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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

May
Volume 44 #5

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

June Meeting Reminder

At this meeting we will be voting on changing the time of the election of GSSI officers. In the following article, the slate of officers are listed. Also, you will not want to miss our featured speaker! Helen Lind will be presenting our program. You might have read recent newspaper articles about her research of the "lost graves" in the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge.

This is a meeting you will not want to miss!

Recommended Slate of GSSI Officers for 2017

Elective Positions

President: Jackie LaRue Lyell,

1st Vice President :Phil Stucker

2nd Vice President: Dorothy Rudoni

Recording Secretary: Julia Mowery
Corresponding Secretary: Rosemary Mathis
Treasurer: Melodie Penrod
Member at Large: Joy Upton
Director 2016-2018: Dusty Renee Boner
Director 2016-2018: Don Riggin
Director 2015-2017: Leann Johnson
Director 2015-2017: Leonard P. Lucas
Director 2016-2019: Linda Gale Mathis
Director 2016-2019: Open
Past President: Phil Stucker

Submitted by Nominating Committee: Leann Johnson, Dorothy Rudoni, Phil Stucker

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

Report from the Webpage Manager

Those of you who were members of GSSI last year you will recall that the Society launched a newly designed website at the Annual Conference. Our new GSSI address is www.ilgssi.org, but the old pages at Rootsweb remain on line. The basic redesign was done by technicians at iPage, the company that hosts our pages. New features that were not available to us at Rootsweb include joining and paying dues on line, registering for conferences, on-line purchase of GSSI books and CDs, and access to some pages that are now available only to members of the Society whose dues are paid up.

In general, we are pleased with the look and functionality of the new site, but it has not been without some difficulties. The new look uses WordPress as a platform, a program with which I have had no previous experience. My learning curve has been slow, but Don Riggin, a Board member with experience in using WordPress is now serving as my assistant. My thanks to Don and to any member who would like to give us a hand in managing the website.

The opening page of the new website calls for a log in, but please be advised that one need not log in to view the majority of the GSSI pages. Because of an apparent glitch in the WordPress software, we have been unable to add all members to the on-line member database and automatically assign each of them a password. Some members have asked for a password and we have responded to their requests on an individual basis. Now that our membership rolls are complete for 2016, Don and I will be enrolling the rest of you and sending an email with your assigned login name and password. Look for an email in the next week to ten days from ilgssi@gmail.com with the words "Member Login and Password" in the subject line.

You may want to use your new credentials right away because Darrel Dexter has completed two more years of obituaries for Cairo (1909) and Pulaski County (1942).

These are now on line in the Members Only portion of the website.

Ed O'Day

GSSI Webmaster

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.



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

Are you new to genealogy and want to learn how to trace your family?
The following class is being offered at John A Logan College in Carterville, IL
You may call the college for more details at: 618-985-3741

Genealogy Basics class, 6 sessions (PS056), \$36
John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL
starting July 7, Thursdays
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Cathy Small, Instructor

The Willard Library in Evansville, IN has several genealogy programs, in the month of June. Check out the schedule at : <http://www.willard.lib.in.us>

"Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell."
Louisa May Alcott

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