

DAVIS COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Volume 33 Issue 2



Preserving our Family Histories and Heritage

Waiting on Grants

In March we applied for the INS Charity Grant, and in April the HRDP, at the State Historical Society. We are awaiting word on the outcomes of these, so we can continue to digitize microfilmed newspapers. Several local folks have donated dollars to convert the years of their birth or graduation, won't you consider the same? *June 24th we were notified we did not receive the HRDP.*

CUSTOMER SERVICE

What can DCGS do better or differently to serve you, the researcher. Do you need the library available different hours of the day? A volunteer to do your research for you? We also house your collections, no worries as to what will happen to your hard work, we appreciate your years of collecting, pursuing and travel to distant cities to source your work.

~ Deb Barker, President DCGS

2016 MEETING DATES

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December TBD



The new Digital Indexed newspapers are available at DCGS

In This Issue

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- In the year 1977

An open letter to genealogy societies

Dear genealogy societies,

No doubt some genealogy society people will be offended by what I've got to say, but this has been on my mind for a long time. I've discussed my concerns with society members from around the country as well with some society board members. I'm just ready to take the conversation to a more public forum.

I have been a member of many genealogy and historical societies - local, state and in a variety of states. As with any type of structured organization, the experience varies with each one. Over the last couple years, I have not been renewing my membership to several of the societies I've been paying dues to for many years.



Why? Mainly, it's because the societies are not meeting my needs as a member. And why is that? Because, as I say tongue in cheek, "genealogists are stuck in the past." While that is where we need to be as genealogists, the past is not where societies need to be.

My list of frustrations with many/some societies today:

1. Hoarding money. I've been a member of societies that have between \$14,000 and \$80,000 in the bank and at annual meetings the board members seem to be proud of this. When I've asked what the funds are earmarked for, the response has been "saving for a rainy day" to "we don't know." I have some suggestions for how these societies could put the funds to good use for their members: adding books to the society's library, paying for the digitization and online availability of records for your geographic area, paying speakers for their services rather than expecting them to donate their time with no honorarium or travel expenses.

2. The journals and newsletters you send out are a waste of paper and usually a waste of my time. The content is of no value to me. Often, newsletter articles are reprints of something I read online months before. Journals and newsletters represent a bygone era. We are in an electronic age. Give me your news and updates via social media and your web site. And if you insist on continuing to publish your newsletters and journals, please give me the option of receiving it digitally. I don't want your paper.

3. Conferences are usually pretty good. But I've been to enough at this point that I'm hearing the same stuff over and over again. A lot of the content is geared toward the beginning genealogist, not those who have been doing this for a long time. And please don't think that you have to fill every minute of the conference day. You don't have to have entertainment at a luncheon, nor do you need an after dinner speaker. You know what genealogists like? We enjoy the opportunity to visit socially with fellow genealogists - to share our stories, our research successes and frustrations. Much of the time I learn more from these informal gatherings than I learn from the conference content. We need that time with each other. Build it into your conference structure. Make sure your conference rooms have tables. Some of us like to take notes - either on paper or electronically. It's extremely difficult to do this when juggling a notepad or laptop.

4. Web sites aren't updated, nor is content removed once an event has occurred. Hopefully, we are all Googlers and it's frustrating when we do a search on a topic, then land on a web page about an event that occurred five years ago. Keep fresh content on your web site. As a society member, I expect that I may have to pay for content that is behind the curtain. Those databases and indexes that are for "members only" is incentive for people to join your society. Make sure your web site indicates the city, town, county and state in which you are located. Your web site also needs to provide a method for contacting you.

5. You need fresh blood. Some of my societies have been recycling the same board members over and over for years. The societies operate from "we've always done it this way" rather than seeking new and innovative ideas.

6. Think outside the box. Learn about new technologies. I applaud the societies I belong to that offer webinars and podcasts. Not everyone is physically able to attend some of your in-person sessions. Remember that your out-of-town and out-of-state members are entitled to a level of membership services, too. I'm always hearing "we want to get younger members" but the societies are not using the social media strategies that attract that audience. And guess what, if you don't have a society member who has those skills, it's okay to use some of that money you are hoarding to pay someone to do it for you. I recently read a comment in a Facebook forum that a well-known member of the genealogy community was rejected as a conference speaker because he would only provide his syllabus in digital form.

7. While thinking outside the box, let go of the annual membership strategy. Whenever I join your society, I expect a full 12 month membership. When I join in June, don't tell me that I have to rejoin in July and pay another full year's membership fee. And let me be able to join online. I want immediate gratification. Don't make me have to write a check, put it in an envelope, find a stamp and go to the post office.

What I've described is not necessarily representative of all of the societies in which I've been a member. But I've heard the same or similar concerns expressed by fellow genealogists around the country. I want to support you, I want to be a member, but I expect some member services for my dues and I expect you to put a good portion of the money you collect back in to member services. I'll reiterate my earlier idea that you can put this money into your library collection and the digitization of records.

I'll continue to join and support some societies, but certainly not as many as I have in the past. As Bob Dylan sang more than 50 years ago, "the times they are a-changing."

Posted by [Susan Petersen](#) at 1:53 PM

LONGLOSTRELATIVES.NET
BY SUSAN PETERSEN

Why does one opinion, one blog matter?

The writings on the previous pages serve to remind us that everyone has different needs.

We sit back and wonder why we have less members or volunteers. We discuss the need for a new strategy,

To address the bulleted list as presented by the blog writ by Susan, which was not directed at DCGS, but I found the topics to hit home:

1. We don't have monies to hoard. We thrive on Memberships, Donations and Research fees. As mentioned elsewhere, we, DCGS, use every bit for overhead. Our bank balance hasn't been at the low level it is now in over a decade. We apply for grants, use funds for supplies, keeping the lights on, and continue to provide updated computers, Internet service and digital collections, along with shelving unique research works.
2. Journals or Newsletters as we call them. Are for DCGS, normally, aside from this issue, a one of a kind compilation, and for distribution to members only. As I put together a newsletter, I find a topic, research it to the nth degree, and hopefully publish a well written article. Topics coincide with happenings or goings on in the community or our society. Our past issues are then put on the http://iagenweb.org/davis/newsletter_archives.htm web page after a couple years for archival purposes. Then the public has the ability to enjoy the reading. If anyone is interested in writing the newsletter, or creating blogs for the <https://www.facebook.com/DavisCountyGenealogicalSociety/> page, please feel free to!
3. Conferences, well we do good at bringing those to the community every few years. The audience we cater to is not what we would like it to be. But darn, we do them well. I must say we have had a great group of members and volunteers. Many knowledgeable county folks with tidbits & bits of History. And I would continue to host these types of Roadshows, Heritage Days, etc.,
4. Our website is by far one of the best. The IAGenWeb folks whom host the <http://iagenweb.org/davis/davis.htm> site, require biannual reviews. There are bylaws and rules, for the County Coordinator to follow. Complete & incomplete record sets are necessary to keep the data fresh. Any one who wishes to transcribe may do so. Items of interest are newspapers, census, courthouse records, probates, etc., In order to find it on the web, it has to be put there. In no lifetime will we see every thing we have to offer on the web. Our jewels to the researcher are in our library, or county resources.
5. Fresh Blood. Yep, I been President here long enough to lose my perspective. We do need the younger members, we still need the old folks too. With age comes Wisdom, and the oral stories, including historical recall & these need captured for all. Show me a society that has succeeded by running off the elder.
6. We're all open to outside the box. I deal with technology every day. You can lead a horse to water, but can't make them drink. We have an electronic volunteer calendar, we have an antiquated microfilm machine. We have discussed using Skype, etc.,

We feel the aches & pains, but also rejoice that we still thrive, and have others who have the same common interest to talk to.

IN THE YEAR 1977

OUR County Courthouse is 100 years old.

A Plymouth Volare from Harris Motor Company cost \$3619.

The Old Settlers & Soldiers Reunion in Drakesville Iowa was celebrating their 131st.

The County Fair was at their 114th year.

Place's store on the square offered free family 11 x 14 portraits for 50c sitting fee.

Eight (8) sets of twins were in the local elementary school.



Abundance of twins

Twins, look alike and otherwise, are not uncommon at the Bloomfield Elementary Center. They number eight altogether—five sets of mixed, two sets of girls and one set of boys. It is an unusually high percentage for the school since the average number of twins is only one set in every 80 to 87 births. The twins are (from left): Seated front, Kathy and Kenny Allen, children of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Allen; John and Jim McAllister, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McAllister; Denise and Dennis Bales,

children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bales; Rochelle and Randall Lawson, children of Mr. and Mrs. Junior Lawson; Third row, Tommy and Tammy Weeks, children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weeks Sr., Charles and Christine Henkenius, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Henkenius; Marcia and Maureen McDaniel, children of Russell and Marjorie McDaniel; Back Row, Monica and Melissa Forsythe, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Nolen Forsythe; and Principal Roger Wyse.



Class reunion

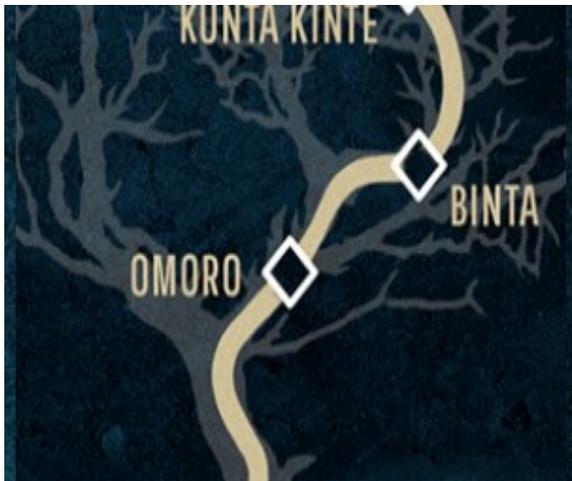
Pictured are members of the Bloomfield High School graduating class of 1927 and teachers who attended the 50th anniversary reunion.

Front row, left to right: Verna Kochis, Pauline Taylor, Cleda Wellborn, Ruth McCarty, Gereta Irelan, Wilma Lucas, Florence Baughman, Elizabeth Stevenson,

Hazel Small, Mildred Merrill, Lena Elkins and Mary Kinnamon.

Second row, left to right: Alfred Dunlavy, Willa Jamison, Frances Dooley, Lucille Harris, Bea Knott, Martha Irelan, Aarah Reno, Evelyn Elliott, Louise Caswell, Hazel Anderson, Helen Braunum, Frank Martin and Velma Rogers.

Third row, left to right: Chris Wagler, Herbert Bennett, Dale Merrill, Orlo Brake, Doran Goode, Dean Goode, David Bollick, Claude Dixon, Howard Rupe, Earl Boatman, William Louderback, Arch King, L.A. Gleunkin and Stanton Taylor.



ROOTS

The mini-series in 1977, remember that?

The miniseries ROOTS first aired in 1977, and immediately shook the world. Over 130 million viewers. The 40th anniversary of the original series, has a new generation of 2016 ROOTS.

From Gambia to an American plantation

Monday May 30th was the first of four nights of exciting, breath taking drama. I couldn't stand to miss a minute, and their were times, I had to cover my eyes.

Conversation

Slavery, race, identity, family legacy, war and freedom. The success of genealogy as a hobby, the study of families was motivated by Mr Alex Haley, writer. A sense of responsibility to preserve the past is known as the "gene bug".

Alex Haley, whose book "Roots" triggered a national interest in genealogy a decade ago, says Americans can find strength by studying their ancestors. "I have come to realize



ALEX HALEY

that every one of you, whether brown, black, red or white, had forebears and they were all praying that there would be a better day," Haley said in Kansas City, Mo., Friday night. "You can find strength in looking backward." Haley told about 500 people attending the annual Black United Appeal Inc. fundraising dinner that their ancestors could not have thought that their descendants would be living in an integrated society. "I never dreamed that my book would be this successful and would get all this attention," Haley told reporters earlier. "Roots" has sold more than 6 million copies in hardcover and has been published in 37 languages.

1986 Springfield Union



Heritage

"The farthest-back person they ever talked about was a man they called the *African*." – Alex Haley, *Roots*

<http://www.kintehaley.org/>

The Fair

Davis County Fair is the week of July 11th, and DCGS is going to do things a bit differently.

We will display previously judged exhibits, with the Political Theme as a backdrop.

Stop by for a cool chair, and sit a spell. We appreciate the time we get to visit with each and every one of you.

Look for our fundraising efforts, we have several P Buckley Moss prints, to auction. Also a Courthouse Watercolor, by Debbie Baughman.

If interested, contact a member, as there may be social media or ebay auctions.

** 2016 Officers **

Deb Barker President

Danna Johnson Vice

Sue Spilman Secretary

Vicki Houk Treasurer

New Members are always welcome!



Did you know you can pay your membership dues on the WEB? Visit the societies page at http://iagenweb.org/davis/gene_societ.htm Plenty of Research items for sale also. Check it Out!

2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership: Newsletters, Queries & Email News & Content
Renewal Membership dues are \$17.50 for a Calendar Year

Name _____ Street Address _____
County _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ Email _____

Receive Newsletter via email | Receive Newsletter by Post Office Mail



Mail to **Davis County Genealogical Society, P O Box 94, Bloomfield, IA 52537**



Surnames Researching:

Your Membership Dues

Are used to pay our annual Library rent: By having an environment clean, dry & safe, we can preserve & archive collections currently in our Library, and those donated by members like yourself, with the intent of sharing our research for generations to come.

Are used to pay Insurance: Safety for our volunteers, members & Visitors is very important.

Are to pay for minor office supplies, stamps:
We continue to be one of the few Societies that create Newsletters for your insider resources. Content is not readily public, and the stories are original in nature. See the archives by visiting here: http://iagen-newsletter_archives.htm

LAST CALL ~ LAST NEWSLETTER



Contact Us

For more information
about our services and
holdings

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Davis County Genealogical Society



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