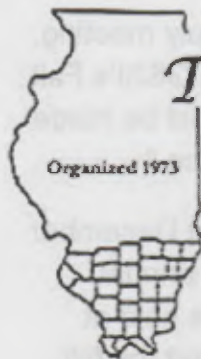


This GSSI E-Newsletter is being sent to all current members of the society whose email addresses are on file. A PDF version in the traditional Newsletter format is also published on line.

If this message does not display properly in your email client, click [View this email in your browser](#)



The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

c/o John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918-2500

www.rootsweb.com/~ilgssi

NEWSLETTER

April - May
Volume 44 #4

Mark your Calendars!
Our next quarterly meeting will be held on
Saturday, June 11, 2016
at 2:00 p.m.
John A. Logan College Library

Dear Members,

Over the last several years GSSI has made several changes to how we have done things. We have recognized that times have changed and so must we. With that being said, one of the newest tasks being taken on is changing parts of the constitution. I asked Don Riggins to help in this very grueling task. In April, the board voted to make the first of probably several changes needed. The first change is how the calendar year for the board will fall. I will not get into details here, as the changes are enclosed in the newsletter for your reading.

In June we will be meeting at John A. Logan College and at that time we will have a vote by the members to help facilitate this change. I ask that you come out and cast your vote at that time.

See you in June.

Jackie

2. PROPOSED CHANGE:

Article IX, Section 5

Present reading: "Section 5. Nominees shall be presented at the November meeting. Election of Officers shall be in December."

Proposed change: "Section 5. Nominees shall be presented at the July meeting. The Election of Officers shall be held in August in conjunction with GSSI's Fall Annual Conference and Book Fair. The exact time and location must be made known to the membership at least one month prior to the conference."

Positive: Because of weather and logistic problems with the present December date for the annual meeting, the Board has suggested holding the annual meeting in conjunction with GSSI's annual fall conference, which is held at John A. Logan Community College in August. More members attend the fall conference than the December meeting, therefore a quorum would be more easily obtained.

Negative: Tradition has been that GSSI's year begins in January and ends in December, therefore a shift backwards of 4 months might be upsetting to some members. The nominating committee will need to be appointed several months earlier, to allow selecting and presentation

of the candidates at the July Board meeting, so the general assembly can vote on the slate at the August meeting.

Prepared: February 14, 2016

Revised: April 9, 2016

Approved by the Executive Board at April 9, 2016 Board Meeting

HELEN LIND, LONG TIME GENEALOGY RESEARCHER
IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Perennial flowers at times may be taken for granted because they bloom without planting in the spring; yet they are treasures, lending continuity and beauty to the yard.

Among perennial genealogical researchers and writers in southern Illinois, Helen Lind's name stands out. Many know her, others have heard of Lind's work or books, but some have no idea of her extensive contributions to genealogy and local history.

Recent articles in The Southern newspaper about "lost graves" in the Crab Orchard

Wildlife Refuge referenced Lind's work "reading abandoned graves" there. Intrigued, Leann Johnson of the Genealogical Society of Southern Illinois located a copy of Mrs. Lind's book on CRAB ORCHARD CEMETERIES and reviewed it in the GSSI Newsletter. Subsequently, GSSI invited Helen Lind to discuss cemeteries in the Crab Orchard Refuge at a general meeting. She will present a program on the subject June 11 at the John A. Logan College Library.

Helen Lind's interest in family history dates from childhood in the Missouri Boot Hills. As a youngster, she had only one living grandparent, and that grandmother died when Helen was eight. From that time, young Helen "picked her mother's brain" about their family. By age ten, she had developed an interest in old cemeteries and local history. That interest continued into her adult years. She moved to Illinois in 1956. Helen enjoys connecting families through cemetery research and local history study.

In 1968 she began a project to read all abandoned cemeteries in Williamson County which would include cemeteries in the Crab Orchard Refuge. Fortunately, she met Wendall Cruse of Carbondale who had worked at the Refuge and was willing to share his knowledge and maps. He accompanied her on field investigations over difficult terrain. They found one cemetery with no remaining monuments. Helen is still grateful for Cruse's assistance.

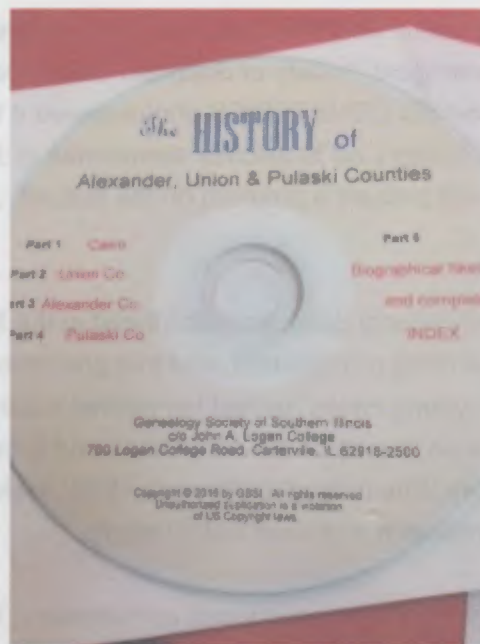
When asked if she watches popular TV genealogy programs, Helen said she does and finds them well done and thorough. She noted particularly their use of census and other documents. As for on-line research, Helen indicated while it can be enormously helpful and time saving, one must be careful when using "what one finds."

Often on-line data is not documented. Reported family connections have to be proven with a will or marriage certificate or other document. "Be wary, prove what you find with a hard copy of something," she cautioned. When asked what advice she would give a beginner in genealogy, Helen alluding to the internet said, "Use it, but prove it."

Among her many and varied contributions to local history and genealogical research in southern Illinois, Helen is recognized as a driving force in the creation and success of the Franklin County Genealogical Society.

New CD available for purchase.

The History of Alexander, Union & Pulaski Counties is now available for \$30.00 for members and \$40.00 for non-members, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Order on the website at: www.ilgssi.org.



2016 Family History Conference and Book Fair

is proudly co-sponsored by

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

and John A. Logan College

Saturday, August 13, 2016

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Ray Hancock Conference Center

John A. Logan College

Route 13 & Greenbriar Road, Carterville, IL

Featured Speaker

Lisa Louise Cooke

Author and owner of *Genealogy Gems*

Register at our new website: www.ilgssi.org

Welcome New Members:

David & Linda Sue Karraker and Linda Roider

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root.
 Chinese Proverb