

# Wright County Genealogy Searchers

## 2014 Officers

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- Dean Long,  
Secretary 532-3229
- Jo Ann Kramer,  
Treasurer 532-2055
- 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.



Photo: Members of the Wright County Genealogy Searchers are Anne Hines, Diane Shores, Gloria Morgan. Back row: Judy Poolman, Pam Swartz, Julia Larson, Theresa Liewer –IGS President, Jo Ann Kramer. Absent is Jane Dettmann. April 26, 2014

## Wright County Genealogy Meeting

The Wright County Genealogy Society meeting was held on Saturday April 26, 2014 at the Clarion Public Library at 1:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Judy Poolman, who introduced our guest speaker, Theresa Liewer the Iowa Genealogical Society President.

Eight members answered roll call of “How did you get started in genealogy research & what have you learned?” Secretary’s report and treasurer’s report were read. Rosella Gramstad will not be able to continue with her position as treasurer. Jo Ann Kramer will be treasurer and Ann Hines will be Vice President.

The grant project of photographing all gravestones in the Wright County cemeteries was discussed. This is a continuation of the Bi-centennial project of the Wright County Genealogy Searchers completed in 1976. A meeting will be

held later to learn what is needed to begin the project. Fees for researching were discussed briefly.

Theresa Liewer gave a very interesting presentation about the Iowa Genealogical Society in Des Moines, it’s benefits, and programs available. She highlighted the Class schedule for 2014, a road trip to Midwest Genealogical Society in Kansas City, and gave information of how to properly clean gravestones. She suggested using the free website FamilySearch.org to record your family tree.

The May 31, 2014 meeting roll call will be “Your military family. Who were they and what is their legacy? Program: Share how you use your favorite magazines & bring examples with you.

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**Wright County  
Genealogy Society  
dues is \$8.00 per  
year  
individual/\$12.00  
couple , payable to  
Treasurer Jo Ann  
Kramer. Please  
bring your dues to a  
meeting, or send to  
POB 225, Clarion,  
IA 50525**

Favorite websites:

WorldConnect.org  
FamilySearch.org  
IowaGenealogy.org  
USGenWeb.org  
Digital arkivet-arkivverts  
MyHeritage.com  
Mocavo.com  
Ancestry.com  
RuralConnect.org  
Geneamusing.com  
Find-a-grave.com  
Google.com/chrome  
Google.com/+google

**IOWA GENEALOGY  
SOCIETY UPCOMING  
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS  
CALENDAR**

All programs take place at the IGS Library, 628 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, unless otherwise noted.

The following classes are scheduled. Contact IGS to register. Info on additional classes is available on the IGS web site at <http://www.iowagenealogy.org/events/classes/>

**JUNE 2014**

**Saturday, June 7 Beginning Genealogy** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \*\*\* Preregistration required. Cost: Free This class will introduce you to the wonderful world of genealogy and help you get started researching your own family

**Wednesday, June 11 Inter-Library Loan** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. L/L Linda Greethurst instructor. Preregistration required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members.

**Wednesday, June 25 Iowa Vital Records** 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. L/L Theresa Liewer instructor. Preregistration required. Cost: \$5 IGS members/\$10 non-members. **L/L (bring your lunch and learn at the same time)**

**IGS OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, June 21** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Invite your friends and family to explore all that IGS has to offer

**IGS LOCK IN**

**Saturday, June 28**

Time: 4 pm to Midnight

Location: IGS Library

Registration: \$20 includes pizza  
Preregistration required.

**If you have a class you would like us to offer please let us know. The schedule hasn't been set for next year. If you would like to teach a class let us know that too. IGS is always looking for more people to teach classes. We don't know what you want unless you tell us.**

**USE AMAZONSMILE AND  
RAISE MONEY FOR IGS**

**What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. (We hope that favorite charity is IGS) The AmazonSmile link is now on the IGS home page on the right side near the bottom.

Or click on <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7102656>  
Go to [http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_ul\\_lm\\_raas](http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas) to learn more about this easy way to donate money to IGS.

## ASCENDANT & DESCENDANT CHARTS

Recently I have explored websites for lessons on doing genealogy. I found [About.com/genealogy](http://About.com/genealogy). By Kimberly Powell. It has many great things to share. I have selected parts of the first lesson to help you also learn about new topics. Hope you will find something useful in this article. Jo Ann

### Charting Your Course

Genealogy is basically one big puzzle. If you don't put the pieces together in just the right way, then you'll never get to see the final picture. To make sure your puzzle pieces end up in the proper positions you should use genealogy charts and family group sheets to record your research data.

The two basic forms for recording genealogical information are ascendant charts and descendant charts. An **ascendant chart** starts with you and moves back through the generations of your ancestors. A **descendant chart** starts with you or another individual in your family tree and lists all of the descendants coming down through the generations. On these forms you record the names of your ancestors/ descendants and the dates and places of the three major genealogical events (birth, marriage and death). They basically serve as a master outline of your genealogy information and make it easy to see at a glance where you have gaps in your knowledge of people or events.

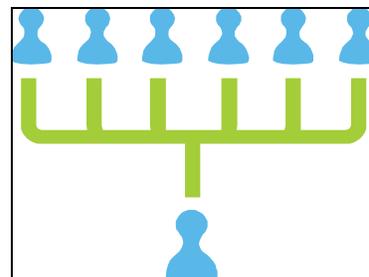
### Ascendant Charts

The chart which most people begin with is the **pedigree chart**, a type of ascendant chart. The most common type of pedigree chart displays five generations of family data on a single page, but you can purchase paper charts which will accommodate as many as 15 generations. Start by placing yourself as person number one on your first pedigree chart. The chart then branches in two to show your parents, then in fourths to show your grandparents and so on. There is no room on a pedigree chart for siblings, multiple marriages, etc.

An **ahnentafel** is a type of pedigree chart in the form of a table or list. Ancestors are numbered on pedigree charts and ahnentafels using a system known as the ahnentafel numbering system. You (or the person whose ancestry is being traced) are number **1**. A father is twice his child's number ( $1 \times 2 = 2$ ) and a mother is twice the child's number plus one ( $1 \times 2 + 1 = 3$ ). The numbers for men are always even and the numbers for women are always odd, with the exception of number **1** which can obviously be either.

### Descendant Charts

In general, descendant charts begin with a **progenitor**, a term usually used by genealogists to refer to the earliest proven ancestor in a line. Descendant charts are most often used to chart all of the descendants (or at



least as many as can be found) of a specific ancestor (often an immigrant ancestor or the first one living in a specific area or country).

### Family Group Sheets

By now I bet you are wondering what you do with all those aunts, uncles and cousins you have floating around. This is where the **family group sheet** comes in. A family group sheet is the basic worksheet used for genealogical research. While a pedigree chart identifies your ancestry and serves primarily as a culmination of your work, the family group sheet is how you get there.

Family Group Sheets are essential because they 1) serve as a simple means of recording data 2) easy to see at a glance what information is known and what is missing and 3) serve as a means of easily exchanging information with other researchers.

**Collateral** relationships are relationships between individuals who descend from common ancestors but are not related to each other in a direct (or lineal) line. These relationships include your brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. While it is not necessary to trace these collateral lines when researching your family tree, they can often lead you to clues about your ancestors when you have reached a brick wall.

Wright County Genealogy Society  
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**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.

**June is Library Work Day at Clarion**

This year our society began an exciting task of finding out what resources are available in the Clarion Public Library genealogy room. Using our meetings in the months of February, June and September, we will complete the search and catalog all items, and prepare a user friendly pamphlet for the public. There are jobs for each member to complete, so join us on June 28 at 1:30 PM to continue our project. All are needed—please come and help us.

Our July 26 meeting will be an outing for our group. Come to the meeting in June to hear more details.

Jo Ann Kramer, [jt.kramer@yahoo.com](mailto:jt.kramer@yahoo.com)