealogy is not always free. It's about getting the best return on the money you spend.

Genealogy researchers should
- Maintain high research standards.
- Respect copyrights.
- Share generously.
- Collaborate fairly with other researchers.
- Stay organized focusing on what you want to research.
- Keep backups -- Lots of copies keep stuff safe.

Mary suggested researchers keep their own genealogy tree on paper or in genealogy software rather than keeping it in an online genealogy platform such as Ancestry.com.

Public libraries offer reference collections, books and periodicals. Many libraries have the library edition of Ancestry. (Ancestry now has a family plan.) Libraries may also have Heritage Quest which one can access from home.

Mary reviewed free and low-cost genealogy software, security programs, writing and editing software, genealogy search engines, podcasts, videos, webinars, digitized books and newspapers. She highlighted the FamilySearch Research Wiki, a free, online genealogical guide It is not designed to be a database for searching the names of ancestors; rather, it is a research tool that helps users learn more about where ancestors lived and provides links to records.

Mary recommended two books
Finding Your Ancestors for Free: Your Guide to the *Best Online Genealogy Archives, Collections, and Websites* by Kenneth R Marks
The 15 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists by Thomas MacEntee (ebook).

Continued on page 3, column 1 (**Minutes**)

Continued from page 2, column 2 (**Minutes**)

She concluded with these suggestions
1. Make a dedicated research email address so you can easily find genealogy correspondence.
2. Maintain a wish list of books, subscriptions and DNA kits to share with those who want to buy you gifts.
3. Track your research expenses.
4. Visit conferencekeeper.org for a comprehensive calendar of free genealogy events on the web.
5. Look at the records directory on LDSgenealogy.com. A second source for state and county records is Linkpendium.com
6. Familytreemagazine.com has free resources.
7. Joining a society often has benefits -- Iowa Genealogy Society membership gets you free
access to MyHeritage Library Edition and to NewspaperArchive.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.
Lynette Spicer, Secretary

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. Also, I have received an article and graphics from a member and it will be forwarded to the new editor.

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.

Upcoming Events At SCGS

Monday November 9, 2026
In-Person Meeting at the APL and Zoom
Meeting via Zoom to be sent to members
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

"Election of Officers and Member Sharing"

SCGS will not have regular meetings or presentations in December as it is a very busy month, but there will be meetings and presentations starting in January 2027 (see lists below).

Editor's Column

I'm sorry that I didn't make it to Doug and Gwenna's presentation on AI. Whether you like it or not, I think that AI is the next big thing on the horizon. As a matter of fact, it's already in businesses and will probably expand. I know some other people who are using AI also. I'm going to reread the minutes from the September meeting and maybe I can fit the pieces together, along with my friend/relative already using it.

I will really miss writing the newsletter but it will give me a chance to concentrate on genealogy. BTW – I think I will read/listen to some of the YouTube videos made by Constance (Connie) Knox. She has many of them because I just searched YouTube and genealogy. I think that I will occasionally write articles for the newsletter. I already have an article that can be included in a newsletter from Patricia Coffie. Her stories are always interesting.

Speaking of finding genealogy information, I had already been told that the Internet was a good source but I found out for myself the other day. I ended up in Wikipedia and several links from that information. Artificial Intelligence (AI) could also be an assistance for genealogy.

As this is my last newsletter, I will say thank you to everyone who contributed input in the past 9 years.

Dick Cooper

Dates Worth Remembering

October 30-31 - HALLOWEEN
November 1 – First Day of Native American Heritage Month
November 1 – New York City Marathon
November 1 – Daylight Saving Time ends (see article)
November 3 – **Election Day**
November 3 – Susan B Anthony Day
November 5 – Return Day (Delaware)
November 8 – Diwali/Deepavali (CT, NC)
November 9 – Barack Obama Day (AL)
November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday
November 11 – Veterans Day (All except MA & WY)
November 19 – George Rogers Clark Day (OH)
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day
November 27 – State Holiday (GA)
November 27 – Presidents' Day (NM)
November 27 – Black Friday
November 27 – American Indian Heritage Day (MD)
November 27 – Native American Heritage Day (WA)
November 29 – Nellie Tayloe Ross' Birthday (WY)
November 30 – Cyber Monday

The dates and celebrations listed above were extracted from: Holidays and Observances in the United States in 2026. If you want to find out about other holidays, just to to the website above and click on the holiday.

The following fun holidays were taken from Fun Holidays in October.

November 1 – Zero Tasking Day
November 2 – Deviled Eggs Day
November 4 – Common Sense Day
November 5 – International Stout Day
November 5 – Men Make Dinner Day
November 8 – Tongue Twister Day
November 10 – Forget Me Not Day
November 10 – Vanilla Cupcake Day
November 11 – Origami Day
November 12 – Happy Hour Day
November 14 – World Pickle Day
November 15 – Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
November 17 – Take a Hike Day
November 22 – Go For a Ride Day

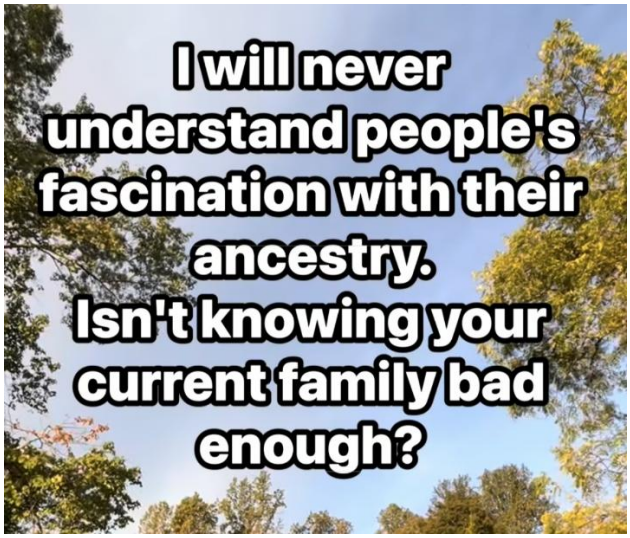
Have fun in November!!!!!

Presenters and Speakers NEEDED

Story County Genealogical Society is in need of additional speakers for 2027 (see the lists below). The Board of Directors hopes that you remember someone that you liked to hear or know a member(s) that has an interesting genealogy interest.

2026 – 2027 Programs scheduled to date:
Society – second Monday each month = 6:30-8:30 pm
November 9 -- Election of officers and sharing
January 11 – Anna Marie Scott – Maps for Genealogy
February 8 – Megan Clein-Hewett – Using the IDEA Center at Ames Public Library
March 8 – Writing Your Family History Using AI and Family Tree Maker.
April 12 - Bonnie Norman - Bonnie's Autobiography Written Using StoryWorth
May date to be determined – Road trip to Maxwell Museum

Genealogy Plus -- third Wednesday – 10am - Noon
November 18 - Sue Schlichting – Learn How to Share Info. and Get a Good Response from your Family.
January 20 - Jill Morelli - Journey of the Forgotten - The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa
February 17 - Kathy Meade - Research Your Swedish Heritage in Living Color Using ArkivDigital
March 17 - Daniel Horowitz - All About What's in MyHeritage Library Edition and What's Not.
April 21 - Jeremy Best – Genealogy in Germany.
May 19 - David Muhlena -- Czech and Slovak Genealogy and Czech immigration to Iowa. (scheduled-may change)



VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE



"**NOTICE TO VOTERS** - Your polling place may have changed. Please call a county office before each election to find if your polling place has changed and 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". Also, when you call the county office, make sure that you are registered to vote. Official voting day is Tuesday, November 3rd but early voting is popular and possible.

No matter who you are going to vote for, please vote.

Happy Birthday Marine Corp

The official birthday of the United States Marine Corps is on November 10, 1775. That was the day when the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines with the following decree:

That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one Colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates as with other battalions, that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to offices, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve for and during the present war with Great Britain and the Colonies; unless dismissed by Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the First and Second Battalions of Marines.

Prior to 1921, Marines celebrated the recreation of the Corps on 11 July with little pomp or pageantry.[7] On October 21, 1921, Major Edwin North McClellan, in charge of the Corps' fledgling historical section, sent a memorandum to Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting the Marines' original birthday of November 10 be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Lejeune so ordered in Marine Corps Order 47.

Membership in SCGS

There are many good reasons why anyone with a computer and Internet access and willingness to tead and learn should visit the SCGS website.'

The new website is full of new and interesting material. I would invite anyone to go to https://storygenes.com and search around to find out the new and interesting items on the website.

Membership isn't that expensive and the goal of SCGS is to have interesting and informational speakers each month (see list(s) in this newsletter.

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

- If you receive the newsletter, you may print the last page 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.

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the United States in all wars, particularly living veterans. A period of silence lasting two minutes may be held at 11am. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect.



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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: