



The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois

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

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi

NEWSLETTER

Volume 43 –#1

January 2015

Happy New Year

At the **Annual Meeting on 6 December 2014** the following officers for 2015 were elected by acclamation:

- President: Jackie LaRue **Lyell**
- 2nd Vice President: Dorothy Clutts **Rudoni**
- Recording Secretary: Laura Cates **Duncan**
- Treasurer: Diane **Anderson**
- Director 2015 - 2017: Leann **Johnson**
- Director 2015 - 2017: Leonard **Lucas**
- Member at Large: Joy Whitson **Upton**

Members in attendance also approved two amendments to the 2007 GSSI Constitution as follows:

- Article IV, Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of one year, except the directors. Two directors shall be elected each year and each shall serve for the term of three years.
- Article VIII, Section 1. A quorum at any general meeting of the membership shall consist of at least 16 members, and 5 elected officers.

In response to a question about Article IV, it was explained that the Executive Board plans to schedule future Annual Meetings during the Family History Conference held in late Summer or early Fall each year.

December 6 Program

by Dorothy Rudoni

Perhaps the most attention-grabbing lecture at the 2014 GSSI Family History Conference was **Thomas MacEntee's** "Hidden Gems of the Internet Archive Collection." Those who did not already know the Internet Archive found MacEntee's fast-paced "Archives Tips and Tricks" intriguing but difficult to grasp.

Learning that **Ed O'Day** had used Internet Archive for his on-going research into early Irish migrations, the program committee asked him to do a December presentation on the subject. The result was a helpful early Christmas gift for GSSI researchers. O'Day's overview of the Internet Archive website was illustrated with PowerPoint and reinforced by a hard copy guide. The presentation, highlighted with Ed's insight and humor, was meticulous and informative. Listeners learned that the non-profit Internet Archive, which has a genealogy section, is the gateway to free digitized books and documents as well as other cultural artifacts. Family Search as a census source and the Open Library as a digital wonderland of books were stressed in one of the best genealogy lessons ever presented in the JALC Library. Thanks to O'Day's orientation to www.archive.org, member genealogists may be more productive and successful in 2015.

Darrel Dexter Recognized by DAR

On Sunday last Darrel Dexter received the prestigious DAR History Award Medal at a ceremony hosted by P.A.S.T. of Union County. Dorothy Rudoni of Daniel Brush Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, nominated Dexter for the award, given only to those who have significantly advanced the understanding of America's past. The Medal is a fitting recognition of Darrel's lifetime commitment to studying, teaching and writing American history.

In an [interview with the Southern Illinoisan](#) in 2011, Darrel credited his grandmother Ella Dexter with awakening his early interest in history and genealogy. After he graduated with a degree in History from SIU in 1984, it took years of part-time teaching and odd jobs before he reached his goal as a full time teacher in 2001. By then, Dexter was already well known throughout the region for his publications. He is the compiler and editor of dozens of genealogy source books on Union County, a long-time editor of the *Saga of Southern Illinois*, and author of *Bondage in Egypt: Slavery and the Underground Railroad in Southern Illinois*, published by Southeast Missouri University Press in 2011. Dexter lives in Jonesboro, teaches High School at Egyptian School District in Tamms, and is an honorary lifetime member of GSSI. **Congratulations Darrel!**

Renew Membership for 2015 by Mail or On line

Dues for 2015 should be received this month or by March 1 at the latest. Members may renew on line at our [webstore](#) or by completing and mailing the [form posted on our website](#) and at the end of this Newsletter. All Memberships are for the calendar year, and include four print issues of *The Saga of Southern Illinois* and regular electronic issues of the *GSSI Newsletter* (if someone comes forward as Editor).

Who Will be Newsletter Editor for 2015?

As announced in this space last month, I am retiring as Newsletter Editor with this issue. Someone else needs to take the helm if members are to be kept up to date about GSSI activities in 2015. To date, no one has come forward to my previous appeal for someone with word-processing experience to take on the task. An Editor need not live in Southern Illinois if he or she has access to the internet to keep in touch with the Board and to use [MailChimp](#), the program used for distributing the Newsletter.

MailChimp is super easy to use; if I could do it, anyone can. It has built-in design templates, tools for basic text and photo editing, and an automated mailing list that sends all copies of the Newsletter with one click on the keyboard.. I will be happy to assist the new editor for several months during the transition. Who will volunteer?

[Ed O'Day](#), (618) 457-4002

News and Notes from the Web

Genealogy Roadshow Returns

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. Central Time: That's when family history TV series "Genealogy Roadshow" returns to PBS for its second season. The show, part "Antiques Roadshow" and part "History Detectives," has genealogy experts Kenyatta D. Berry, [D. Joshua Taylor](#) and Mary Tedesco explore guests' family history mysteries and legends. It's shot in talk show format. (N.B. **Taylor** will be the feature speaker at the GSSI Family History Conference in Carterville on August 8, 2015).

The season opener was shot in New Orleans, that on January 20 in St. Louis, and the show of January 27 in Philadelphia. The same cities are revisited for three more shows in February. The series runs at its regularly scheduled time (Tuesdays at 7 pm.) on WSIU, with repeat showings in the wee morning hours of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

[Diana Haddad, Family Tree Magazine Blog, December 9, 2014](#)

Don't Ignore the Living

In your quest to find the dead, don't forget that the living may hold clues that are only in their head and preserved no where else. Go back and reinterview family members after you have done some research. Your findings may jar loose long forgotten memories. And also remember that the human mind is the most fragile genealogical resource there is.

[Michael John Neill, Genealogy Tip of the Day, December 25, 2014](#)

Next General Meeting

Saturday, March 14

Cairo Public Library

2:00 p.m.

Ed O'Day will give a program on the *Irish in Early Cairo*, a follow-up to his article on "Early Irish Settlements in Southern Illinois" that appeared in the Fall 2013 issue of the *Saga*. The GSSI Executive Board will meet prior to the General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM FOR 2015

STATUS: New Membership Renew Membership Rejoining Member

DUES: - Individual or Family Membership - -----\$25

Sustaining Membership - -----\$35

Supporting Membership ----- \$50 or More

ADDED FEES for SPECIAL SERVICE

: Late Renewals (after March 15-----\$5.00

: Printed Newsletters by Mail-----\$10.00

: *Saga* delivered to Address outside U. S.--\$10.00

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____ - _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Make check payable to: Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois and mail to:

Membership Chair, Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois,

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

Query to be published in the Newsletter: