

# Wright County Genealogy Searchers

## Guest Speaker from the Iowa Genealogy Society to Attend April Meeting

### 2014 Officers

- Judy Poolman, President 532-2069 cell—515/851-8798
- Jo Ann Kramer, Vice President, 532-2055
- Dean Long, Secretary 532-3229
- Rosella Gramstad, Treasurer 532-2082
- Send requests/correspondence to P.O. Box 225, Clarion, IA 50525

Research requests are accepted & completed for a charge of \$8.00 per hour, plus cost to copy and postage. Money goes to the Society to further their work.

**Theresa Liewer, IGS President**, will be our guest speaker at the April 26 meeting of the Wright County Genealogy Society.

The Strategic Plan of the Iowa Genealogy Society, adopted last year, includes seeing that the needs of the current members are being met as well as marketing IGS to potential members. As part of this plan, volunteer speakers will be coming to societies when requested.

Each month our chapter receives a newsletter with infor-

mation to help our group to expand their knowledge. They are also looking for volunteers to help the IGS, Some projects can be done at home on the internet.

Spring Technology Workshop day will be April 12, 2014 in Des Moines. The following classes will be offered: **Tribal Pages—Personal Website** (setting up your personal website and allowing others to see and contribute to your family tree); **Purchasing a new computer/tablet** (how will you use the computer

or tablet — Apple or Windows operating system); and **Using the Cloud** (utilizing offsite storage for backup).

To register: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org)

**Mark your calendar now to attend the April 26 meeting at the Clarion Public Library at 1:30 PM. This is an important meeting, to learn more about The Iowa Genealogy Society, its membership, and benefits.**

Our snow bird friends should be home to join us for the day. See you then.

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## What's New in our Wright County Genealogy Searcher Club?

### GRANT APPROVED

Jo Ann Kramer received an approval for the grant application for "Preserving Our Heritage Through Cemetery Records," in the amount of \$500.00 from the Clarion Hotel-Motel Grant program.

The project will update the 1976 Bi-Centennial work of the Wright

County Genealogy Searchers which documented the information in Wright County cemeteries.

Our new project will bring records up to date, by walking cemeteries and recording information, and adding a picture of the gravestone. Many volunteers will be asked

to help in this endeavor and the finished project will be put into binders and housed at the Clarion Public Library Genealogy room. If you can help us, please email me.

There will be much more information available for those researching their relatives in Wright County.

## MyHeritage Employees Digitize an Entire Cemetery to Kick-Start Global Initiative



**“Using the free BillionGraves application, anyone can easily photograph and document gravestones and the top feature is that the app preserves the exact GPS coordinates of every gravestone.”**

The following is an exciting article about photographing gravestones in cemeteries. [://www.facebook.com/HAQH-GRWz/blog.myheritage.com/2014/03/myheritage-employees-digitize-an-entire-cemetery-to-kickstart-global-initiative/](http://www.facebook.com/HAQH-GRWz/blog.myheritage.com/2014/03/myheritage-employees-digitize-an-entire-cemetery-to-kickstart-global-initiative/)

The author writes: “So what brings a large group of young folks with smartphones to a cemetery? We (MyHeritage) recently announced a global initiative, together with BillionGraves, to digitally preserve the world’s cemeteries. It is important to digitize cemeteries because of the key role that gravestones play in family history and in society in general. Most of the world’s cemeteries have never been systematically documented nor has their information made available online. In addition,

age and exposure to the elements are rendering gravestones illegible, making this project even more urgent.”

“The Segula Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Israel. It was established in 1888, only ten years after the founding of Petah Tikva itself. Many founders of the state of Israel are buried there, making it very special to the history of the country. Due to the size and age of the cemetery, a large portion of the Israeli population will have an ancestor in Segula.”

“Using the free BillionGraves application, anyone can easily photograph and document gravestones and the top feature is that the app preserves the exact GPS coordinates of every gravestone. This verifies the information and al-

lows others to locate, visit or re-photograph any gravestone they have found. The gravestone photos are transcribed by volunteers using the BillionGraves app or website, and the records are then added to MyHeritage SuperSearch and to BillionGraves, and made available for free on both sites.”

“We invite you all to participate in this global project and start digitizing the world’s cemeteries. Whether its a few photos from your local cemetery, or your own ancestors’ gravestones, each photo preserved plays an important role in making family history accessible to all.”

How about it team—could this be our next project for the Wright County Genealogy Searchers??

## In Living Memory and the Iowa Genealogy Society

Funeral programs and/or memorial cards are a way to remember a loved one. Have you ever wondered what to do with them after a while? Or have you cleaned a drawer, or a suit pocket to find these keepsakes? This information can be very valuable to other individuals, and may be a last memory of a loved one. but only if it is preserved.

In Living Memory (www.inlivingmemory.org) and the Iowa Genealogy Society are collaborating to collect funeral programs and memorial cards from across Iowa. Programs are accepted year round at the Iowa Genealogy Society, 628 East Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50309.

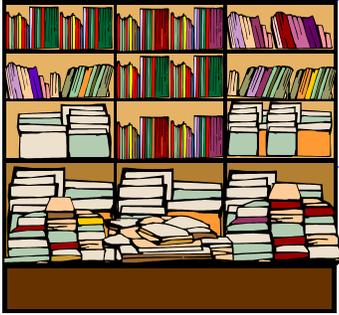
If you wish to donate programs, but want to

keep the original, the IGS will accept a scanned copy, or they will scan them for you if you have a large quantity.

Hours are:  
Mon, Wed,  
Fri, & Sat  
10am-4 pm,  
Tues &  
Thurs 10am  
-9pm.

[www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)





## Clarion Public Library Genealogy Room Resources

### Genealogy Room in Clarion Public Library

The Wright County Genealogy Searchers began slowly with exploring the resources in the Clarion Public Library Genealogy Room at the February meeting. Many great finds are available!

Did you know that the obituaries began to be collected and catalogued beginning in 1946? They continue through the present time. Coordinating with that are the funeral records of Clarion, Iowa Funeral Home date from 1880-1942, then 1958 to 2000. Kastler Babcock of Eagle Grove has funeral records on our shelves from 1913 to 1918.

Do you have an interest in the military? Check out the records below:

- \*Pension Rolls of Wright County 1835 (4 books)
- \*Scrapbook-class of 1937 WWII, Wright County
- \*Ordinary Heros by Judge Newt Draheim
- \*Civil War Genealogy by George K. Schweitzer, PhD
- \*Revolutionary War Genealogy by George K.Schweitzer
- \*War of 1812 by George K. Schweitzer, PhD
- \*A Tribute to Military Families 2004 by Sears Brands LLC
- \*34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division
- \*Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska Civil War Veterans 1883-1948
- \*Honor Roll World War II (2 volumes) 1917, 1918, 1919
- \*VFW/American Legion Grave Registry (3 books)
- \*Card Catalog of Grave Registry
- \*Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois Death Rolls 1879-1947

Several books are on the west wall, containing information about the history of Wright County. What a great way to spend an afternoon just looking through these books/journals.

- \*Way Back When—Belmond Independent 1971-1997
- \*Belmond Quasquicentennial 1856-1971 by Belmond Historical Society (2)
- \*Belmond Iowa 1856-2006 by Belmond Sesquicentennial Book Committee (2)

- \*Rough the Glass, Reflections of Belmond, Iowa 1966
- \*Belmond Pictorial Look at Tornado 1966 (2)
- \*Wright County Democrat Clarion, IA Souvenir issue
- \*The Story at 410 Main Street, Clarion, Iowa
- \*Houses on the Prairie, Clarion, Iowa 1868-1976 by American Revolutionary Bicentennial National Register of Projects (2)
- \*Clarion Quasquicentennial 125 Years of Growth (6)
- \*Clarion Centennial 1865-1965 Souvenir Booklet (4)
- \*Clarion & Wright County, A Collection of Articles by Hazel and Art Draheim
- \*Dows Centennial 1880-1980, A History of Dows
- \*Eagle Grove Centennial 1881-1981 (2)
- \*Iowa Historic Property Study: Goldfield Bridge Over the Boone River, City of Goldfield, Wright County, Ia
- \*Horse Grove and It's Pioneers by Verle Crafton 1996
- \*RHS Memories, Rowan Iowa Centennial 1902-2002
- \*Iowa Township 1856-1900 by Verle Crafton 1996
- \*Goldfield, the Boone River Bridge by Goldfield Historical Society 2005
- \*History of Galt 2000 & 2006 by Judith Poolman
- \*Pictorial History –Cities Town and Communities in Wright County, Iowa (4) Bicentennial 1776-1976
- \*History of Wright County by J.H. Stevenson, original print 1870, reprint 1974
- \*History of Wright County by Carl E. Thorson 1980
- \*A Walk through the Past , Wright County, Iowa 1996
- \*Wright County Rural Teachers (4) 1891-1899, 1909-1918, 1908-1911, 1912-1915, 1916-1918
- \*Our School 1910-11, Lake Township, District 9 by Lucie Clark Witzel
- \*The Agenda Club and Women's Federated Club about the 4H School House
- \*Iowa Genealogy Society Surname Index 1975
- \*Biographical Histories of Hamilton & Wright County
- \**From Here to There* by Wright County Historic Preservation Commission 1999
- \**From Prairie Paths to Paved Roads in Wright County* by Wright County Historic Preservation Commission 2002-2007

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Wright County Genealogy Society  
P.O. Box 225  
Clarion, IA 50525

Newsletter editor: Jo Ann Kramer  
Phone: 515-532-2055  
E-mail: jt.kramer@yahoo.com



The Wright County Genealogy Searchers was organized for the following purposes:

- 1) To help each member further his genealogical search.
- 2) To collect and preserve useful material.
- 3) To travel on field trips for research.
- 4) To establish and maintain a genealogical library in the Clarion Public Library through contributions, donations and exchange.

## Resource List Continued from Page 3

### Upcoming meetings:

**Saturday, April 26, 2014**  
**1:30 PM, Clarion Public Library**  
**Guest Speaker: Ia Genealogy Society Pres, Theresa Liewer**

**Saturday, May 31, 2014**  
**1:30 PM, Clarion Public Library**

**Saturday, June 28, 2014**  
**1:30 PM, Clarion Public Library**

What do we know about the surrounding counties or even state information?? Our library has collected many books for this purpose also. We can help you with so many researching needs.

- \*History of Kossuth, Hancock and Winnebago Counties, Iowa 1884
- \*Surnames Index: Hamilton & Wright Counties 1915
- \*Miscellaneous Data on Wright County
- \*Genealogy Research Materials at Kendall Young Library, Webster City, Iowa
- \*Founding of Newcastle, Now Webster City, Iowa by Sarah Brewer Bonebright & Harriet Bonebright Cloz
- \*Cerro Gordo County Wills probated 1857-1899
- \*Fire Insurance Maps of Iowa Cities & Towns
- \*A List of Holdings, Iowa City, Iowa: Iowa State Historical Department 1983
- \*Iowa, Origin of County Names  
Compiled by Mrs. Edwin Wilcockson, Sigourney, Iowa
- \*Newspaper Collection of State Historical Society of Iowa Compiled by L. O. Cheever 1869
- \*Des Moines County, Iowa Census, 1852

- \*Iowa's Magnificent County Courthouses by Edward & Jacqueline Stanck 1976
- \*The County Courthouses of Iowa by Le Roy Pratt 1977

Our next Genealogy Society Work Day will be June 28, 2014. We will look at the next section of the library which includes family histories. Make plans to attend and help us to learn all the resources available in the library.

We rely on our members to help people in their own search for family history, and will do researching for individuals that request our services. For a small fee, we can piece together the past for a family that may live across the United States or even in a foreign country.



We have a great find in our Clarion Public Library Genealogy Room. Thanks to all past members for your perseverance and care for our history.