



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 –#3

July 2015

June 13, 2015 GSSI Program

by Dorothy Rudoni

June 13 proved to be a lucky Saturday for GSSI members and guests who gathered at DuQuoin Public Library where Joy Upton presented an introduction to and explanation of the use of DNA in genealogy. In approximately an hour and a quarter, Ms. Upton defined DNA terms, gave information about on-line resources and services, and explained how DNA provides information on one's genetic heritage. Beginning with an ancestry chart showing the distribution of Y—DNA and Mitochondrial DNA on the family tree, Upton explained DNA Inheritance Charts for females and males, degrees of relationship, and DNA services provided by Ancestry, Family Tree, and 23andme. She also referred to non-subscription sites for DNA information such as gedmatch.com and genomemate.com.

Ms. Upton stressed the importance of completing a 5 generation pedigree chart and recording 3 great-great grandparent's descendants back to the 1940 census prior to tracing one's family connections via DNA. She noted one should clarify personal objectives when approaching DNA based research. Discovering ethnic origins, seeking health related information, and finding famous or illustrious antecedents are some motivations for using DNA in genealogical research

An excellent set of informative handouts, the opportunity to ask questions, and Upton's use of humorous examples embellished the outstanding presentation. Though DNA knowledge is complex and fast changing, it provides an increasingly important and accessible tool for genealogists.

Newsletter Editor

At the June Board Meeting, President Jackie Lyell appointed Dusty Renee Boner as the new GSSI Newsletter Editor. You can contact her at dstboner@gmail.com

GSSI Conference Alert

Saturday, August 8, 2015

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois 2015 Conference is just a few weeks away on August 8th.

We are excited to feature National Speaker, [D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS](#). He is the President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Director of Family History for Findmypast.com, and a nationally known and recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher. Joshua is the former Director of Education and Programs at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He has appeared on TV on several genealogical programs.

He will be presenting the following sessions:

- 1) Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States between 1780 and 1830
- 2) Essential Technology for Genealogists
- 3) The Modern-Genealogist: Time saving Tips for Every Researcher
- 4) Online Resources for Colonial America.

Lunch is included with your paid registration received prior to July 25th.

We want to make sure you get a seat this year, so please register soon if you are planning to attend. Seating is limited. We expect to have a full house and may not have any seats remaining for walk-in registrations.

Conference information is available online at <http://www.ilgssi.org/conf2015.html>

To access an on-line registration form, you may go to our Web Store and register via PayPal.

We thank you for your support of GSSI and hope you will be able to join us at our conference this year. We are happy that we can continue to bring National Speakers to the area for a reasonable registration fee. If you have any questions about the conference, please email Diane at DLA62@yahoo.com

Queries

Who are the parents of Sophronia Matilda **Sims**, Rober **Handkins**, Elizabeth **Rankin**, and John Franklin **Angel**. All came to Williamson County IL from Wilson County TN. Researching surnames: **Moake, Angel, Fry, Grant, Sanders, Lee, Hunter, Sims, Everett, Handkins**, and **Rankin**. Contact Marilyn at: marilynellen@sbcglobal.net.

In Gallatin County and Hamilton County IL- any information regarding: Miles B. **French**, children; Mary Hannah **French Hogan** and Joel C. **French**. All born in Kentucky. Contact Doris at: willhauckw@gmail.com.

Looking for parents and siblings of John Henry **Morris**, m. Mary Francis **Simpson**, Saline County, IL 1897. Contact: Gerald **Doolen** at: gerald45@hotmail.com.

Campanella, Easley, and Greco. Contact Linda Ward: 1-701-232-2351.

Douglas, Dillow, Poole, Meisenheimer (most of the names in St. John's Cemetery in Union County). Contact James at: jd Crawford06@gmail.com. *****



Employee Records: Illinois Central Railroad

By Leann Johnson

It all started with the 2014 GSSI August Conference when Thomas MacEntee gave us some valuable tips in our genealogy research. "*Clean Up your Workspace*" was only one of them.

I had found my father's seniority rosters that he had kept as an Agent/Operator for the Illinois Central Railroad (ICRR). I knew they were important to him as an employee. In the winter of 2014 I did a brief Internet Search to see if those records were already out there. I printed off a couple of pages and left them on my desk with 101 other printouts.

Fast forward to spring of 2015. I decided I needed to tackle this workspace and room. Before the cleaning lady got here I shoved all the printouts in a file box to go through at a later date. Remember those rainy, cold weekends we had this spring? I decided to go through the pages one by one before shredding. I found a railroad page, checked on the Internet to see if that page was still active; it was. Re-printed a fresh copy and noticed the inquiry at the end of the page "***Do you have any railroad employee rosters or other employee listings?***"

So I sent an email to the address listed. I did not expect to receive a quick reply. In less than an hour I received a response from Jim Sponholz that yes, he was interested in these rosters. I then mailed paper copies to him and he created an Illinois Central Railroad page for these rosters and other related information.

Illinois Central Railroad Employee Rosters

From 1947 Telegraphers roster to combined rosters, dated 1988.
Primarily from the St. Louis Division, headquarters in Carbondale, Illinois.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sponholz/icrrrosters.html>

The Great Search-Finding Railroad Employment Records

Multiple railroads listed along with great information on how to obtain railroad information.
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sponholz/railroad.html>

There is a fine line between being a packrat and a serious family historian.

News from the Webpage Manager

Darrel Dexter has completed transcribing five more years of obituaries and death notices from Pulaski County Newspapers (1933-1937). Those files are now uploaded to the internet and the FreeFind index to all obituaries has been updated. That brings to 166 the total number of obituary pages from Cairo, Jonesboro and Pulaski County newspapers on the GSSI website. Those pages contain tens of thousands of individual entries. Thank you Darrel!

We are currently in the process of transitioning from the old GSSI website at Rootsweb <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilgssi/> to a new one at <http://www.ilgssi.org/>. The new address should be much easier to remember and we plan eventually to offer some features there that will be open to members only. We could not do that at Rootsweb. Presently both sites are operative and they contain identical information, so you can find us at either address. Members will be given ample notice before we phase out the Rootsweb site entirely.

Ed O'Day, Webmaster

Next General Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 2015. The location is the celebrated Stinson Memorial Library at 416 S. Main, Anna, IL. Look for exciting meeting and program information in the next newsletter.

Welcome New Members

- **Kristi AuBuchon, Breese**
- **Sarah Cato, St. Louis**
- **Barbara Hampton, Carterville**
- **Melodie Heine, Calgary, AB**
- **Barb Kaesberg, Freeburg**
- **Robin Kerley, Stafford, VA**
- **Ellen Lehner, Elk Grove Village**
- **Pat Luebke, Carbondale**
- **Donna Marks, O'Fallon**
- **Melodie Penrod, Carterville**
- **Nancy Pichette, Auburn, NH**
- **Diana Schneider, Longmont, CO,**
- **Don & Nancy Siefert, Murphysboro**
- **Carolyn Thomsen, Johnston City**
- **Leigh West, Kenneth City, FL**

Attention

The July E-Newsletter was distributed to all 2014 and 2015 members of GSSI. If you were a member last year and your membership has lapsed, this is the last Newsletter you will receive. We hope that you will choose to keep Newsletters and Sagas coming, either by renewing on line at our [Web Store](#) or by completing and mailing the form posted on our [new website](#).